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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, January 24, 2018

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#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report on the heavy snowfall along the coast of the Sea of Japan today. Most commercial networks gave top play to updates on the eruption of Mount Kusatsu-Shirane on Tuesday. TBS led with a report that Prime Minister Abe has decided to visit South Korea to attend the PyeongChang Winter Olympics and meet with President Moon.

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### PM Abe to attend PyeongChang Olympics opening ceremony

All networks reported at noon that Prime Minister Abe told reporters this morning that he has decided to attend the opening ceremony for the PyeongChang Winter Olympics to be held on Feb. 9. The premier was quoted as saying: "If the situation allows, I would like to attend the opening ceremony for the PyeongChang Olympics... At the same time, I would like to hold a summit and convey Japan's position on the comfort women agreement." Fuji TV said that although many within the GOJ thought Abe should not attend the ceremony following ROK leader Moon's remarks that the comfort women agreement was a "mistake," the premier made the decision based on suggestions from within the ruling coalition that he should attend given that Tokyo will host the Olympics in 2020. NHK said the Blue House released a statement saying it welcomes Japan's official announcement of PM Abe's visit to South Korea and that it will work closely with Japan to make the visit a success.

- [Abe to attend Pyeongchang Olympics ceremony, eyes talks with Moon](#) (Kyodo News)
- [ROK calls for humanitarian aid to DPRK during Vancouver meeting](#) (Yomiuri)

- [U.S. State Dept. map shows Northern Territories belonging to Russia](#) (Sankei)
- [Osaka watching closely as Paris moves closer to withdrawing World Expo bid](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Abe says Indonesia remains strategic partner on 60th diplomatic anniv.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [New aviation radars installed in Nepal with Japanese aid](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

- [TPP 11 deal reached as Canada and Vietnam end holdout](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [With new tariffs, Trump goes beyond tough talk on trade](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Suntory to pour \\$900m into boosting bourbon output in US](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't sees further delay in fiscal recovery, surplus eyed in FY 2027](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Rengo, Keidanren heads mull pay hikes](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gov't draws up new bill to promote wind power generation at sea](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan fishers urged not to catch small bluefin tuna](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Gov't lifts economic view as consumption picks up](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Whaling towns of Japan, Faroe Islands become sister cities](#) (Kyodo News)

## SECURITY

### **AH-1 helicopter that made precautionary landing returns to Futenma**

NHK reported at noon that a Futenma-based AH-1 attack helicopter that made a precautionary landing at a municipal heliport on Tonaki Island on Tuesday left the heliport and returned to MCAS Futenma via Kadena AB this morning. The network said this was the third unscheduled landing by U.S. military helicopters this month, adding that the incidents have provoked a backlash in Okinawa. The network quoted Defense Minister Onodera as telling reporters this morning: "It is extremely regrettable....The Defense Ministry has asked the U.S. side to conduct emergency inspections of all AH-1 attack helicopters belonging to MCAS Futenma and suspend flights of the aircraft during that time." All commercial networks carried similar stories.

- [Japan asks U.S. to ground AH-1 helicopters](#) (Jiji Press)

- [Japan to revise defense guidelines by year-end: minister](#) (Kyodo News)
- [DM Onodera to disclose data “shortly” on SDF activities to protect U.S. military aircraft in 2017](#) (Mainichi)
- [CDPJ to support incumbent mayor in Nago election](#) (Mainichi)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on Jan. 23, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Interview with PM Abe on North, South Korea, China ties, Senkakus, constitution](#) (Sankei)
- [Ruling, opposition parties step up maneuvering on constitutional revision](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Mataichi slated to be elected as SDP chief without a vote](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Abe should work with opposition to tackle falling birthrate, aging society](#) (Mainichi, Online)
- [Editorial: Work style reform is the keystone of agenda laid out in Abe speech](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Abe on the jumping ramp](#) (Asahi)

## OPINION POLLS

- [90% say South Korea’s new policy on comfort women “unacceptable,” Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Hopes rising for Abe to continue as LDP president as 53% have “high regard” for administration, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Sankei Shimbun](#) (Sankei)

## SOCIETY

### **Can Shohei Otani succeed as both pitcher and hitter in MLB?**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on 23-year-old Japanese professional baseball player Shohei Otani, who will join the Los Angeles Angels this year. The program said Otani, who was a star pitcher and batter for the Nippon Ham Fighters, is hoping to fill both roles for the Angels, although there has been no other two-way player in the MLB in years. The program reported on its exclusive interview with Angels General Manager Billy Eppler, who said he will make changes to the starting rotation to accommodate Otani as a two-way player. However, some U.S. observers wonder

whether Otani will be able to succeed as a two-way player in America on account of the high level of play in the Majors.

- [Japan eyes introducing plea bargain on June 1](#) (Kyodo News)

**OKINAWA LOCAL  
PRESS**

- [Okinawa Prefecture expresses interest in working with Nago Mayor Inamine to rent pandas](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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