
**JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, January 30, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report on the situation at Mount Kusatsu-Shirane one week after it erupted. NTV gave top play to a report that an Osaka University student was arrested for stabbing his older brother to death at their home in Hyogo early this morning. Fuji TV led with a report that the police are planning to send papers to prosecutors on sumo wrestler Oarashi for allegedly driving a vehicle without a license. TV Asahi led with a report that a woman in her 60s in Miyagi has filed a lawsuit against the state for forcing her to undergo a sterilization procedure when she was 15 years old on the grounds that she was mentally disabled under the former Eugenic Protection Act. TBS reported that the temperature in Shimukappu, Hokkaido, dropped to minus 30.9 degrees Celsius today.

ECONOMY

- [Japan's Abe plays down chances of renegotiating TPP for Trump](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: It's necessary to size up President's intent behind his remark about return to the TPP](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Trump's suggestion of return to TPP a welcome step](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Trump's real intentions unclear in speech hinting at U.S. return to TPP](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: U.S. should review its protectionist stance to return to TPP](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Sustainable way to use fossil fuels needed](#) (Nikkei)
- [Drugmakers are drawn to Japan's laboratory in space](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SECURITY

FM Kono calls for swift launch of defense communication mechanism with China

NHK reported this afternoon that in relation to an incident in which SDF fighter jets scrambled in response to a Chinese military aircraft's entry into Japan's air defense identification zone over the Tsushima Strait on Monday, Foreign Minister Kono called on China to exercise restraint regarding activities that could undermine bilateral rapprochement and expressed the need to make arrangements for the swift launch of a communication mechanism to prevent contingencies. "In a series of meetings I had on Sunday with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and others, [the Chinese officials] clearly demonstrated their political will to improve the Japan-China relationship," said Kono. "I'm sure the Chinese side will work toward preventing further moves that could undermine our rapprochement." He went on to say: "While final coordination will be conducted between the defense authorities, I expect that the operation of the mechanism will commence as soon as possible since

the Chinese side is also very positive about the idea."

- [Kanagawa police eye AI-assisted predictive policing before Olympics](#) (Kyodo News)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Japan, Russia to hold vice ministerial talks next week, discuss isles](#) (Kyodo News)
- [China's Belt and Road ambitions spread to the Arctic](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Kono's China visit a springboard for dialogue between Tokyo, Beijing](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Japan, China must further reinforce trend toward improved relations](#) (The Japan News)
- [FOCUS: Outlook for thawing Japan-China ties still fragile](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe, Moon to hold talks on Feb. 9 in S. Korea's Pyeongchang](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Chance for resolving N. Korean nuclear threat missed 20 yrs ago](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 29, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP factions: Membership numbers and current positions of their leaders](#) (Mainichi)
- [Successor picked for senior vice min. who quit over Okinawa heckling](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: LDP lawmaker's Okinawa taunt attests to decline of civil politics](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Gist of representative interpellations at Upper House plenary session, Jan. 26](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: The slippery path to constitutional revision](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [Fierce battle unfolding in Nago mayoral election, Asahi Shimbun-QAB joint opinion poll](#) (Asahi)
- [63% opposed to relocation of MCAS Futenma to Henoko, Asahi Shimbun-QAB joint](#)

[opinion poll](#) (Asahi)

- [35% back Abe in LDP presidential election, 55% in favor of Abe's attending Olympic ceremony, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

More people using dashboard cameras

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported that a growing number of drivers are using dashboard cameras in their vehicles since the footage taken by these devices is effective in determining the cause of traffic accidents. The program said the technology for dashboard cameras is becoming increasingly advanced, adding that the devices offer such merits as informing drivers of places of frequent accidents through the provision of accident data.

- [Greater Tokyo net population inflow increases in 2017](#) (The Japan News)

**OKINAWA LOCAL
PRESS**

- [Nago City Assembly members submit protest on unscheduled landings](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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