
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, January 31, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, NTV, and Fuji TV gave top play to reports on President Trump's first State of the Union address, during which the President emphasized building a "safe, strong, and proud America." TBS reported that Olympic athletes from South Korea and North Korea will jointly train at a ski resort in North Korea today. TV Asahi led with a report on the Upper House Budget Committee meeting held this morning.

INTERNATIONAL

President Trump addresses State of the Union

All networks reported at noon on President Trump's first State of the Union address on Tuesday, during which he emphasized a "safe, strong, and proud America." NHK quoted the President as also saying: "This, in fact, is our new American moment. There has never been a better time to start living the American dream." The network said the President emphasized the major tax reform as one of the achievements of his first year in office and promised to realize fair trade, conjecturing that he had such nations as China in mind and quoting him as saying: "America has also finally turned the page on decades of unfair trade deals that sacrificed our prosperity and chipped away our companies, our jobs, and our wealth." The network said the President also called for cooperation from both the Republicans and the Democrats in realizing major infrastructure investment. The network added that the President also emphasized successful measures against ISIL and expressed his intention to maximize pressure on North Korea. An NHK reporter commented that the President highlighted his administration's achievements and promised to deliver on his campaign pledges in view of the midterm election in November that will deliver a verdict on his administration. Kyodo highlighted that

the President mentioned Toyota's announcement of a new plant to be built in Alabama.

- [Concern at China's order to scrap Muji map missing disputed isles](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Gov't-backed body approved for research reactor ops under new rules](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan Post group to target startups with new investment arm](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 30, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Jan. 29](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe disagrees with calls to largely rewrite war-renouncing Article 9](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to restrict heated tobacco use but give up on indoor smoking ban](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Small restaurants to be OK'd for smoking](#) (The Japan News)
- [Health ministry unveils watered-down anti-passive smoking bill](#) (The Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [Inamine leads in Nago mayoral election with Toguchi close behind, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Key issue in Nago mayoral race differs depending on candidate backed, Kyodo News poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

SOCIETY

Young Japanese heading to South Korea in quest of stardom

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that a growing number of young Japanese are heading to South Korea with the aim of becoming pop stars. The program said many internationally popular "idol groups," such as TWICE and BTS, are based in South Korea and include members from Japan, Taiwan, and other countries. South Korea-based groups are reportedly very popular around the world today because of their effective use of YouTube and Twitter and high-level performances. The program said many young people attending dance schools in Japan now dream of making their debuts in South Korea.

SECURITY

- [Futenma elementary school conducts evacuation drill in response to U.S. helo incident](#) (Yomiuri, Evening edition)
- [GSDF, MPD conduct joint drill for international terrorist attack](#) (Asahi)
- [U.S. Marine Corps steps up exercises at Yokota, Higashifuji](#) (Akahata)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Opinion poll & results for Ryukyu Shimpo, Okinawa Times, and Kyodo News joint survey to probe views on Nago mayoral election](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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