
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, February 5, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, TBS, and Fuji TV led with reports that the Nikkei Stock Exchange temporarily dropped by more than 600 yen today in response to the plummet in U.S. stock prices. NTV and TV Asahi gave top play to reports on the heavy snowfall mainly along the coast of the Sea of Japan.

SECURITY

Toguchi defeats anti-U.S. base incumbent in Nago mayoral election

All networks reported at noon on the results of the Nago mayoral election on Sunday, in which former Nago City assembly member Taketoyo Toguchi, who was backed by the LDP and Komeito, defeated the incumbent Mayor Inamine, who was opposed to the Futenma relocation plan. Fuji TV said Okinawa Governor Onaga will now have a tough time maneuvering as he apparently no longer has the support of "the will of the Okinawan people."

Fuji TV also reported that although an unnamed GOJ official expressed a cautious view by saying that "the result of the election does not necessarily reflect the will of the Okinawan people," there is no doubt that the outcome will be a powerful boost for the challenger in the Okinawa gubernatorial election in the fall. The network quoted Prime Minister Abe as telling reporters this morning: "I knew it would be difficult to defeat the incumbent mayor and I'm really glad we won....As for the base issue, we will obtain the understanding of the people of Nago and move forward in line with the Supreme Court ruling." The network said the victory of a candidate backed by the GOJ and the ruling parties is a major achievement amid the recent problems involving U.S. military helicopters and heckling at the Diet by a senior vice minister. The network said that having such important figures as Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga and the LDP's Shinjiro Koizumi visit Nago before the

election led to victory in what was virtually a trial run for the gubernatorial election. The network said the GOJ is expected to move forward with the relocation plan and reduce the base-hosting burden on Okinawa concurrently while gauging trends in public opinion and the views of those opposed to the relocation.

- [Okinawa political dominoes begin to fall in favor of US base move](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe repeats U.S. base transfer pledge after local election win](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Okinawans hope for jobs, worry about U.S. base after mayoral race](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Nago election result gives Abe push in building U.S. air base](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Japan protests over S. Korea Olympics flag showing disputed islands](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of PM Abe's account of teleconference with Pres. Trump on Feb. 2](#) (Sankei)
- [A-bombed nation's gov't "welcomes" U.S. reinforcement of nuclear arsenal](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan's welcome of U.S. NPR confirm reliance on "nuclear umbrella"](#) (Mainichi)
- [Tokyo 'highly appreciates,' backs Trump's U.S. nuke policy](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: New Fed chief will face test of securing stable growth](#) (Nikkei)
- [Pundit notes U.S. NPR spells out strategy against four nations for the first time](#) (Mainichi)
- [Palestinian special advisor sounds out FM Kono on new framework for Middle East peace talks](#) (Mainichi)
- [Nukaga to visit South Korea on Feb. 8](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Signs of dramatic drop in China-North Korea trade in border city](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Foreign Minister Taro Kono's selfie with China spokeswoman draws mixed reactions](#) (The Japan Times)

- [U.N. Security Council reform talks under way under new chairs](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Nearly 70% of Japan Inc. improved profit in April-December](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Head of Abu Dhabi state-run oil firm expects continued cooperation with Japan](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's labor leader to push for 4% pay hike instead of higher bonuses in spring wage talks](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Curbing public financial burdens key to promoting renewable energy](#) (The Japan News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 2, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 3, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Feb. 2](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Railway workers union confederation shifts its support to CDPJ](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Incensegate](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [Highlights of the January 2018 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)

SCIENCE

The massive network of the human body – Part 5: The brain

Sunday's "NHK Special" ran the fifth part of its series "The massive network of the human body," focusing on the brain. The program said humans can have epiphanies when their brains are in "default mode," or not thinking. The program also said a part of the brain's hippocampus called the dentate gyrus holds the key to improving memory function, adding that a balanced diet and regular exercise are also beneficial. The program also reported on an American scientist who has found a new way to deliver drugs to the brain to treat dementia.

Experts discuss the future of artificial intelligence

NHK's Nichiyo Toron Sunday debate show featured a discussion by six scientists on the future of artificial intelligence, including its potential use in various areas and its impact on society, for example, in nursing care and communications. The panelists included Yuko Harayama, a member of the GOJ's Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation; Professor Seiji Yamada of the National Institute of Informatics; Associate Professor Minao Kukita of Nagoya University; Associate Professor Tomohiro Inoue of Komazawa University; Director Hiroshi Yamakawa of the Dwango AI Laboratory; and General Manager Takayuki Furuta of the Future Robotics Technology Center of Chiba Institute of Technology.

- [Gov't to submit bill on responding to climate change](#) (Sankei)

**OKINAWA LOCAL
PRESS**

[Toguchi unseats Inamine in Nago mayoral contest](#)

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported extensively on the results of the mayoral election held in Nago on Sunday, in which Taketoyo Toguchi, who was backed by the LDP and Komeito, garnered 20,389 votes, while the incumbent Mayor Susumu Inamine won 16,931. Voter turnout was 76.92%, up 0.21 points from the previous election in 2014. Concerning the FRF construction at Henoko, Governor Onaga did not make a clear statement on how he will deal with the issue following the Nago election but reportedly said he will consult with the people of Okinawa. Toguchi was quoted as saying that he will closely monitor the progress of the lawsuit related to the matter between the central government and Okinawa Prefecture.

- [Opposition lawmakers lodge protest with U.S. Embassy over Okinawa helo incidents](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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