



Afternoon Alert – Friday, February 9, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK and TBS led with reports that the Nikkei Stock Average dropped by more than 700 points today. NTV gave top play to a report on the PyeongChang Olympics.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Vice President's Asia tour aimed at dissuading Seoul from making concessions to Pyongyang

TV-Asahi "Hodo Station" reported on Vice President Pence's trip to East Asia, speculating that its primary purpose appeared to be to prevent South Korea from being taken in by North Korea's "charm offensive." The program aired a number of strongly-worded messages that he conveyed in Alaska and Japan to signify Washington's determination to maintain a hard line toward the defiant regime. The network quoted the Vice President as saying that the U.S. will not allow North Korea to "hijack" the PyeongChang Olympics, "vigilance and resolve will be our lodestar," and the U.S. will defeat any attack involving conventional or nuclear weapons with a response that is "rapid, overwhelming, and effective."

Claiming that South Korean President Moon has responded rather negatively to the idea of arranging a press photo opportunity at his proposed trilateral meeting with Vice President Pence and Prime Minister Abe on the sidelines of the Olympics opening ceremony, the regular commentator, former Kyodo News managing editor Goto, said the GOJ is bracing for the possibility of Seoul being taken in by the Kim regime's peace overtures and asking the Trump administration to postpone bilateral military exercises again.

- [Abe leaves for Pyeongchang for talks with Moon, Olympics ceremony](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Xi says China will not seek hegemony: ex-Japan PM](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Intl community should not be misled by N. Korea's conciliatory posture](#) (The Japan News)
- [Abe meets with head of Mozambique national assembly](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Olympics offer rare contact with N. Korea leader's powerful sister](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Time for new Japan approach on Russia relations, Northern Territories](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan sends quake rescue team, equipment to Taiwan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: Team Pence, Abe, and Moon](#) (Sankei)

## ECONOMY

- [Japan Inc. drawing on foreign units for growth](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't to extend copyright protection to 70 years](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Hitachi seeks Indian tie-up with eye on bullet train project](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## SECURITY

- [Sankei apologizes to 2 Okinawa papers over incorrect stories](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan regulator inspects multiple digital currency exchanges](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Coincheck loot being turned into bitcoin](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Consumers must be told the risks involved with cryptocurrency](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Lax approach to customer security led to massive cryptocurrency theft](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Exchange operator of virtual money flagrantly ignored user security](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Japan's cryptocurrency exchanges need more stringent safety checks](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan seeks tougher cybersecurity for military contractors](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Expert says shape of ICBM displayed in DPRK parade suited for reentry into atmosphere](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan studying advanced ship-based aircraft to prepare for deploying carrier](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Tokyo's Minato Ward makes a fresh request for removal of U.S. heliport in Roppongi](#) (Asahi)
- [New Nago mayor vows to fulfill campaign pledges on first day in office](#) (Asahi)
- [Expanded duties could be behind frequent SDF aircraft accidents, experts say](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: SDF chopper crash may signal grave structural problems](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 8, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Column: Abe agonizes over attending PyeongChang Olympics opening ceremony](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe's brother lauds his ability to make level-headed decisions](#) (Yomiuri)

## **SOCIETY**

### **Speed skater Nao Kodaira strives for perfection**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on Japanese female speed skater Nao Kodaira, who has won 15 consecutive World Cup 500-meter races. Noting that she also recently set a new world record for the 1,000-meter race, the program said she is viewed as a strong candidate to win two gold medals in the PyeongChang Olympics. The program reported on how Kodaira strives to perfect her skating form by incorporating the latest sports science.

- [Japan records 42 victims of human trafficking in 2017](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Interview with experts: How should Japan face immigrants?](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)

## **OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS**

- [Hatoyama tells U.S. lawmakers "Henoko is not the only option"](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)

