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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, March 2, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK, TBS, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi gave top play to severe blizzards in Hokkaido. NTV led with a report that the GOJ is making final arrangements to present Japanese figure skater Yuzuru Hanyu with a People's Honor Award.

## ECONOMY

### GOJ officials respond to likely imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum imports by U.S.

NHK reported that in response to President Trump's announcement that he will decide to impose tariffs of 25% on steel imports and 10% on aluminum imports as early as next week for security reasons, Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Seko told reporters that the GOJ will call on the U.S. not to include Japanese products in these measures. "It is not clear which nations will be subject to these measures. We will find out," Seko was quoted as saying. "We do not believe that steel and aluminum imports from Japan, an ally of the U.S., pose any security threat to the U.S., and we hope to convey that to the U.S. side." Economic Revitalization Minister Motegi was quoted as telling reporters this morning: "We will closely monitor the development of these measures and how they would impact the global economy and the Japanese economy."

- [Japan, U.S., EU eye ministerial talks over U.S. steel tariff issue](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan defends steel exports to U.S. after Trump's tariff promise](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's digital currency exchanges to form new industry body](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gap steadily growing at Kasumigaseki over energy strategy](#) (Nikkei)
- [Average female pay at all-time high, gender pay gap narrows, Labor Ministry poll](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [45% of companies in areas severely impacted by 3.11 have seen sales recover, METI poll](#) (Asahi)

## SCIENCE

### Acting NASA administrator talks to Japanese students

TBS reported on its website on Thursday that acting NASA Administrator Robert Lightfoot gave a lecture to students in Tokyo earlier in the day, quoting him as saying: "If you're 17 years old or younger, you've never lived a day in your life without someone living in space." The network added that Ambassador Hagerty also attended the event and encouraged the students before the lecture by saying: "Great to see so many young faces today, so many young scientists, so many future astronauts, and certainly, so many future leaders." The network said the lecture was hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, adding that about 50 students interested in space development and space science gathered for the event. The network said NASA is now focused on manned lunar probes in accordance with Trump administration policies, and is also studying the future manned exploration of Mars in cooperation with JAXA and other entities.

- [Hoshide to become commander of International Space Station in 2020](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to ready AI translation assistance for Olympic visitors](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## INTERNATIONAL

- [Moon's statement on comfort women and Takeshima is "a move in opposite direction," gov't official](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't protests Moon's criticism of Japan over comfort women issue, Takeshima](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan to pick Aichi Pref. for G-20 foreign ministers' meeting](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Sri Lanka president to visit Japan from March 12](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP Hagiuda to visit Taiwan](#) (Sankei)
- [U.K. envoy to Japan discusses defense cooperation, TPP among others](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan names new ambassador to Myanmar](#) (Kyodo News)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on March 1, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee, March 1](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Persistent calls in LDP for deletion of Paragraph 2 in Constitution's Article 9](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: LDP's proposed revision to Article 9 fraught with problems](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Abe should drop push to exclude specialist jobs from labor laws](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Top leaders of Kishida and Ishiba factions meet](#) (Asahi)
- [Shinjiro Koizumi holds first meeting of new LDP group](#) (Mainichi)
- [Hirasawa tapped to head Nikai faction secretariat](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Kaneko joins Kishida faction](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Work style reform](#) (Mainichi)

## EDUCATION

- [University students get new perspective in Washington](#) (The Japan News)

## **SOCIETY**

### **Promising Japanese runner preparing for Tokyo Olympics**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on Japanese runner Yuta Shitara, who broke the Japanese marathon record for the first time in 16 years at the Tokyo Marathon last month. The program said Shitara chose to stick to his own style of training, adding that he refused to do altitude training or run more than 30 km a day during training. Shitara appeared live on the show and said the key to his victory was the ability to maintain his own pace. He also pledged to focus on each race in order to be selected as a member of national Olympic team in 2020.

- ["Seiron" column: Beware of media's "fake news"](#) (Sankei)

## **SECURITY**

- [Japan closely watching China's aircraft carrier development: minister](#) (Kyodo News)

## **OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS**

- [Osprey allegedly flies over another elementary school near Futenma](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)
  - [Okinawa governor rejects gov't's application to extend permit for transplanting rare coral](#) (Okinawa Times)
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