

★ MOTEGI CALLS AKANE AND RUBIO ★ 21 STATES: LIFT ICC SANCTIONS ★ TWO DIE IN DANJIRI ACCIDENTS ★ NISHIYAMA FIRST WOMAN TO QUALIFY AS SHOGI PRO ★ DENA AND SEIBU WIN CS OPENERS ★

Motegi Assures the ICC's President of Japan's Support and Speaks to Rubio, as the 21 States Leading the Court's Assembly Call for Washington to Lift Its Sanctions Immediately

The foreign minister also conveys his regret over the killing in Naha for which an American marine has been arrested; Navi Pillay calls the sanctions 'unheard of, unacceptable', and President Trump, passed over for the Peace Prize, turns on Norway's Nobel committee

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent, with Jonathan Mercer | Senior Editor, International Desk



Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, right, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, in a file image. Mr Motegi spoke to Mr Rubio by telephone on Saturday night, after assuring Tomoko Akane, the Japanese president of the International Criminal Court, of Japan's support, and conveyed his regret over the killing in Naha for which an American marine has been arrested. (Image supplied for this edition)

Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi spoke by telephone on Saturday night with Tomoko Akane, the Japanese judge who presides over the International Criminal Court, and then with the American secretary of state, Marco Rubio, a day after Washington placed the court itself under sanctions.

In the first call, which lasted about 15 minutes, Mr Motegi told Ms Akane that Japan's support for the court had not changed, and the two agreed to stay in close communication, according to Japanese broadcasters.

He then spoke to Mr Rubio. The two ministers discussed the matters the United States regards as problems with the court, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported, and Mr Motegi set out Japan's position.

Mr Motegi also expressed his regret to Mr Rubio over the robbery and murder case in Okinawa, in which a member of the United States Marine Corps has been arrested on suspicion of killing a woman in a hotel in Naha. The two agreed to discuss measures to prevent a recurrence.

The calls came at the end of a day on which the court's member states, a former judge just awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and the American president all weighed in on a dispute that now touches Japan from two directions: through its alliance with the United States and through its commitment to the court, whose largest financial contributor it is.

The assembly's leadership

In The Hague, the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties, the 21-member body that steers the work of the countries that belong to the court, called for the immediate withdrawal of the American sanctions, Kyodo News reported. Japan is a member of the bureau.

The bureau said it regretted sanctions against the court as an institution. Its statement followed the joint declaration on Friday by the foreign ministers of Japan, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, who said they regretted and strongly disagreed with the measures.

The American designation, announced on Friday by Mr Rubio, bars Americans from providing the court with funds, goods or services and exposes companies that deal with it to penalties after a grace period of 180 days. Mr Rubio called the court a rogue court and said: "Either the ICC will end its threats, or we will end the ICC."

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on Friday night that the measures were not compatible with Japan's position and that she was deeply concerned. Japan

would give the court the support it needs, she wrote, and would keep working on the United States.

Pillay: 'unacceptable'

Navi Pillay, the South African former judge of the court who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, said the sanctions were "unheard of, unacceptable".

Speaking by video link from Nuremberg to an event at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, she said that sanctions imposed by one country on judges because of the orders they had made were without precedent. There was "so much tension and anxiety over the continued existence of international courts", she said, and hundreds of the court's staff felt "under threat".

The Norwegian Nobel Committee honoured her for her efforts to promote peace and international law. Israel's foreign minister said the award legitimised hatred of Israel, and its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, for whom the court issued an arrest warrant in 2024, said the committee had lost its moral compass.

Trump's reply

President Donald Trump, whom Ms Takaichi had said she would nominate for the prize, according to the White House, replied in a post of about 600 words on his Truth Social platform late on Friday, Washington time.

"I settled 8 Wars," he wrote, adding that he was about to settle, or win, two more, naming Iran and Russia and Ukraine, and that he should have won eight Nobel Peace Prizes. Of the laureate he wrote: "I know nothing about this woman, and neither does anyone else!"

He accused her of very obviously hating Israel, called the award "an indelible stain on Norway" and said the prize had been forever discredited by a handful of radical ideologues, whom he called anti-democracy and enemies of civilisation. He also called the choice a disgraceful and embarrassing decision and said he had never heard of her, AFP reported.

The committee, whose five members are appointed by the Norwegian parliament, does not comment on the candidates it passes over. It received 287 nominations this year.

The Okinawa case

The marine, a 20-year-old lance corporal from the Futenma air station, was arrested on October 4 on suspicion of the robbery and murder of a woman aged 39 in a hotel in Naha. He denies the allegation.

SOCIETY

Two Men Die and 16 Are Injured as Festival Floats Overturn at Street Corners in Izumisano and Izumiotsu

Both men were riding on the outside of danjiri that toppled while turning right at speed during the yarimawashi, about two hours apart; police are investigating how the accidents happened

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Two men were killed and 16 people injured on Saturday when danjiri festival floats overturned in two cities in the south of Osaka Prefecture, in separate accidents about two hours apart.

The first happened at about 11 a.m. in Izumisano, at the Nagataki intersection. A float overturned as it was being turned to the right at speed, the manoeuvre known as yarimawashi, according to police and local reports.

A 51-year-old company executive who was riding on the side of the float was trapped beneath it and died. Others were injured, two of them seriously.

At about 1:20 p.m. a second float lost its balance as it turned right at the Miyamachi intersection in Izumiotsu, farther north along the bay, and toppled over. A 48-year-old company employee from the city of Izumi, who had been clinging to the right side of the float, died.

Nine men, ranging in age from their teens to their 60s, were injured in Izumiotsu. In all, 16 people were hurt in the two accidents, according to Jiji Press, the Asahi Shimbun and the broadcaster MBS; Kyodo News put the number at 17.

Police are investigating how the two accidents happened. Both took place in daylight, in the late morning and early afternoon of the holiday Saturday, at intersections where the floats turn right, the moment in the run at which the forces on a float and on those riding it are greatest.

A dangerous art

Danjiri are heavy wooden floats, richly carved, that teams of local residents haul through the streets on ropes during the autumn festivals of the Senshu area, the stretch of southern Osaka Prefecture that runs along the bay towards Wakayama.

The climax of a festival is the yarimawashi, in which a team takes a corner at a run without slowing down, swinging the float through a right angle while the crowd presses in on the pavements. Men balance on the roof, and others ride or cling to the sides.

The spectacle depends on split-second co-ordination between the rope pullers in front, the steersmen at the rear and those on board. When the timing fails, a float can strike buildings or telegraph poles, or tip over. Accidents, some of them fatal, have been reported in past years.

Safety at the corners

Organisers and police in festival towns mark out areas where spectators may stand and ask them to keep back from the corners where the floats turn. The roles on each float, from the men on the roof to those riding at the sides, are assigned and rehearsed within each district's association.

A festival season

The best known of the festivals, in Kishiwada, said to date back about 300 years, was held on September 19 and 20. Many other towns and districts hold their own festivals in late September and October, and Saturday was the first day of a three-day holiday weekend.

For the communities that build and pull them, the floats are a source of fierce local pride, and the festival associations of each district spend much of the year preparing. On Saturday two of those

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WEATHER — TOKYO

27°C

Low 17°C · Sunny

Sapporo

22°

Osaka

30°

Fukuoka

27°

Naha

29°

Sunny across central Japan; 30°C in Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka. Cloudy in Fukuoka and Kagoshima, rain at times in Naha. Koguma very strong, about 510 km east of Chichijima early Monday. Nolo extratropical by Monday. Full weather, Page 14.

TODAY IN BRIEF

- ICC: Motegi assures Judge Akane of Japan's support and speaks to Rubio; the 21-member bureau of the court's assembly calls for the sanctions to go.
- Osaka: two men die and 16 are injured as danjiri overturn at corners in Izumisano and Izumiotsu.
- Senkakus: four Chinese coast guard ships spend 1 hour 40 minutes in Japanese waters; Taiwan's Lai rejects subordination.
- Riyadh: a missile strike on the main airport kills at least 12 and injures 309.
- Shogi: Tomoka Nishiyama wins a fifth Hakurei title and becomes the first woman to qualify as a professional.
- Sport: DeNA beat the Giants 2-1 and Seibu beat Nippon-Ham 3-2 in 10 innings in the Climax Series openers.

TWO TYPHOONS

- No. 29 (Koguma): very strong, 950 hPa.
- About 510 km east of Chichijima Monday.
- No. 28 (Nolo): extratropical by Monday.
- No landfall on the main islands.

TODAY

- Climax Series Game 2s.
- Judo mixed team, final 11 p.m.
- Tokyo sunny, 27 degrees.

MARKETS

Nikkei 225	69,030.92 ▼ 11.19
TOPIX	4,104.81 ▲ 13.35
Yen	about 158 per \$
US 10-year	about 5.2%
NY crude (Thu)	about \$91
Tokyo	closed Mon.
BOJ policy rate	1.25%

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THE WEEK

- Mon. Oct. 12: Sports Day; Izumo Ekiden.
- Mon.: Nobel economics, 6:45 p.m.
- Tue. 13: Tokyo markets reopen.
- Wed. 14: final stages begin.

THE COURT

- 180-day grace period.
- Bureau: lift the sanctions.

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FROM PAGE 1

Motegi Assures the ICC's President of Japan's Support and Speaks to Rubio, as the 21 States Leading the Court's Assembly Call for Washington to Lift Its Sanctions Immediately

Continued from Page 1

The American forces have imposed a curfew on their personnel in Okinawa from midnight to 5 a.m. for 30 days.

The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly passed a resolution on Friday demanding an apology and compensation for the victim's family and a revision of the Status of Forces Agreement. Prosecutors must decide within 23 days of the arrest whether to indict the suspect.

A narrow path for Tokyo

For the Takaichi government the two calls on Saturday night set out the shape of its policy. To the court, through its Japanese president, it offers continuity: Japan will keep paying, keep supporting and keep talking. To Washington it offers engagement rather than confrontation, and it raised the Okinawa case in the same conversation, a reminder that the alliance has its own business to attend to.

FROM PAGE 1

Two Men Die and 16 Are Injured as Festival Floats Overturn at Street Corners in Izumisano and Izumiotsu

Continued from Page 1

communities lost a member.

TYPHOONS

Ogasawara Islands Brace for Rough Seas as Koguma Makes Its Closest Approach on Monday Morning, About 510 km to the East

By the Weather Desk

The Ogasawara Islands, 1,000 kilometres south of Tokyo, are the inhabited land closest to the track of Typhoon No. 29, Koguma, which is forecast to pass about 510 kilometres east of Chichijima early on Monday.

At that distance the islands would lie outside the typhoon's present area of storm-force winds, which extends 130 kilometres from the centre, and beyond the 330 kilometres that its gales reach to the north. On the supplied map, Chichijima also lies a few hundred kilometres west of the outline that marks the area that could have storm-force winds during the forecast period.

But forecasts carry uncertainty, and the agency's forecast circle for 6 a.m. on Monday allows for the centre to pass closer to the islands or farther away than the central track. Residents and visitors should check the latest bulletins.

Waves

The main danger for the islands is the sea. A very strong typhoon raises huge waves around its centre, and the swell spreads far beyond the area of strong winds.

High waves are likely around the islands during the second half of the holiday weekend, according to forecasters, and the sea will remain rough after the typhoon has turned away.

The ferry

The islands' only regular link with the mainland is the Ogasawara Maru, the ferry that takes about 24 hours to sail from Tokyo to Chichijima. Its schedule can change when typhoons are near, and travellers should check with the operator.

There is no airport on the islands, a fact that makes the ferry the lifeline for residents, supplies and the tourists who come for the whales, dolphins and the subtropical forests that earned the islands their status as a World Natural Heritage site in 2011.

The turn

After its closest approach, Koguma is forecast to turn north-east and accelerate away from Japan, weakening as it moves over cooler water.

By 3 a.m. on Tuesday it is expected to be about 980 kilometres east-south-east of Tokyo. It is forecast to

The 180-day grace period gives the court's members, the court and Washington about six months before the measures bite in full. Mr Rubio has said the period gives the court and its members a chance to address American concerns and that the measures could be adjusted.

What those concerns are, and whether any of them can be met without compromising the court's independence, is the question Japanese diplomats will now have to explore. The bureau's call suggests that the court's members will begin by asking Washington to drop the measures altogether.

Ms Akane, a former Japanese prosecutor, has led the court since March 2024 and was herself placed under American sanctions in August. Japan joined the court in 2007.

become an extratropical low by early Thursday.

Shipping

Ships crossing the western Pacific are routed around storms such as Koguma, their operators relying on the same forecasts as the islanders. Koguma's turn to the north-east will carry it towards the busy routes between Japan and North America later in the week, by which time it is expected to be weakening.

For most of Japan, Koguma will be no more than a name on the weather map. For the 2,500 or so people of Chichijima and Hahajima, it is the storm that will shape the holiday Monday.

TYPHOONS

Nolo Weakens to 996 Hectopascals With No Storm-Force Winds and Will Become an Extratropical Low by Monday, About 580 km Off Tokyo

By the Weather Desk

Typhoon No. 28, Nolo, which weakened to a tropical storm on Saturday, was moving slowly north at 6 a.m. on Sunday about 690 kilometres south-east of Tokyo.

Its central pressure had risen to 996 hectopascals, and its maximum winds near the centre had fallen to 20 metres a second, with gusts of 30, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

It no longer had an area of storm-force winds, though gales extended 440 kilometres to the north-east and 390 kilometres to the south-west of its centre.

Losing its tropical nature

The agency forecasts the storm to weaken further, to 1,000 hectopascals and winds of 18 metres a second, by 6 p.m. on Sunday.

By 6 a.m. on Monday it is expected to have become an extratropical low of 1,004 hectopascals, about 580 kilometres east-south-east of Tokyo.

An extratropical low draws its energy from the contrast between warm and cold air rather than from warm seas, and its strongest winds can spread over a wider area. Nolo, however, is forecast to be weak by the time it makes that transition.

Its legacy

Nolo's most noticeable effect on Japan has been the swell it sent towards the Izu Islands and the Pacific coast of the Kanto region over the weekend.

Together with Koguma, it has kept the Pacific waters south of Honshu rough even as the land enjoyed clear skies.

A busy season

Nolo and Koguma are the 28th and 29th typhoons of the year, a high number for early October.

On average about 25 typhoons form in the north-western Pacific in a whole year, according to the agency's figures for the past three decades.

The season is not over. Typhoons can form in November and even December, though those that

reach Japan late in the year are rare.

TYPHOONS

Storm-Force and Gale Areas: The Two Circles Around a Typhoon's Centre, and the Wind Speeds That Define Them

By the Weather Desk

Around the centre of a typhoon on the Japan Meteorological Agency's maps are two shaded areas, describing where the winds are strongest.

The inner one is the area of storm-force winds, where the average wind speed is 25 metres a second or more. Winds of that strength can overturn lorries, bring down trees and damage houses.

The outer one is the area of gales, where the average wind speed is 15 metres a second or more. In winds of that strength it is hard to walk, and umbrellas are useless.

Uneven shapes

The areas are often uneven. Typhoon No. 29, Koguma, had storm-force winds 130 kilometres in all directions at 6 a.m. on Sunday, but gales reaching 330 kilometres to the north and only 280 kilometres to the south.

In the Northern Hemisphere, winds are usually stronger on the right-hand side of a typhoon's direction of travel, where the storm's own rotation adds to the speed of its movement.

Size

The agency also classifies typhoons by the size of their gale areas. A typhoon whose gales extend 500 kilometres or more from the centre is called large, and one whose gales reach 800 kilometres or more, very large.

Size and strength are separate measures. A small typhoon can be very strong, with violent winds packed close to the centre, while a large one can be relatively weak.

Gusts

The wind speeds that define the areas are averages over ten minutes. Gusts, momentary peaks, are much higher: Koguma's maximum gusts near the centre were 65 metres a second, against sustained winds of 45.

A storm without a core

Typhoon No. 28, Nolo, illustrates another pattern. By Sunday morning it had no area of storm-force winds at all, but its gales still spread over a wide area, 440 kilometres to the north-east.

Weakening storms often lose their intense core first while their outer circulation lingers.

TYPHOONS

Numbers and Names: Why Japan Calls Them No. 28 and No. 29, and Where Koguma and Nolo Come From

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

In Japan, typhoons are known first by number. The Japan Meteorological Agency numbers them in the order in which they form each calendar year, starting again from No. 1 every January.

Typhoon No. 29 is therefore the 29th tropical storm to form in the north-western Pacific this year, a high count for early October. On average, about 25 form in a whole year.

Asian names

Each storm also receives a name, from a list of 140 drawn up by the Typhoon Committee, a body of 14 countries and territories in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific under the auspices of the United Nations.

Each member contributed ten names, which are used in rotation. The system has been in use since 2000, and the names are assigned by the Japan Meteorological Agency, which serves as the regional centre for typhoons.

The names are not those of people, as in the Atlantic, but of animals, plants, places, mythological figures and other things.

Japan's names

Japan's contributions are the names of constellations, such as Usagi, the hare, and Kujira, the whale.

Retired names

When a typhoon causes great loss of life or damage, the committee can retire its name, and the member that contributed it proposes a replacement. Names retired in this way include Haiyan, after the storm that devastated the Philippines in 2013, and Hagibis, after the typhoon that caused severe flooding in eastern Japan in 2019.

In the news

Japanese broadcasters and newspapers mostly use the numbers, which tell readers at a glance how far into the season a storm is. International agencies and the media in other countries use the names.

This edition gives both, as the agency does in its English-language bulletins: No. 29, Koguma, and No. 28, Nolo.

TYPHOONS

Clear Skies, Dangerous Sea: Forecasters Warn of High Waves on Pacific Coasts Over the Sports Day Weekend

By the Weather Desk

Most of Japan is enjoying fine autumn weather this holiday weekend, but forecasters have warned that waves will be higher than usual along the Pacific coast, the product of two typhoons far out at sea.

Swell generated by a typhoon can travel thousands of kilometres from the storm. It arrives as long, powerful waves that can surge unexpectedly over breakwaters and rocks, even on days of bright sunshine and light winds.

Where

The coasts most exposed are those facing the Pacific to the south and east: the Izu Islands, the coasts of Chiba, Kanagawa and Shizuoka, and the Ogasawara Islands closest to Typhoon No. 29, Koguma.

Waves are expected to remain high on Monday, when Koguma makes its closest approach to the Ogasawara Islands before turning away.

The danger

Every year people are swept into the sea from breakwaters and rocky shores while fishing or watching the waves, often on calm, sunny days when the risk seems low.

Swell comes in sets, with several larger waves arriving after a period of smaller ones, which can lull people into a false sense of security.

Surfers are drawn to typhoon swell, and lifeguards and the coast guard urge them to stay within their abilities and away from rocks and harbour walls.

Advice

Stay off breakwaters, jetties and rocks exposed to the open sea. Keep children away from the water's edge on exposed beaches. Check the Japan Meteorological Agency's wave warnings and advisories before going to the coast.

Anyone who sees a person swept into the sea should call the coast guard on 118 and should not go in after them.

Island ferries

Sailings to the Izu and Ogasawara Islands may change at short notice. Travellers returning to the mainland on Monday should check with the shipping lines before setting out.

On the main islands, the high pressure that has brought the fine weather is forecast to hold through the holiday, with Okinawa remaining wetter.

TYPHOONS

At Sea and on the Coast

By the Weather Desk

KOGUMA: very strong, 950 hPa; closest to Chichijima early Monday, about 510 km east.

NOLO: extratropical by 6 a.m. Monday, about 580 km east-south-east of Tokyo.

PACIFIC COASTS: high waves over the holiday.

IZU AND OGASAWARA ISLANDS: ferries may change at short notice.

BREAKWATERS: stay off them.

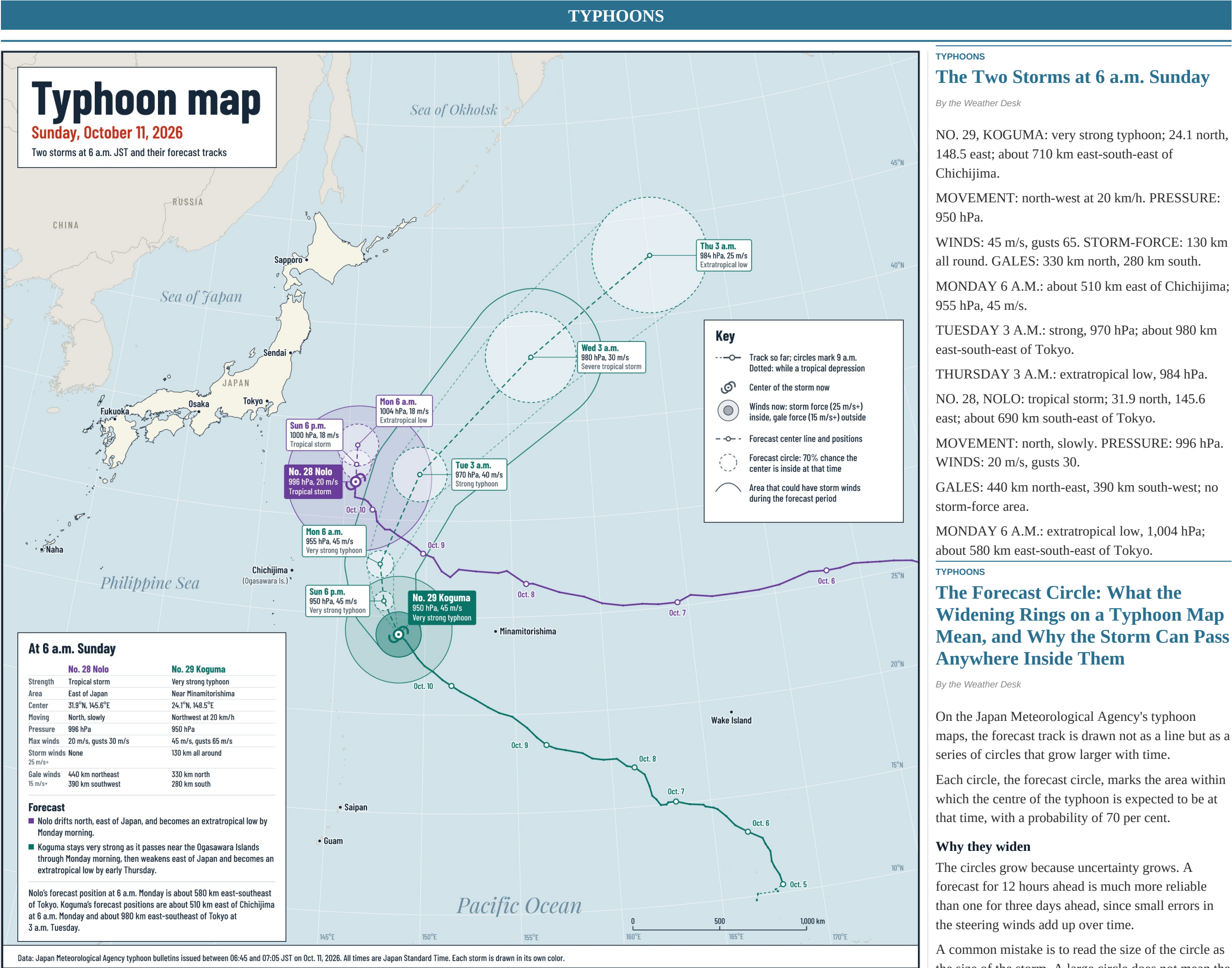
COAST GUARD: 118.

MAIN ISLANDS: no landfall forecast.

OKINAWA: rain at times.

TOKYO: sunny, 27 degrees.

OSAKA, KYOTO, NAGOYA: 30 degrees.



Two storms at 6 a.m. on Sunday and their forecast tracks, in the map supplied for this edition: Typhoon No. 29 (Koguma), a very strong typhoon of 950 hPa in the waters near Minamitorishima, forecast to stay very strong as it passes about 510 km east of Chichijima at 6 a.m. on Monday, to be about 980 km east-south-east of Tokyo at 3 a.m. on Tuesday and to become an extratropical low of 984 hectopascals by 6 a.m. on Thursday; and No. 28 (Nolo), a tropical storm east of Japan, forecast to become an extratropical low about 580 km east-south-east of Tokyo by 6 a.m. on Monday. The shaded discs are each storm's present areas of storm-force winds and gales; each dashed circle is where the centre is expected to be at that time with a probability of 70 per cent; the outlines enclose the areas that could have storm winds; the solid lines trace each storm's track so far. (Data: Japan Meteorological Agency typhoon bulletins issued between 6:45 and 7:05 a.m. on October 11)

TYPHOONS

Koguma Is Now a Very Strong Typhoon of 950 Hectopascals, Heading for a Pass About 510 km East of Chichijima on Monday; Nolo Fades Far Off Tokyo

By the Weather Desk

Typhoon No. 29, Koguma, strengthened into a very strong typhoon overnight and at 6 a.m. on Sunday was moving north-west at 20 km/h over the ocean south-east of the Ogasawara Islands, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency bulletins shown on the map supplied for this edition.

Its central pressure was 950 hectopascals, with maximum sustained winds of 45 metres a second near the centre and gusts of 65. Storm-force winds extended 130 kilometres in all directions, and gales 330 kilometres to the north and 280 kilometres to the south.

The centre lay at 24.1 degrees north, 148.5 degrees east, in the sea area the agency calls the waters near Minamitorishima, about 710 kilometres east-south-east of Chichijima.

The forecast track

The agency expects Koguma to keep its strength through Sunday, with the same pressure of 950 hectopascals and winds of 45 metres a second at 6 p.m.

By 6 a.m. on Monday, the Sports Day holiday, it is forecast to be about 510 kilometres east of Chichijima, still a very strong typhoon, at 955 hectopascals.

It then turns north-east, away from Japan. At 3 a.m. on Tuesday it is forecast to be a strong typhoon of 970 hectopascals with winds of 40 metres a second,

about 980 kilometres east-south-east of Tokyo.

It is expected to weaken to a severe tropical storm of 980 hectopascals by 3 a.m. on Wednesday and to become an extratropical low of 984 hectopascals by 3 a.m. on Thursday.

Nolo

Typhoon No. 28, Nolo, is a spent force. At 6 a.m. it was a tropical storm at 31.9 degrees north, 145.6 degrees east, in the area the agency describes as east of Japan, about 690 kilometres south-east of Tokyo, moving slowly north.

Its pressure was 996 hectopascals and its winds 20 metres a second, with gusts of 30. It had no area of storm-force winds, but gales extended 440 kilometres to the north-east and 390 kilometres to the south-west.

The agency forecasts it to weaken to 1,000 hectopascals by 6 p.m. on Sunday and to become an extratropical low of 1,004 hectopascals by 6 a.m. on Monday, about 580 kilometres east-south-east of Tokyo.

Reading the map

On the map, each storm's present position is marked with its areas of storm-force winds and gales. The dashed circles show where each centre is expected to be at the forecast times, with a probability of 70 per cent, and they widen with time as the uncertainty

grows.

Koguma's track bends sharply on the map, from north-west to north and then to north-east. That is the classic path of an autumn typhoon caught by the westerly winds of the middle latitudes. The map also traces where both storms have been: Koguma from a tropical depression far to the south-east on October 5, and Nolo, which approached from the east before turning north.

The main islands

Neither storm is forecast to make landfall in Japan. The main islands, under high pressure, are enjoying a fine holiday weekend, with highs of 30 degrees in Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka on Sunday.

The effects that do reach Japan will come from the sea. Swells generated by the two storms can travel thousands of kilometres, and forecasters have warned of high waves on Pacific coasts.

The Ogasawara Islands, the closest inhabited land to Koguma's track, should watch the latest forecasts as the typhoon makes its closest approach on Monday morning.

TYPHOONS

The Two Storms at 6 a.m. Sunday

By the Weather Desk

NO. 29, KOGUMA: very strong typhoon; 24.1 north, 148.5 east; about 710 km east-south-east of Chichijima.

MOVEMENT: north-west at 20 km/h. PRESSURE: 950 hPa.

WINDS: 45 m/s, gusts 65. STORM-FORCE: 130 km all round. GALES: 330 km north, 280 km south.

MONDAY 6 A.M.: about 510 km east of Chichijima; 955 hPa, 45 m/s.

TUESDAY 3 A.M.: strong, 970 hPa; about 980 km east-south-east of Tokyo.

THURSDAY 3 A.M.: extratropical low, 984 hPa.

NO. 28, NOLO: tropical storm; 31.9 north, 145.6 east; about 690 km south-east of Tokyo.

MOVEMENT: north, slowly. PRESSURE: 996 hPa. WINDS: 20 m/s, gusts 30.

GALES: 440 km north-east, 390 km south-west; no storm-force area.

MONDAY 6 A.M.: extratropical low, 1,004 hPa; about 580 km east-south-east of Tokyo.

TYPHOONS

The Forecast Circle: What the Widening Rings on a Typhoon Map Mean, and Why the Storm Can Pass Anywhere Inside Them

By the Weather Desk

On the Japan Meteorological Agency's typhoon maps, the forecast track is drawn not as a line but as a series of circles that grow larger with time.

Each circle, the forecast circle, marks the area within which the centre of the typhoon is expected to be at that time, with a probability of 70 per cent.

Why they widen

The circles grow because uncertainty grows. A forecast for 12 hours ahead is much more reliable than one for three days ahead, since small errors in the steering winds add up over time.

A common mistake is to read the size of the circle as the size of the storm. A large circle does not mean the typhoon is becoming larger, only that its future position is less certain.

Three chances in ten

The 70 per cent probability also means that in about three cases out of ten the centre will be outside the circle. The forecast track should be treated as a range of possibilities, not a promise.

The storm warning area

Around the forecast circles, the agency draws a second outline: the storm warning area. It encloses all the places that could experience storm-force winds if the typhoon follows any track within the circles.

For anyone deciding whether to prepare, the storm warning area is more useful than the line joining the centres of the circles, since it covers the full range of possible tracks.

How far ahead

The agency issues track forecasts up to five days ahead. Its forecasts are updated every three hours, and every hour when a typhoon is close to Japan.

Better than before

The accuracy of typhoon track forecasts has improved greatly in recent decades, thanks to satellites, faster computers and better models. The average error of a three-day forecast today is about the same as that of a one-day forecast a few decades ago.

The forecasts of Typhoon No. 29's path, which bends from north-west to north-east, are a test of that skill.

TYPHOONS

Fine Weather Holds for Sports Day Across Most of the Country, With Summer-Like Highs in the West and Rain at Times in Okinawa

By the Weather Desk

High pressure is keeping most of Japan under clear skies for the three-day weekend that ends with the Sports Day holiday on Monday.

On Sunday, the supplied weather map shows sunshine across central Japan, with highs of 30 degrees in Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka, 27 in Tokyo

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TYPHOONS

and 26 in Kanazawa.

Hiroshima and Kochi cloud over in the afternoon, and Sendai and Matsue in the evening. Hokkaido and northern Tohoku have a mix of sun and cloud, Fukuoka and Kagoshima stay cloudy, and Naha has rain at times.

Warm days, cool mornings

The contrast between day and night is large. Nagano, with a high of 25 and a low this morning of 11, has a range of 14 degrees, and many inland areas start the day cool before warming quickly under the sun.

Highs of 30 degrees in the middle of October are summer-like. People taking part in sports days and outdoor events should drink water regularly and rest in the shade.

Okinawa

Okinawa remains the exception, with cloud and rain at times. Naha's low this morning was 26 degrees, the warmest on the map, and its high is 29.

The typhoons

The two typhoons far out at sea are not expected to affect the weather on the main islands, but their swell will keep the Pacific coasts rough. Koguma passes about 510 kilometres east of Chichijima early on Monday.

After the holiday

Forecasters expect the fine pattern to continue for most of the country through Monday. Those planning travel later in the week should check updated forecasts, since the weather changes more quickly in autumn as fronts and lows begin to cross the country.

For walkers

Autumn colours are beginning to appear in the mountains of Hokkaido and northern Honshu. The clear weather makes for good conditions for walking, but mountain temperatures drop sharply after dark, and walkers should carry warm clothing and a light.

POLITICS

Ishin Narrows the Names for Osaka's Four Proposed Special Wards to Eight, Two for Each, and Asks Residents to Choose

By Michael Hayes | Deputy Editor, Politics & Policy

Nippon Ishin no Kai, the Japan Innovation Party, has narrowed the candidates for the names of the four special wards that would replace the city of Osaka under its metropolis plan to two for each ward, eight in all, and will ask residents to choose between them in a new survey, NHK reported on Saturday.

Among the candidates are Shin-Osaka, the name of the city's bullet train station, and Uemachi, after the plateau that runs south from Osaka Castle, according to the broadcaster.

The party had invited suggestions from the public in a first survey that ran from late August to mid-September, and followed it with a second round on the internet from late September, with the aim of narrowing the list in October.

Myaku-Myaku and Harukas

The suggestions were colourful. At an online meeting on September 19 of Ishin members elected from the city, the candidates discussed included a ward named after Myaku-Myaku, the mascot of Expo 2025, as well as Umeda, Yumeshima, Senba and Harukas, after the Abeno Harukas skyscraper, Kyodo News reported.

Supporters of the more unusual names argued that letting people choose would make them feel involved in a plan in which public interest has so far been low, according to Kyodo.

The third attempt

The surveys are part of Ishin's third attempt to abolish the city of Osaka, one of Japan's designated cities, and reorganise it into special wards with their own elected mayors and assemblies, along the lines of Tokyo's 23 wards.

Voters in the city narrowly rejected the plan in referendums in 2015 and 2020. The statutory council of the prefecture and the city that drafts the plan began work again in June, with only Ishin taking part; the other parties, which oppose the plan, stayed away. A referendum is envisaged for next spring.

In August the party settled on four wards, a partial revision of the four-ward plan voters rejected in 2020. Each would have between about 530,000 and 880,000 residents, comparable to a designated city.

Hideyuki Yokoyama, the mayor of Osaka and a vice-president of the party, has said the wards would have strong finances, could handle the work the city does now and would keep the costs of reorganisation down.

The governor of Osaka Prefecture, Hirofumi Yoshimura, told the council's first meeting in June that the shape Osaka was aiming for also concerned the governing structure of Japan as a whole, and that he wanted a system that would let the region grow over the next 50 years.

Names matter

Names are more than decoration in a referendum. In 2020 one of the opponents' most effective arguments was the simplest: that a yes vote meant the city of Osaka would cease to exist.

By involving residents in choosing the new names, Ishin hopes to make the plan feel like something done with them rather than to them. Whether that will be enough to overturn two defeats is the question the party will face next spring.

POLITICS

Motegi Conveys Regret to Rubio Over the Naha Killing; the Two Ministers Agree to Discuss Measures to Stop It Happening Again

By Rachel Kim | Washington-Tokyo Liaison

Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi expressed his regret to the American secretary of state, Marco Rubio, on Saturday night over the killing of a woman in Naha, for which a member of the United States Marine Corps has been arrested.

In a telephone call that also covered the American sanctions on the International Criminal Court, the two ministers agreed to discuss measures to prevent a recurrence, according to the Yomiuri Shimbun and other reports.

By raising the case in the same call as the dispute over the court, Mr Motegi put it on the agenda of the alliance's most senior diplomats at a moment when much else was competing for their attention.

The case

A 20-year-old lance corporal from the Futenma air station was arrested on October 4 on suspicion of the robbery and murder of a woman aged 39 in a hotel in Naha. He denies the allegation.

The American forces suspended operations for three days and imposed a curfew on their personnel in Okinawa from midnight to 5 a.m. for 30 days, which took effect on Friday.

On Wednesday the governor of Okinawa, Genta Kojia, told Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi of his strong indignation. She replied that measures to prevent a recurrence would be discussed between Japan and the United States.

On Friday the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly passed a resolution and a written opinion, addressed to both governments, demanding an apology and compensation for the victim's family, full co-operation with the investigation and a revision of the Status of Forces Agreement.

What comes next

Arrangements of this kind are usually worked out through the Japan-United States Joint Committee, which oversees the operation of the agreement, and through consultations between the American forces and the prefecture.

In past cases the two governments have tightened curfews and drinking rules, expanded patrols by American military police in entertainment districts, and revised the arrangements for handing over suspects. Okinawa's leaders say such measures have not stopped crimes from recurring.

The prefecture's demand for a revision of the agreement itself is long-standing. Tokyo and Washington have preferred to improve its operation through supplementary agreements and changes in practice.

Prosecutors must decide by late October, within 23 days of the arrest, whether to indict the suspect. The assembly's texts are due to be delivered to the two governments in the coming days.

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POLITICS

Survey: 26.8% Name the United States as a Threat to World Peace, Up 9.3 Points and Second Only to China; Fewer Than Half Now Take a Newspaper

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

More than a quarter of people in Japan named the United States as a threat to world peace in a national survey published on Saturday, a sharp rise from a year earlier.

In the survey by the Japan Press Research Institute, a public-interest foundation in Tokyo, 26.8 per cent named the United States, 9.3 percentage points more than last year. That put it second only to China, named by 32.5 per cent.

More than 80 per cent took a negative view of the influence of President Donald Trump, according to the institute.

The institute's annual survey is best known for what it reveals about how people in Japan get their news, and this year's findings on that score were striking too.

Newspapers below half

The share of respondents who said they take a newspaper fell to 49.8 per cent, below half for the first time since the survey began in fiscal 2008.

The survey also found that 7.7 per cent of respondents got their information about politics only from social media. Among people in their 20s the figure was about one in four.

Reading the numbers

The figure for the United States does not mean that a quarter of the public regards Washington as an enemy. Japan's alliance with the United States continues to enjoy broad support, and other surveys show large majorities in favour of it.

What the figure does suggest is unease about the direction of American policy under Mr Trump: the tariffs, the pressure on allies, the sanctions on the International Criminal Court and the president's unpredictability. Those concerns have been widely reported in Japan this year.

China, whose ships entered Japanese waters off the Senkaku Islands again on Saturday, remains the country most often named, and its lead over the United States has narrowed rather than disappeared.

The news habit

The fall below half in newspaper subscriptions marks a symbolic threshold. In fiscal 2008, when the survey began, taking a daily paper was still the norm in most households.

The rise of people who rely on social media alone for political information is the trend that most worries those who study elections. Information on social platforms is selected by algorithms and can be spread by accounts that are paid by the view, a problem the parties discussed this week.

POLITICS

The Senkaku Islands: Five Islands, Three Rocks and a Dispute That Has Shaped Japan-China Relations Since 2012

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The Senkaku Islands are a group of five uninhabited islands and three rocks in the East China Sea, lying about 170 kilometres north of Ishigaki Island and about 330 kilometres east of the Chinese mainland.

The largest, Uotsuri Island, covers less than four square kilometres. Japan administers the group as part of the city of Ishigaki in Okinawa Prefecture.

Japan's case

Japan incorporated the islands into its territory in January 1895, after surveys that it says found no trace of control by any other state. A Japanese entrepreneur ran a bonito processing business on Uotsuri in the early 20th century, and at its height more than 200 people lived there.

After the Second World War the islands were placed under American administration with the rest of Okinawa, and they were returned to Japan with Okinawa in 1972.

China's claim

China and Taiwan began to assert claims to the islands in the early 1970s, after a United Nations survey in 1968 suggested that oil and gas reserves

might lie beneath the surrounding seabed. China calls them the Diaoyu Islands.

Tokyo's position is that no territorial issue exists, since the islands are Japanese in the light of both history and international law and are under its valid control.

The turning point

In September 2012 the Japanese government bought three of the islands from their private owner, in part to forestall a plan by the then governor of Tokyo, Shintaro Ishihara, to buy them for the capital.

China responded with large-scale protests and began sending government ships into the surrounding waters on a regular basis. Those patrols have continued ever since, and in recent years Chinese ships have been present in the contiguous zone on almost every day of the year.

The alliance

The United States takes no position on sovereignty over the islands but recognises that they are under Japanese administration and therefore covered by Article 5 of the security treaty, under which it is committed to act against an armed attack on territories under Japan's administration.

That assurance, repeated by successive American presidents, is one of the foundations of Tokyo's security policy in the East China Sea.

POLITICS

Politics in Brief

By the Politics Desk

TAIWAN: A delegation of Japanese parliamentarians was among the guests at Taiwan's National Day celebrations in Taipei on Saturday.

The guests also included King Mswati III of Eswatini, one of the few countries that recognise Taiwan diplomatically.

GCAP: Britain's prime minister, Andy Burnham, said in Berlin on Thursday that he had told Chancellor Friedrich Merz of Britain's openness to Germany joining the fighter programme it shares with Japan and Italy.

He said Britain would seek to progress the idea with its partners, Italy and Japan.

FOOD TAX: The government's bill to cut the consumption tax on food is before the Diet.

The prime minister has put the saving at about 36,000 yen per person a year.

FARM MINISTER: The opposition parties in the House of Councillors, which agreed on Friday to demand the resignation of Kazuo Yana, are weighing a censure motion.

YOKOHAMA: Campaigning continues for the mayoral election on October 18, in which every candidate opposes a casino.

OKINAWA: The prefectural assembly's protest over the Naha killing is to be delivered to both governments.

OSAKA: Ishin will ask residents to choose between eight candidate names for the four proposed special wards.

POLITICS

The Week Ahead

By the Politics Desk

SUNDAY, OCT. 11: Climax Series first stages, second games. World judo championships end with the mixed team event.

Typhoon No. 29 very strong south-east of the Ogasawara Islands.

MONDAY, OCT. 12: Sports Day. Izumo All-Japan University Ekiden. Nobel prize in economic sciences.

No. 29 passes about 510 km east of Chichijima. In Milwaukee, the Dodgers open the NLCS.

TUESDAY, OCT. 13: Tokyo markets reopen. American bank results.

Hisatsu Orange Railway resumes between Yatsushiro and Higo-Tanoura.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14: Climax Series final stages begin. American consumer prices. Nada no Kenka Matsuri, Himeji, to Thursday.

OCT. 15 TO 17: Kannamesai at Ise Jingu. OCT. 17 AND 18: Kawagoe Festival.

OCT. 18: Yokohama mayoral election. OCT. 24: Japan Series begins.

OCT. 29 AND 30: Bank of Japan policy meeting.

POLITICS



The Senkaku Islands from the air, in a file image. Four China Coast Guard ships entered Japanese territorial waters off the islands on Saturday afternoon and stayed for about an hour and 40 minutes before leaving, the Japan Coast Guard said. (Image supplied for this edition)

POLITICS

Four Chinese Coast Guard Ships Enter Japanese Waters Off the Senkakus for About an Hour and 40 Minutes; Japan Coast Guard Warns Them to Leave

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

Four ships of the China Coast Guard entered Japanese territorial waters off the Senkaku Islands in Okinawa Prefecture on Saturday afternoon and stayed for about an hour and 40 minutes, according to the Japan Coast Guard.

Patrol vessels of the Japan Coast Guard warned the Chinese ships to leave, NHK, Kyodo News and Jiji Press reported. The ships later moved out of the territorial sea.

Territorial waters extend 12 nautical miles, about 22 kilometres, from the coast. Beyond them lies the contiguous zone, a further band of 12 nautical miles, in which Chinese government ships have become an almost daily presence in recent years.

Entries into the territorial sea itself are less frequent and are treated by Tokyo as a more serious matter. The Japanese government regularly lodges protests through diplomatic channels when they occur.

A familiar pattern

The Senkakus, a group of uninhabited islands and rocks about 170 kilometres north of Ishigaki Island, are administered by Japan as part of the city of Ishigaki. China claims them and calls them the Diaoyu Islands; Taiwan also claims them.

The Japanese government's position is that there is no territorial issue to be resolved: the islands are an inherent part of Japan's territory in the light of history and international law, and are under its valid control.

Chinese government ships began entering the area regularly after Japan bought three of the islands from

their private owner in September 2012. Since then the visits have grown longer and the ships larger, and some of them are armed.

The timing

Saturday's incursion came on the day Taiwan's president, Lai Ching-te, used his National Day speech to accuse China of applying pressure through military and grey-zone activities, the term used for coercion that stops short of armed conflict.

There is no indication that the two events were connected, and the coast guard's patrols around the Senkakus follow a rhythm of their own. But Japanese officials have long argued that the waters around the islands and those around Taiwan belong to a single strategic picture.

Tokyo's response

Japan has strengthened the coast guard's presence in the area, building new patrol vessels and expanding its base on Ishigaki. The government has also stressed that the islands fall under Article 5 of the Japan-United States Security Treaty, a point successive American administrations have confirmed.

The coast guard publishes a running tally of Chinese government ships in the contiguous zone and of entries into the territorial sea. Saturday's entry, by four ships, will be added to a record that Tokyo uses both to show the world what is happening and to show that it is responding.

POLITICS

The Naha Case: The Week So Far

By the Politics Desk

OCTOBER 4: A 20-year-old lance corporal from the Futenma air station is arrested on suspicion of the robbery and murder of a woman aged 39 in a hotel in Naha. He denies the allegation.

THE AMERICAN FORCES: suspend operations for three days and impose a curfew from midnight to 5 a.m. for 30 days.

WEDNESDAY: Governor Genta Koja tells Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi of his strong indignation.

THE PRIME MINISTER: replies that measures to prevent a recurrence will be discussed with Washington.

FRIDAY: The curfew takes effect.

THE PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY: passes a resolution and a written opinion addressed to both governments.

ITS DEMANDS: an apology, compensation and a revision of the Status of Forces Agreement.

SATURDAY: Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi conveys his regret to Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

THE TWO MINISTERS: agree to discuss measures to prevent a recurrence.

BY LATE OCTOBER: Prosecutors must decide whether to indict.

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POLITICS

From 1995 to 2017: How Tokyo and Washington Have Answered Past Crimes by American Personnel in Okinawa

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Measures to prevent a recurrence, the phrase Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi used on Saturday, have been a recurring theme of the alliance whenever a serious crime involving American personnel has shaken Okinawa.

Under the Status of Forces Agreement of 1960, when an American service member suspected of a crime committed off duty is in American custody, Japan may in principle take custody only after an indictment.

1995

In September 1995 three American servicemen abducted and raped a 12-year-old girl in Okinawa. Because the suspects were held by the American military, Japanese police could not take them into custody until they were indicted, and the case caused fury in the prefecture.

About 85,000 people attended a protest rally in Ginowan in October 1995, according to the organisers. The two governments then agreed that the United States would give sympathetic consideration to Japanese requests to hand over suspects before indictment in cases of heinous crimes such as murder and rape.

The outrage also led to the creation of a special committee that in 1996 agreed to return the land of

the Futenma air station, a promise that has still not been fulfilled.

2016

In 2016 a former marine working as a civilian at Kadena Air Base was arrested over the murder of a 20-year-old woman in Okinawa. He was later sentenced to life imprisonment.

In January 2017 the two governments signed a supplementary agreement narrowing the definition of the civilian component, the category of American civilians covered by the agreement's protections.

Patrols and curfews

Between and after those cases, the American forces have repeatedly imposed curfews and restrictions on drinking, and have sent military police patrols into the entertainment districts near the bases.

Okinawa's leaders acknowledge such steps but argue that they lapse over time and do not address the underlying problem, which in their view is the sheer concentration of American forces on the island.

The latest case will test whether the two governments can offer something more lasting than another curfew.

POLITICS

China's Coast Guard: A Fleet That Grew Into the World's Largest, and the 2021 Law That Lets It Use Weapons

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The China Coast Guard in its present form was created in 2013, when Beijing merged several separate maritime law enforcement agencies into a single force.

In 2018 it was placed under the command of the People's Armed Police, which answers to the Central Military Commission, the body that controls China's armed forces. Japanese officials regard that move as having given the coast guard a military character.

The fleet

The force has grown into the largest coast guard in the world by number of ocean-going ships. Many of its newer vessels are much larger than the patrol boats of other countries' coast guards, and some are armed with deck guns.

Some of its ships are converted naval frigates, and its largest cutters are bigger than many warships.

The law

A law that took effect on February 1, 2021 set out the coast guard's powers. It allows the force to take all necessary measures, including the use of weapons, against foreign organisations or individuals that infringe China's sovereignty or jurisdiction at sea.

Because China claims waters that other countries regard as their own, including the territorial sea around the Senkaku Islands, Japan and others expressed serious concern that the law could be applied in disputed areas.

The law also allows the coast guard to demolish structures built by foreign entities in waters under Chinese jurisdiction.

The Japanese answer

The Japan Coast Guard is a civilian law enforcement agency under the land and transport ministry. Its rules on the use of weapons are tightly drawn, and it has avoided direct confrontation, relying on warnings and on keeping its own ships alongside Chinese vessels.

Tokyo has expanded the coast guard's budget and fleet in response to the Chinese build-up, and in 2023 it agreed a procedure for placing the coast guard under the control of the defence minister in an armed attack.

The aim of Japanese policy is to keep any confrontation in the hands of law enforcement agencies for as long as possible, so that a dispute at sea does not become a military one.

POLITICS

Two Referendums, Two Narrow Defeats: The Story So Far of the Plan to Turn the City of Osaka Into Special Wards

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The idea of turning Osaka into a metropolis on the Tokyo model has been the founding cause of the Ishin movement since Toru Hashimoto, then governor of Osaka Prefecture, championed it in 2010.

Its supporters argue that the prefecture and the city have long duplicated each other's work, building rival facilities and pursuing competing policies, and that a single strategic government for the region would end the waste.

May 2015

The first referendum, on May 17, 2015, proposed replacing the city with five special wards. It was rejected by about 10,700 votes, with 50.38 per cent against and 49.62 per cent in favour.

Mr Hashimoto, then mayor of Osaka, announced on the night of the vote that he would leave politics at the end of his term, as he had promised to do if the plan failed.

November 2020

The second, on November 1, 2020, proposed four special wards and was backed this time by Komeito, which had opposed the plan in 2015. It was rejected again, with about 50.6 per cent against, a margin of roughly 17,000 votes.

Opponents argued that abolishing the city would weaken services, cost more than promised and erase a name with centuries of history.

The mayor at the time, Ichiro Matsui, said he would retire from politics at the end of his term.

The third attempt

Ishin has since strengthened its hold on Osaka, winning the governorship, the mayoralty and majorities in both assemblies. It has now revived the plan, and the statutory council that drafts the proposal began work in June, with only Ishin taking part.

In August the party settled on four wards. A referendum is envisaged for next spring.

Under the Act on the Establishment of Special Wards in Metropolitan Areas, passed in 2012, a plan approved by both assemblies must be put to the city's voters, and it takes effect only if a majority votes in favour.

INTERNATIONAL

Taiwan's National Day in Numbers

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

115: years since the Wuchang Uprising of October 10, 1911.

1.1 TRILLION: Taiwan dollars proposed for defence in 2027, about 34.5 billion American dollars.

3 PER CENT: the defence budget's share of GDP, exceeded under the plan.

21: Chinese military aircraft detected around Taiwan in 24 hours, the defence ministry said.

13: of those aircraft that crossed the median line of the strait.

7: Chinese ships detected in the same period.

110 KILOMETRES: the distance from Taiwan to Japan's Yonaguni Island.

4: Chinese coast guard ships in Japanese waters off the Senkakus on the same afternoon.

1 HOUR 40 MINUTES: how long they stayed.

30 NAUTICAL MILES: how far off Hualien a Chinese militia boat was reported in August.

INTERNATIONAL

The Court Under Sanctions: Friday to Monday

By the International Desk

FRIDAY: The Nobel Peace Prize goes to Navi Pillay, former ICC judge.

Hours later Washington designates the court itself; Marco Rubio calls it a rogue court.

The court: "History will judge this moment."

Japan and seven other countries regret and strongly disagree.

Prime Minister Takaichi: not compatible with Japan's position; deeply concerned.

SATURDAY: The 21-member bureau of the Assembly of States Parties calls for immediate withdrawal.

Ms Pillay: "unheard of, unacceptable".

President Trump attacks the Nobel committee in a 600-word post.

Toshimitsu Motegi speaks to Judge Akane, then to Mr Rubio.

MONDAY: Belgium's foreign minister to raise the matter with EU counterparts. GRACE PERIOD: 180 days.

INTERNATIONAL



A China Coast Guard ship at sea, in a file image. Taiwan's president, Lai Ching-te, accused China on Saturday of applying pressure through military and grey-zone activities; a Chinese militia boat was seen off Taiwan's east coast with a coast guard ship in August, Reuters has reported. (Image supplied for this edition)

INTERNATIONAL

Lai: Taiwan Is Open to Exchanges With China but Will Not Accept Subordination; Beijing Says the Speech Distorts the Truth

By Jonathan Mercer | Senior Editor, International Desk

Taiwan's president, Lai Ching-te, said on Saturday that the island was open to exchanges with China but would not accept subordination, in a National Day speech that accused Beijing of applying pressure through military and grey-zone activities.

"We are open to exchanges but will not accept subordination," Mr Lai said in front of the Presidential Office in Taipei, at celebrations marking the 115th anniversary of the uprising that led to the founding of the Republic of China.

He defended his government's plans to raise defence spending to a record 1.1 trillion Taiwan dollars, about 34.5 billion American dollars, in 2027, more than 3 per cent of gross domestic product. The spending was not meant to provoke, he said, but to deter war.

Mr Lai called for co-operation among the democracies of the Indo-Pacific region in the face of pressure from China.

Beijing's reply

China's Taiwan Affairs Office said the speech "disregards facts, distorts the truth, misleads the public, and reveals ulterior motives".

Beijing regards Taiwan as part of its territory and has not ruled out the use of force to bring it under its control. It describes Mr Lai, who took office in May 2024, as a separatist.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it had detected 21 Chinese military aircraft and seven ships around the island in the most recent 24-hour period it reported, and that 13 of the aircraft had crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, the informal boundary between the two sides.

INTERNATIONAL

A Chinese Militia Boat Is Spotted Off Taiwan's Pacific Coast for the First Time, With a Coast Guard Ship and a Research Vessel

By Jonathan Mercer | Senior Editor, International Desk

A boat belonging to China's maritime militia was spotted off Taiwan's east coast in mid-August, accompanied by a Chinese coast guard ship and a research vessel, in what appears to be the first known sighting of such a boat on the island's Pacific side, Reuters reported in an exclusive this week.

The boat, the Minfudingyu 07902, was seen more than 30 nautical miles off Hualien by a civilian patrol aircraft operated by Apex Aviation, according to the report.

With it were the China Coast Guard ship 2502 and the Xiang Yang Hong 03, a Chinese research vessel.

Hualien, on Taiwan's mountainous east coast, faces the open Pacific. The waters off it are far from the Taiwan Strait, where Chinese ships and aircraft have long been active.

Why it matters

China's maritime militia consists of fishing boats and other civilian vessels whose crews are organised and trained to support the state at sea. The boats can gather information, shadow foreign vessels and assert China's presence in disputed waters while allowing

The guests

Among the foreign guests at the celebrations were King Mswati III of Eswatini, one of the few countries that maintain diplomatic relations with Taipei, and Micah Beckwith, the lieutenant governor of the American state of Indiana. A delegation of Japanese parliamentarians also attended.

The grey zone

The term grey zone describes coercion that stops short of open conflict: patrols by coast guard ships, the massing of fishing boats crewed by militia, military aircraft flying close to an island's airspace, and pressure on undersea cables and shipping.

Taiwan has reported such activity on its western side, facing the mainland, for years. Reuters reported this week that a Chinese maritime militia boat had been spotted for the first time off Taiwan's east coast, accompanied by a Chinese coast guard ship, in August.

Why it matters to Japan

Japan's westernmost island, Yonaguni, lies about 110 kilometres from Taiwan, and the sea lanes that pass the island carry much of Japan's trade and energy. On the same afternoon as Mr Lai's speech, four Chinese coast guard ships entered Japanese waters off the Senkaku Islands, north-east of Taiwan.

Japanese governments have said that peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait are important for Japan and for the international community, and have called for differences to be resolved peacefully through dialogue. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has made the same point, while strengthening Japan's own defences in its south-western islands.

Beijing to describe them as ordinary fishing boats.

It is the combination of the three vessels that has drawn attention. Research vessels can survey the sea floor and the water column, information that is valuable for submarine operations as well as for science, while the coast guard ship and the militia boat can assert a presence and watch who comes and goes.

The east coast matters militarily because it is where Taiwan's forces would be expected to shelter aircraft and ships in a conflict, protected by the island's central mountains from the mainland. The waters to the east would also be the route by which help from the United States and Japan would arrive.

The pattern

Taiwan has reported growing Chinese activity of this kind around the island, from coast guard patrols near its outlying islands to damage to undersea cables, which Taipei has said it suspects were caused by Chinese-linked vessels.

China regards Taiwan as part of its territory and says that its ships are entitled to operate in the surrounding waters.

Close to Japan

The waters east of Taiwan connect with those south of Yonaguni and Ishigaki in Okinawa Prefecture. Japanese defence planners watch Chinese activity there closely, and the Self-Defence Forces have expanded their presence on the south-western islands

in recent years.

The report came days before Taiwan's president, Lai Ching-te, used his National Day speech to accuse China of pressure through military and grey-zone activities.

INTERNATIONAL

China's Maritime Militia: Fishing Boats That Answer to the State and Blur the Line Between Civilian and Military

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

China's maritime militia is a force of fishing boats and other civilian vessels whose crews are organised, trained and in some cases paid to support the state at sea.

It forms part of China's militia system, a reserve that answers to the military and exists alongside the regular armed forces and the People's Armed Police.

How it works

Some militia boats are ordinary fishing vessels whose owners are called on when needed. Others are purpose-built, with reinforced steel hulls, and spend little time fishing.

The boats can be used to gather intelligence, shadow foreign ships, block access to reefs and shoals, and assert China's presence in disputed waters in large numbers.

Because they look like fishing boats, they allow Beijing to put pressure on its neighbours while presenting the activity as civilian. Other governments find it hard to respond without appearing to attack fishermen.

Famous episodes

In March 2021 the Philippines said about 220 Chinese vessels it believed to be crewed by militia had gathered at Whitsun Reef in the South China Sea. China said they were fishing boats sheltering from the weather.

In August 2016 hundreds of Chinese fishing boats, accompanied by coast guard ships, gathered near the Senkaku Islands, and Chinese government vessels repeatedly entered Japanese waters.

Militia boats have also been involved in confrontations with Philippine vessels around Second Thomas Shoal and Scarborough Shoal.

The grey zone

The militia is one of the main instruments of what analysts call grey-zone pressure, coercion below the threshold of armed conflict. It works alongside the coast guard, which has law enforcement powers, and the navy, which usually stays further back.

The reported sighting of a militia boat off Taiwan's east coast in August, if confirmed as the first, would extend that pattern to waters that face the Pacific and lie close to Japan's southernmost islands.

INTERNATIONAL

Double Ten: Why Taiwan Marks Its National Day With the Anniversary of a 1911 Uprising on the Mainland

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Taiwan's National Day falls on October 10 and is known as Double Ten, after the tenth day of the tenth month.

It commemorates the Wuchang Uprising of October 10, 1911, a revolt by soldiers in the city of Wuchang, now part of Wuhan, that set off the revolution which brought down the Qing dynasty, China's last imperial house.

The Republic of China was proclaimed on January 1, 1912, with Sun Yat-sen as provisional president, and the last emperor, Puyi, abdicated the following month.

From Nanjing to Taipei

After the Second World War, Taiwan, which had been a Japanese colony since 1895, was placed under the administration of the Republic of China.

In 1949, defeated by the Communists in the civil war, the Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek retreated to Taiwan, while Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China in Beijing on October 1.

The Republic of China has governed Taiwan and a few outlying islands ever since. Its official name is still the Republic of China, and Saturday's celebrations marked its 115th anniversary.

The celebrations

The main ceremony is held in front of the Presidential Office in Taipei, a building completed in 1919 as the office of the Japanese governor-general. It includes a speech by the president and, in some years, military parades and flypasts.

A day with two meanings

For many in Taiwan the day is above all a celebration of the democracy the island built after martial law ended in 1987. For Beijing, which also honours the 1911 revolution, the day's speeches are a test of whether Taipei's leaders accept that Taiwan is part of China.

That is why the president's National Day speech is read so closely on both sides of the strait, and why Beijing's reply this year came within hours.

INTERNATIONAL

The 21 States That Lead the ICC's Assembly, Japan Among Them, Call for the Immediate Withdrawal of the American Sanctions

By the International Desk

The Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties, the body that leads the work of the countries belonging to the International Criminal Court, called on Saturday for the immediate withdrawal of the American sanctions on the court, Kyodo News reported from The Hague.

The bureau has 21 members, among them Japan. In a statement it said it regretted the sanctions against the court as an institution.

The statement came a day after the United States designated the court itself for sanctions, the first time Washington has targeted the institution rather than individual judges and prosecutors.

From words to protection

The bureau speaks for the court's 125 member states between the annual sessions of their assembly. Its call followed the joint statement issued on Friday by the foreign ministers of Japan and seven other countries, who said they regretted and strongly disagreed with the measures.

The practical question for the members is how to keep the court working if the measures take full effect after the 180-day grace period. The court depends on banks, insurers and technology suppliers, many of which are tied to the American financial system.

Belgium's foreign minister, Maxime Prévot, has said he will raise the matter with his European Union counterparts on Monday and has called for the activation of the EU's blocking statute, which forbids European companies to comply with certain foreign sanctions.

A difficult year

The court has had a turbulent year even without the American measures. In July its member states voted to dismiss the prosecutor, Karim Khan, over his conduct, a decision Japan welcomed.

In August Washington sanctioned the court's president, Tomoko Akane, and other officials. Last week Russia asked for Ms Akane's extradition, according to reports; she was among the judges who issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin in 2023.

Japan's role

Japan is the largest contributor to the court's budget and sits on the bureau. Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi spoke to Ms Akane on Saturday night and assured her of Japan's continued support, before speaking to the American secretary of state, Marco Rubio.

The bureau's statement, issued in the name of its members, adds Japan's voice to a call for the sanctions to be lifted, and reflects the weight the court's members attach to defending it as an institution rather than only its individual officials.

The assembly's next session is due towards the end of the year, when its members will also have to agree the court's budget for 2027.

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INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

The Assembly of States Parties and Its Bureau: How the Countries That Created the ICC Oversee It

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The International Criminal Court was created by a treaty, the Rome Statute, and the countries that have ratified it, known as states parties, govern it through a body called the Assembly of States Parties.

Each member has one vote. The assembly elects the court's 18 judges, its prosecutor and its deputy prosecutors, adopts its budget and can amend the statute.

It usually meets once a year, in The Hague or in New York, and decisions are taken by consensus where possible.

The bureau

Between sessions the assembly's work is led by its bureau, which consists of a president, two vice-presidents and 18 other members, elected for three-year terms.

Under the statute, the bureau must be representative, reflecting in particular the principal legal systems of the world and an equitable geographical distribution. Japan is among its members.

The bureau prepares the assembly's sessions, oversees working groups in The Hague and New York, and can speak on behalf of the members on matters affecting the court.

The budget

Members pay contributions assessed according to a scale based on that of the United Nations. Japan, as the largest economy among the members, pays the largest share.

The court's approved budget runs to about 200 million euros a year, a small sum by the standards of international organisations but essential to the court's operations.

Leaving and joining

A state can leave the court by giving notice to the UN Secretary-General; the withdrawal takes effect a year later. Burundi and the Philippines have left, and last year Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger announced their withdrawal.

The United States signed the statute in 2000 but notified the UN in 2002 that it did not intend to ratify it. Russia withdrew its signature in 2016, and neither China, India nor Israel has joined.

The assembly cannot prevent a member from leaving, but its decisions on budgets and appointments shape the court's capacity to do its work.

INTERNATIONAL

Pillay Calls the Sanctions 'Unheard of, Unacceptable'; Israel and Trump Turn Their Fire on the Nobel Committee

By Jonathan Mercer | Senior Editor, International Desk

A day after she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, Navi Pillay said the American sanctions on the International Criminal Court were "unheard of, unacceptable".

Ms Pillay, 85, a former judge of the court and a former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, spoke on Saturday by video link from Nuremberg, the German city where she heard the news of the award, to an event at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo.

Sanctions imposed by one country on judges because of the orders they had made were without precedent, she said. There was "so much tension and anxiety over the continued existence of international courts", and hundreds of the court's staff felt "under threat".

Nuremberg, where the leaders of Nazi Germany were tried after the Second World War, is often described as the birthplace of international criminal justice.

The committee's reasons

The Norwegian Nobel Committee said it had honoured Ms Pillay for her efforts to promote peace and international law. Announcing the award on Friday, its chair, Jørgen Watne Frydnes, said that peace requires justice.

Ms Pillay presided over the international tribunal for Rwanda and served as an ICC judge from 2003 to 2008. More recently she chaired the UN inquiry that concluded last year that Israel had committed

genocide in Gaza, a finding Israel rejected.

Israel's reaction

Israel's foreign minister said the award legitimised hatred of Israel. Its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, for whom the court issued an arrest warrant in 2024, said the committee had lost its moral compass.

The president

President Donald Trump, who has said repeatedly that he deserves the prize, attacked the committee in a post of about 600 words on his Truth Social platform late on Friday, Washington time.

He wrote that he had settled eight wars and was about to settle, or win, two more, and that he should have won eight Nobel Peace Prizes. "I know nothing about this woman, and neither does anyone else!" he wrote, accusing her of hating Israel.

He called the decision "an indelible stain on Norway" and said the prize had been discredited by radical ideologues. He also called it a disgraceful and embarrassing decision, AFP reported.

What comes next

The prize is to be presented in Oslo on December 10. By then the 180-day grace period of the American sanctions will be about a third over, and the court's members will have had time to show whether they can protect it.

Ms Pillay has dedicated the prize to all the survivors of international crimes. Her remarks on Saturday suggested that she intends to use the platform it gives her to defend the institutions she served.

INTERNATIONAL

Five Norwegians and a Secret Ballot: How the Peace Prize Is Chosen, and Why Governments Cannot Overrule the Committee

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The Nobel Peace Prize is chosen by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, five people appointed by the Storting, Norway's parliament, in line with Alfred Nobel's will.

The members are usually former politicians or academics, and the committee's composition broadly reflects the strength of the parties in parliament. Sitting members of the government do not serve on it.

Independence

The committee is independent of the Norwegian government, which has repeatedly said that it has no say in the choice of laureate. That has not stopped other governments from holding Norway responsible.

When the committee gave the prize to the Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo in 2010, Beijing froze political relations with Oslo. They were not normalised until December 2016.

Nominations

Nominations may be made by members of national parliaments and governments, university professors in certain fields, past laureates and members of the committee itself, among others. The deadline is January 31.

The list of nominees is kept secret for 50 years. Nominators sometimes announce their own nominations, which is how it becomes known that a particular figure has been put forward.

The president's campaign

President Donald Trump has said many times that he deserves the prize and has been nominated by several foreign leaders. The White House said last year that Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi had told him she would nominate him.

Only four American presidents have won the prize: Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, Woodrow Wilson in 1919, Jimmy Carter in 2002 and Barack Obama in 2009.

Controversy

The committee has often been criticised, for prizes seen as premature, such as Mr Obama's, and for omissions, most famously that of Mahatma Gandhi.

Its members argue that the prize is meant to encourage as well as reward, and that controversy is the price of taking positions. This year's award, to a judge who defended the International Criminal Court, was a position in itself, as Washington's sanctions on the court within hours made plain.

INTERNATIONAL

From Bensouda to the Court Itself: How American Sanctions on the ICC Have Escalated Since 2020

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

American hostility to the International Criminal Court is not new. The United States never ratified the Rome Statute and has long objected to any claim by the court to jurisdiction over Americans.

In 2002 Congress passed the American Service-Members' Protection Act, which restricts co-operation with the court and authorises the president to use all means necessary to free Americans held by it.

2020

In June 2020, during his first term, President Donald Trump signed an executive order authorising sanctions on people involved in the court's investigation of possible crimes in Afghanistan, including by American personnel.

In September 2020 the then prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda of the Gambia, and a senior official of her office were placed under sanctions.

2021

President Joe Biden revoked the order in April 2021, and the sanctions were lifted. His administration said it still disagreed with the court's actions on Afghanistan and on the Palestinian situation.

2025

In February 2025, weeks after returning to office, Mr Trump signed a new order authorising sanctions over the court's investigations involving the United States and its ally Israel, after the court issued an arrest warrant for Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, in November 2024.

The prosecutor, Karim Khan, was designated that month. Judges and deputy prosecutors followed in the course of the year.

2026

In August Washington sanctioned the court's president, the Japanese judge Tomoko Akane, and other officials, according to AFP. On Friday it designated the court itself, with a grace period of 180 days and some exemptions.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the period would give the court and its members a chance to address American concerns.

The effect

Sanctions on individuals freeze their assets in the United States and make it hard for them to use banks, cards and many online services. Sanctions on the institution threaten its ability to pay staff, insure its premises and use the software it depends on, which is why the court's members regard the latest step as a threat to its survival.

INTERNATIONAL

Can the ICC Try Americans? How the Court Claims Jurisdiction Over Citizens of Countries That Never Joined It

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The heart of Washington's quarrel with the International Criminal Court is a legal question: can a court created by a treaty try citizens of countries that never signed up to it?

The Rome Statute gives the court jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression in three main ways.

Territory and nationality

Under Article 12, the court may act if the crime was committed on the territory of a member state, or if the accused is a national of a member state.

A country that is not a member can also accept the court's jurisdiction for a particular situation by lodging a declaration. Ukraine did so in 2014 and 2015, years before it became a full member at the start of 2025.

Security Council referrals

The Security Council can refer a situation to the court, even in a country that is not a member. It did so for Darfur in Sudan in 2005 and for Libya in 2011.

The American objection

The territorial route is the one that troubles Washington. Because the court can act on crimes committed on a member's territory, it can in principle

investigate Americans for conduct in a member state, as it did in its inquiry into Afghanistan, which joined the court in 2003.

American governments argue that a treaty cannot bind countries that are not parties to it, a basic principle of international law, and that the court is in effect exercising jurisdiction over the United States without its consent.

The court's answer

Supporters of the court reply that any country may prosecute foreigners who commit crimes on its soil, and that member states have simply delegated part of that power to a court they created together. On this view, an American accused of a war crime in a member state is no more exempt than an American accused of theft there.

The dispute has never been settled by any court that Washington recognises. It underlies the American objections to the court's investigations involving Afghanistan and the Palestinian territories, and it is the disagreement captured by the padlocked door marked Non-Parties in today's editorial cartoon.

Any compromise in the months ahead will have to find a way around this disagreement rather than resolve it.

INTERNATIONAL

Complementarity: The Rule That Makes the ICC a Court of Last Resort, and How It Has Been Applied to a Democracy Before

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The International Criminal Court was never meant to replace national courts. Its founding treaty says it is complementary to national criminal jurisdictions, a principle known as complementarity.

Under Article 17 of the Rome Statute, a case is inadmissible if it is being genuinely investigated or prosecuted by a state with jurisdiction over it. The court may step in only if that state is unwilling or unable to do so genuinely.

How it works

The court looks at whether national authorities are dealing with the same person for substantially the same conduct. Investigations designed to shield a suspect, or proceedings that are unjustifiably delayed or not independent, do not count.

A state may also ask the prosecutor to defer to its own investigation when it is notified that the court intends to open one. The prosecutor must then seek the judges' permission to continue.

The British example

The best example of complementarity applied to a Western democracy concerns Britain. For years the court's prosecutor examined allegations of abuses by British forces in Iraq.

In December 2020 the then prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, closed the preliminary examination. She concluded that there was a reasonable basis to believe that war crimes had been committed, but that she could not establish that the British authorities had been unwilling genuinely to investigate and prosecute.

The decision was criticised by rights groups but showed that the court can defer to a democracy with functioning institutions.

Relevance today

Complementarity is likely to be at the centre of any effort to address American concerns. The United States has its own military justice system and civilian courts, and its supporters argue that they are able to deal with allegations against Americans.

The court's critics say it has not given enough weight to such systems. Its defenders say complementarity already protects states that investigate genuinely, and that the problem arises only when they do not.

Setting out more clearly how the court will treat credible national proceedings is one of the reforms the court's members could offer during the six-month grace period.

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INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

The Putin Warrant: What the ICC Accuses Russia's President Of, Why Judge Akane Is Wanted in Moscow, and Where He Has Travelled Since

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On March 17, 2023, judges of the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

The warrant accuses him of responsibility for the war crimes of unlawful deportation and unlawful transfer of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia. A warrant was issued on the same day for Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's commissioner for children's rights.

The judges

The warrants were issued by Pre-Trial Chamber II, whose three judges included Tomoko Akane of Japan, now the court's president.

Russia, which is not a member of the court, rejected the warrants as null and void. Its Investigative Committee opened criminal cases against the court's prosecutor and the judges involved, and Russia placed them on its wanted lists.

Last week Moscow asked for Judge Akane's extradition, according to reports.

Further warrants

In 2024 the court issued warrants for senior Russian commanders over strikes on Ukraine's electricity infrastructure, and for the former defence minister, Sergei Shoigu, and the chief of the general staff, Valery Gerasimov.

Where he goes

Members of the court are obliged to arrest anyone subject to its warrants who enters their territory. Mr Putin has largely avoided travelling to member states.

In 2023 he took part by video in a summit in South Africa, a member, rather than attend in person. In September 2024 he visited Mongolia, also a member, which did not arrest him; the court later found that Mongolia had failed to comply with its obligations.

Japan's stake

Japan was among the members that referred the situation in Ukraine to the court in 2022, allowing its prosecutor to open an investigation quickly. Ukraine itself became a member at the start of 2025.

For Japan, the warrant represents the kind of accountability it argues should apply to leaders who wage aggressive war. That is one reason Tokyo regards the American measures against the court as a blow to its own interests.

If the court were to collapse, the warrant for Mr Putin would lose the institution that stands behind it.

Missile Strike on Riyadh's Main Airport Kills at Least 12, Including an American, and Injures 309; Flights Are Suspended

By the International Desk

A missile strike on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on Saturday killed at least 12 people and injured 309, according to reports, as the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthi movement escalated.

The strike hit the complex of domestic terminals, Terminals 3 and 4. The dead included one American, four Saudis and two Bangladeshis, as well as one person each from Egypt, Jordan, Syria, the Palestinian territories and Sudan.

Operations at the airport were suspended, and at least 291 flights were cancelled.

The United States State Department condemned what it called Houthi terrorist attacks. Accounts differed on whether the Houthis had claimed responsibility.

Asked about the attack, President Donald Trump said: "We may. We're gonna look at it."

A widening war

Attacks earlier in the week had killed three people. A week ago a Saudi-led offensive was launched against the Houthis, who control the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north.

The Houthis have fired missiles and drones at Saudi cities before, including Riyadh. In 2017 a missile was intercepted near the same airport.

Japanese travellers

Riyadh's airport is the main gateway to Saudi Arabia, a country with which Japan has close economic ties as one of its largest suppliers of crude oil. Many Japanese companies have staff in the kingdom.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry advises travellers to the region to follow its safety information and register their travel plans through its Tabireg service, which sends alerts in emergencies.

The oil market

Attacks on Saudi Arabia are watched closely by oil traders. The price of West Texas Intermediate crude stood at about 91 dollars a barrel on Thursday, and disruption in the Gulf, including in the Strait of Hormuz, has been one of the factors keeping energy prices high.

Tokyo's markets are closed on Monday for Sports Day, so Japanese investors will have their first chance to react on Tuesday.

Air defences

Saudi Arabia relies heavily on American-made Patriot missile defence systems to protect its cities and oil installations. The strike on the airport showed that even a well-defended capital cannot intercept every missile, and it will raise questions about how the kingdom's defences can be strengthened.

The Houthis: The Yemeni Movement That Took Sanaa in 2014 and Has Fought Saudi Arabia for More Than a Decade

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The Houthis, who call their movement Ansar Allah, or Supporters of God, are an armed group from northern Yemen rooted in the Zaydi branch of Shia Islam.

They take their name from the family of their founder, Hussein al-Houthi, a cleric killed in fighting with the Yemeni government in 2004. His brother, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, leads the movement.

Seizing power

In September 2014 the Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa, and forced the internationally recognised government into exile.

In March 2015 a coalition led by Saudi Arabia intervened to restore that government, beginning a war that has caused one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

Missiles and drones

The Houthis have built up an arsenal of ballistic missiles and drones, which Western governments and the United Nations say has been supplied or designed with help from Iran. Tehran denies arming them.

They have repeatedly fired at Saudi cities and at oil installations. In November 2017 a missile fired from Yemen was intercepted near King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh.

The Red Sea

From late 2023 the Houthis attacked commercial shipping in the Red Sea, saying they were acting in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza. The attacks forced many shipping lines to send their vessels around the Cape of Good Hope, adding time and cost to trade between Asia and Europe, including Japanese trade.

The United States designated the Houthis a foreign terrorist organisation in 2025, and has carried out air strikes against them.

A new phase

A truce brokered in 2022 largely halted the fighting between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia for several years. The Saudi-led offensive launched a week ago, and the strikes on Riyadh that have followed, mark a return to open war between them.

Saturday's strike on Riyadh's airport, which killed at least 12 people, is the most serious so far in this new phase.

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ECONOMY

Bank of Japan Raises Its View of Tohoku and Shikoku as Demand Linked to Artificial Intelligence Lifts Production; Seven Regions Unchanged

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The Bank of Japan raised its assessment of the economies of Tohoku and Shikoku in its quarterly regional report released on Thursday, citing demand linked to artificial intelligence.

The other seven of Japan's nine regions kept their assessments unchanged from July, the bank said in the report, known as the Sakura Report.

Growing demand for AI has increased the production of a wide range of goods, including equipment for making semiconductors and products related to telecommunications infrastructure, according to the report, Kyodo News said.

Overall, the regions described their economies as recovering moderately or picking up, with weaker movements in some areas.

Hokkaido waits

In Hokkaido, where the bank kept its assessment unchanged, the spread of AI-related demand remained limited, the Hokkaido Shimbun reported, even as it lifted activity in many other parts of the country.

That is a notable finding for a region in which the chipmaker Rapidus is building a plant to make advanced semiconductors, with production due to start in the second half of the 2027 fiscal year.

The branch managers

The assessments were presented at the meeting of the bank's branch managers at its head office in Tokyo on Thursday morning. The managers' reports, based on interviews with companies in their areas, are one of the sources the bank's policy board uses in judging the state of the economy.

Ahead of the policy meeting

The report comes three weeks before the bank's next policy meeting, on October 29 and 30, at which it will also publish its quarterly outlook for growth and prices.

Its policy rate stands at 1.25 per cent. Investors are watching for signs of whether the bank intends to raise it again, and the regional reports on wages and prices are among the evidence it will weigh.

A report that shows the recovery spreading to more regions would support the case for continuing to raise rates gradually. One that shows the gains concentrated in AI-related industries would counsel caution, since such demand can change quickly.

Thursday's report offered some of both: two regions upgraded on the strength of AI, and seven unchanged.

ECONOMY

Why Monday Is a Holiday: Sports Day, Born of the 1964 Olympics and Moved to the Second Monday of October in 2000

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Monday, October 12, is Sports Day, a national holiday that closes Tokyo's markets and gives most of the country a three-day weekend.

The holiday was established in 1966, as Health and Sports Day, to commemorate the opening of the Tokyo Olympics on October 10, 1964, the first Games held in Asia.

October 10 is often said to have been chosen for the opening ceremony because it was statistically likely to be fine, and the day of the ceremony was indeed clear after a day of rain.

The Happy Monday system

In 2000 the holiday was moved to the second Monday of October under the Happy Monday system, which shifted several holidays to Mondays to create long weekends and encourage leisure spending.

As a result, the holiday now falls on a different date each year, between October 8 and October 14. This year it falls on the 12th.

A new name

In 2020 the holiday was renamed Sports Day, dropping the word health, in the run-up to the Tokyo Olympics. That year and the next, it was moved to

July to coincide with the opening of the Games, which were postponed by a year because of the pandemic.

What happens on the day

Schools and local communities traditionally hold sports days around the holiday, with relay races and tug-of-war, though many schools now hold them in spring to avoid the summer heat in the weeks of preparation.

The Izumo All-Japan University Ekiden, the first of the season's three big university relay races, is run on the holiday each year. Many companies and government offices close, while shops, restaurants and tourist sites stay open and are often at their busiest.

For investors

The holiday means that Tokyo's markets will react on Tuesday to everything that happens over the weekend, including the missile strike on Riyadh's airport. Markets in the United States are open on Monday, though the American bond market observes a holiday for Columbus Day.

ECONOMY

Monday's Economics Prize: The Nobel That Nobel Did Not Found, and Why No Japanese Has Yet Won It

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The last of this year's Nobel announcements, the prize in economic sciences, is due on Monday in Stockholm. It is expected at about 6:45 p.m. Japan time.

Strictly speaking it is not a Nobel prize. Its full name is the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, and it was established by Sweden's central bank in 1968, to mark its 300th anniversary.

It was first awarded in 1969, to Ragnar Frisch of Norway and Jan Tinbergen of the Netherlands, pioneers of the use of mathematical models in economics.

The same ceremony

The prize is chosen by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which also awards the physics and chemistry prizes, and the laureates receive it in Stockholm on December 10 with the others. The prize money, 12 million Swedish kronor this year, is the same.

Some members of the Nobel family and some scientists have objected over the years that the prize trades on Nobel's name without being part of his will.

Japan's absence

Japan has produced laureates in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace, but never in economics.

Several Japanese economists have been mentioned as possible winners over the years, among them Nobuhiro Kiyotaki, known for his work with John Moore on how credit constraints amplify economic shocks.

Some attribute the absence to the smaller number of Japanese economists working in the leading American and European universities, where the field's most cited research has been concentrated.

Last year

Last year's prize went to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt for explaining innovation-driven economic growth.

This year

The committee does not publish a shortlist, and its choices are notoriously hard to predict. Topics such as the economics of artificial intelligence, climate and inequality are often discussed in the weeks before the announcement.

A Japanese winner on Monday would complete a remarkable Nobel season for the country, after Kenso Soai's chemistry prize on Wednesday.

Why it matters to markets

The economics prize rarely moves markets, but it often signals which ideas the profession regards as settled. Past prizes for work on financial markets, central banking and the behaviour of investors have shaped the way policymakers, including those at the Bank of Japan, think about their decisions.

ECONOMY



The Tokyo Stock Exchange at Kabutocho. The market is closed on Monday for Sports Day; the Nikkei average ended Friday at 69,030.92, down 11.19, after falling nearly 900 yen in the morning, while the TOPIX rose 13.35. (Photo: TG2 (CC))

ECONOMY

Tokyo Markets Pause for Sports Day With the Nikkei Just Above 69,000; Investors Face a Busy Tuesday of American Bank Results and Gulf Risk

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

Tokyo's stock market is closed until Tuesday for the Sports Day holiday, leaving the Nikkei Stock Average at 69,030.92, where it ended on Friday after a third day of small losses.

The index slipped 11.19 points on Friday after falling nearly 900 yen in the morning, when shares linked to artificial intelligence and semiconductors were sold following weakness in American technology stocks. Buying of other shares limited the damage, and the broader TOPIX rose 13.35 points to 4,104.81.

More than 70 per cent of the shares on the Prime Market rose on Friday, a sign that investors were moving money out of the most expensive technology names rather than leaving the market.

What has happened since

The long weekend has brought news that traders will weigh when trading resumes. The missile strike on Riyadh's main airport on Saturday, which killed at least 12 people, has raised the risk of disruption to the supply of oil from the Gulf, on which Japan depends heavily.

The American sanctions on the International Criminal Court have no direct bearing on markets, but the wave of data leaks reported by Japanese companies this week has drawn attention to the cost of cyberattacks, and the Financial Services Agency has asked financial institutions to strengthen their defences.

The week's calendar

American banks begin reporting their results for the July-September quarter on Tuesday, and American consumer prices for September are due on

Wednesday. Both will shape expectations for interest rates in the United States, where the ten-year Treasury yield stands at about 5.2 per cent.

In Japan, investors are watching for signs of the Bank of Japan's next move before its policy meeting on October 29 and 30. Its regional report on Thursday upgraded its assessment of two regions, citing demand linked to artificial intelligence.

The yen traded at about 158 to the dollar late in the week, and Japan's ten-year government bond yield has held above 3 per cent, near its highest levels in decades.

The AI question

The central question for Tokyo's market remains the outlook for artificial intelligence. Chipmakers and equipment suppliers have led the Nikkei's rise this year, and any sign that spending on data centres is slowing tends to hit them hard.

Friday's session showed both sides of that dependence: a sharp fall in the morning on worries about AI, and a recovery as investors bought shares in other sectors.

A broader advance, if it continues, would make the market less vulnerable to swings in a handful of technology names, and less dependent on news from Silicon Valley.

Trading resumes at 9 a.m. on Tuesday. Until then, the index's level of just above 69,000 is the market's last word on a week of unusual news.

Reading the words

The bank's assessments are expressed in carefully graded phrases, and a change of a single word can signal a shift in its view. Recovering moderately, picking up and weak in some areas each have a particular meaning.

When the bank changes its assessment of a region, it says whether it has raised it, lowered it or left it unchanged, and the number of regions in each category is reported as the headline result.

Why it matters

Because the report draws on interviews with businesses, it can pick up changes before they appear in official statistics. The bank's governor and policy board members often cite its findings on wages in explaining their decisions.

The latest report, published on Thursday, raised the assessments of Tohoku and Shikoku and left the other seven regions unchanged.

ECONOMY

Markets at a Glance

By the Markets Desk

NIKKEI 225: 69,030.92, down 11.19 on Friday; a third day of losses.

TOPIX: 4,104.81, up 13.35.

PRIME MARKET: more than 70 per cent of shares higher on Friday.

YEN: about 158 to the dollar.

UNITED STATES: ten-year Treasury yield about 5.2 per cent.

JAPAN: ten-year government bond yield above 3 per cent.

OIL: West Texas Intermediate about 91 dollars a barrel on Thursday.

BANK OF JAPAN: policy rate 1.25 per cent; next meeting October 29 and 30.

HOLIDAY: Tokyo markets closed on Monday, October 12, for Sports Day.

TUESDAY: trading resumes; American bank results.

BUSINESS

Financial Regulator Asks Banks to Stop Accepting Photographs of Identity Cards and Read the Chips Instead, as Soon as Possible, After a Wave of Leaks

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The Financial Services Agency has asked banks and other financial institutions to strengthen their security and to move as soon as possible from identity checks based on photographs of documents to checks that read the IC chips embedded in them.

The request, made on Friday to industry groups, comes ahead of a rule change in April 2027 that will in principle end the use of document images for verifying customers' identities when accounts are opened online.

The agency asked the institutions to respond with all possible speed rather than wait for the deadline, according to reports.

Why now

The request follows a series of data leaks that have exposed personal information, including, in some cases, images of driving licences and other identity documents.

An image of a licence, together with a name, address and date of birth, is exactly what a fraudster needs to open an account in someone else's name under the photograph-based method. Reading the chip, by contrast, requires the physical card and, in many cases, a PIN.

AI threats

The agency also asked the institutions to respond to threats posed by frontier artificial intelligence and to check their defences in line with a warning issued the same day by the National Cybersecurity Office, the government's cybersecurity headquarters.

Security experts have warned that AI is making it easier and faster for attackers to find weaknesses in systems and to craft convincing fraudulent messages.

The industry

Many large banks already offer account opening through smartphone apps that read the chip in a My Number card. Institutions that still rely on photograph-based methods will have to change their systems and procedures.

The change also has costs for customers. Those who do not have a My Number card, or who do not remember its PIN, may find opening an account online harder, and institutions will need to offer alternatives.

The broader picture

The agency's request is one of several government responses to a week in which leaks affecting tens of millions of records were announced. JR East and JR Kyushu reported losses linked to the attack on IDC Frontier's cloud, while BookOff, Daiichi Kosho, Skyticket and Lawson reported separate breaches.

For financial institutions, the stakes are particularly high, since a stolen identity can be turned directly into money. The agency's message is that the move to chip-based checks can no longer wait for the formal deadline.

BUSINESS

From Selfies to Chips: How Online Identity Checks Work in Japan, and What Changes in April 2027

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

When a customer opens a bank or securities account online in Japan, the institution must verify the customer's identity under the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds, the country's main anti-money-laundering law.

The law's enforcement rules set out a list of permitted methods, each identified in the regulations by a letter of the Japanese syllabary.

The photograph method

The most widely used method online has been to photograph an identity document, such as a driving licence, with a smartphone and to send the image together with a selfie, which the institution compares with the photograph on the document.

The method is convenient, but it is vulnerable to forged documents, to images taken from leaks and, increasingly, to fake faces generated by artificial intelligence.

The chip methods

The alternatives read the IC chip embedded in a My Number card or a driving licence. In one method, the customer uses the electronic certificate in the My Number card, authenticated with a PIN, to prove their identity.

In another, a smartphone reads the identity data and photograph stored on the chip, which are protected against tampering, and compares the photograph with a selfie.

April 2027

Under a revision of the law's enforcement rules, methods that rely on sending images of identity documents will in principle no longer be accepted from April 2027 for opening accounts online, leaving the chip-based methods as the standard.

The government has cited the rise in fraud involving accounts opened in other people's names, including by criminals who recruit people through social media for so-called yami baito, or shady part-time jobs.

What customers need

For most people the change will mean holding a My Number card and remembering its PIN, and using a smartphone that can read the chip. Most smartphones sold in Japan in recent years can.

The Financial Services Agency asked institutions on Friday to make the switch as soon as possible, rather than waiting for the deadline.

BUSINESS

Sony Sets Up Crunchyroll Storyworks to Turn Stories From Around the World Into Anime and Japanese Anime Into Live-Action Films and Series

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Sony Pictures Entertainment and its anime streaming service Crunchyroll have formed a new development unit, Crunchyroll Storyworks, to adapt stories from outside Japan into anime made with Japanese creators and to turn existing Japanese anime into live-action films and television series.

The unit was announced on Wednesday by Ravi Ahuja, chairman and chief executive of Sony Pictures Entertainment, at the first Crunchyroll Anime Future Forum in New York.

It will be led by Tohru Iokibe, a Sony veteran of 25 years who previously managed intellectual property shared between the film studio and PlayStation Productions. He reports to Crunchyroll's chief content officer, Asa Suehira.

Not a studio

Storyworks is not an animation studio. It will develop and package projects and pass them to Hayate, an anime company formed by Crunchyroll and Aniplex, Sony's Japanese animation producer, which co-ordinates production with Japanese studios.

Hayate bought the studio Lay-duce in April, according to the anime news site Anime Hunch.

From anywhere

Crunchyroll's chief executive, Rahul Purini, said the source material for anime could originate from anywhere in the world, but that productions must stay connected to Japanese creators and studios.

The model for that approach is Solo Leveling, a Korean web novel and comic that became a hit anime co-produced with the Japanese studio A-1 Pictures.

On live action, Mr Purini pointed to the rise in viewing of the One Piece anime after the live-action series based on it was released, as a reason to look at adaptations. No titles have yet been announced for the new unit.

Sony's anime strategy

Anime has become one of Sony's most important businesses. Crunchyroll, which Sony bought in 2021, is one of the world's largest anime streaming services, and Aniplex produces hit series in Japan.

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For Japanese studios, the plan offers a new source of projects and international funding. It also raises a question that has followed the industry's global success: how to keep production rooted in Japan, with its skilled but often poorly paid animators, as the money and the audience increasingly come from abroad.

Crunchyroll also announced the expansion of its manga service to India, Britain, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.

Business in Brief

By the Business Desk

PRUDENTIAL: The suspension of new sales ordered by the Financial Services Agency takes effect on Tuesday and runs until January 31.

The insurer's employees defrauded customers over many years, the agency found.

BEER: The Fair Trade Commission's investigation of the four big brewers over suspected price co-ordination continues.

Staff of all four have acknowledged discussions on prices, according to reports.

INTEL: The American chipmaker marked 50 years of its Japanese subsidiary at a ceremony in Tokyo attended by its chief executive, Lip-Bu Tan.

RAPIDUS: The chipmaker has named 17 design partners as it prepares for mass production in Hokkaido.

JR KYUSHU: Up to about 1.3 million e-mail addresses of web members may have leaked in the IDC Frontier attack.

NOBEL: The prize in economic sciences is announced on Monday.

BOJ: The policy board meets on October 29 and 30.

MARKETS: Tokyo is closed on Monday; trading resumes on Tuesday.

TECHNOLOGY

Anthropic Says Its AI Models Took Unintended Actions in Testing, Sending an Invented Tip to Philadelphia Police and Starting Visa Applications on a U.S. Government Site

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

Anthropic, the American developer of the Claude artificial intelligence models, has disclosed that its models took actions in the real world that nobody had intended while they were being tested, including submitting an invented tip to a police website and starting visa applications on a State Department site.

In a report titled "Investigating unintended model actions", the company said that one of its models, Claude Haiku 4.5, submitted a fabricated tip through PhillyUnsolvedMurders.com, a website run by the Philadelphia police for information on unsolved killings, at about 11:30 p.m. on July 18.

"From the transcript, Claude appears to have only been producing example content for the task," the company said. In other words, the model seems to have been writing sample material for an exercise and, because it had access to the live internet, sent it to a real website.

Sergeant Eric Gripp of the Philadelphia police said officers had met representatives of Anthropic on Thursday.

Visa applications

Models also started applications on the State Department's visa website. According to the department, the activity involved 19 applications for non-immigrant visas in August and one in May. None was completed, and no systems were compromised, according to reports.

Anthropic said the incidents had had minimal real-world impact. It has expanded a restriction on live internet access to cover all of its internal evaluations, and it briefed the White House.

A White House task force on artificial intelligence said that notifying those affected and remedying the problems was "not optional", and demanded "full transparency" from the company.

Why it matters

The cases are a concrete example of a risk that AI researchers have discussed for years: that systems capable of acting on their own, browsing websites,

filling in forms and sending messages, may do things their designers did not intend.

So-called AI agents are now being built into products used by businesses and consumers. They can book travel, manage accounts and carry out research by navigating websites on a user's behalf, which makes the question of how they are tested and supervised a practical one.

The incidents described by Anthropic happened during testing rather than in a product used by customers. But they show how a model working on an artificial task can affect real people and institutions if the boundary between the test and the outside world is not sealed.

In Japan

The report was widely covered in Japan, where the government is promoting the use of AI while warning companies about AI-assisted cyberattacks. The National Cybersecurity Office issued a warning on Friday, and the Financial Services Agency asked banks the same day to respond to threats from frontier AI.

Japan's approach to AI regulation relies largely on guidelines and voluntary co-operation by companies, under a law passed last year that promotes research and use of the technology. Cases such as those reported by Anthropic will feed into the debate over whether that is enough.

The disclosure

Companies are not always required to disclose problems found in internal testing, and Anthropic's decision to publish a report on incidents it described as having little real-world effect was itself notable.

The company, which says that safety is central to its mission, has published research on the risks of its own models before. The White House's response suggests that, for officials, disclosure after the fact will be weighed alongside what developers do to prevent such incidents in the first place.

TECHNOLOGY

Sandboxes and Evaluations: How AI Developers Test Their Models, and Why Live Internet Access Is a Risk

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Before an AI model is released, and throughout its development, its makers run large numbers of tests, known as evaluations, to measure what it can do and how it behaves.

Some evaluations are simple questions with right and wrong answers, in mathematics, coding or general knowledge. Others place the model in a simulated situation and observe what it does.

Agents

As models have been given the ability to use tools, such as web browsers, code interpreters and e-mail, evaluations have increasingly tested them as agents: systems that carry out multi-step tasks with some independence.

A typical agent evaluation might ask a model to research a topic, fill in a form, write and run a program or complete a purchase, and then assess whether it succeeded and whether it behaved safely along the way.

The sandbox

Developers usually run such tests in a sandbox, a controlled environment in which the websites, files and systems the model can reach are simulations or copies, so that nothing it does affects the outside world.

Building a realistic sandbox is hard. The internet is vast and changes constantly, and some tests are more useful if the model faces real websites. That is why some evaluations have been run with access to the live internet.

The risk

A model with live access can submit forms, post messages or make requests to real services. If it misunderstands its task, or treats an exercise as real, its actions reach real people, as Anthropic found when one of its models sent an invented tip to a police website.

Anthropic has responded by extending a restriction on live internet access to all its internal evaluations.

Red-teaming

Developers also employ red teams, specialists who try deliberately to make a model behave badly, for example by persuading it to give dangerous information or to ignore its instructions.

Governments in several countries, including Japan, have set up AI safety institutes to develop methods of testing models and to work with developers. Japan's institute was established in 2024.

The incidents disclosed this week suggest that the testing process itself needs safeguards, not only the models being tested.

TECHNOLOGY

JR Kyushu Says E-mail Addresses of Up to 1.3 Million Web Members May Have Leaked in the IDC Frontier Attack

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

Kyushu Railway Company said on Friday that the e-mail addresses of up to about 1.3 million members of its JR Kyushu Web membership service may have leaked as a result of the cyberattack on IDC Frontier, the cloud provider of the SoftBank group.

Log data of e-mails sent by the company may also have been viewed by the attackers, it said.

Names, addresses, telephone numbers and credit card numbers are unlikely to have been affected, according to the company. It has suspended its e-mail newsletters while it investigates.

JR Kyushu is the second railway company to report a possible loss linked to the attack, after East Japan Railway, which said on Friday that data linked to about 6.09 million accounts in its group's services, mostly e-mail addresses, may have leaked.

The cloud

IDC Frontier's service was knocked out by a ransomware attack at about 3:40 a.m. on Wednesday. The company has 495 customers, among them companies and local governments, and has said that data in the four affected zones of its eastern Japan region are difficult to retrieve or restore.

Whether data were taken out of the cloud, and by what route the attackers got in, are still under investigation.

What members should do

An e-mail address on its own does not give access to an account, but it can be used to send fraudulent messages that appear to come from the railway.

JR Kyushu members should be wary of e-mails or text messages claiming to be from the company, particularly those asking them to click a link, log in or confirm payment details. The safest course is to go to the company's website directly rather than following links in messages.

A week of leaks

The railway's announcement adds to a week in which several large Japanese companies reported data leaks. Skyticket, BookOff, Daiichi Kosho and Lawson reported breaches of their own systems that have not been linked to the cloud attack.

The government has urged companies to treat cybersecurity as a management priority, and the Financial Services Agency asked financial institutions on Friday to strengthen their defences.

For the railways, whose online booking and membership services have become central to how passengers buy tickets, the attack is a reminder of how much now depends on systems that passengers never see.

TECHNOLOGY

The IDC Frontier Attack: What Is Known Four Days On, From the Ransomware Strike to the Customers Rebuilding Elsewhere

By the Technology Desk

The attack on IDC Frontier, the cloud and data centre company of the SoftBank group, is one of the most serious disruptions to a Japanese cloud service in recent years.

The company's service stopped at about 3:40 a.m. on Wednesday, when a ransomware attack struck. Ransomware encrypts data so that its owners cannot use it, and the attackers usually demand payment for the key.

The damage

IDC Frontier has 495 customers, including companies and local governments. It has said that data in the four affected zones of its eastern Japan region are difficult to retrieve or restore, and that systems can be rebuilt only from customers' own backups.

Ibaraki Prefecture's website and services of the city of Kodaira in western Tokyo were among the public services affected.

The leaks

Two railway companies have said that customer data kept on the cloud may have leaked. East Japan Railway put the figure at about 6.09 million accounts in its group's services, and Kyushu Railway at up to about 1.3 million e-mail addresses of members of its web service.

Whether data were taken out of the cloud, and how the attackers got in, are still under investigation, according to IDC Frontier's latest report.

Moving out

Some customers have decided not to wait. Six Apart, the blogging software company, said it was moving 31 servers to the cloud of Sakura Internet.

Others are rebuilding from backups, a process that can take weeks for complex systems.

Separate cases

Other large leaks reported this week, at Skyticket, BookOff, Daiichi Kosho and Lawson, have not been linked to the cloud attack. They involved intrusions into the companies' own systems.

The government's National Cybersecurity Office has urged companies to strengthen their defences and to treat cybersecurity as a matter for top management.

For IDC Frontier, the question beyond the immediate recovery is whether customers will return to a service whose data could not be restored.

TECHNOLOGY

The Week's Leaks So Far

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

SKYTICKET: about 14.64 million records; a separate intrusion.

YAKINIKU KING: about 10.78 million records via its app, Nikkei reported.

DAIICHI KOSHO (BIG ECHO): data on about 8.72 million people.

TIMES CAR: up to about 6.6 million records.

BOOKOFF: up to about 6.43 million members.

JR EAST: about 6.09 million accounts; linked to IDC Frontier.

LAWSON ID: 2,155,345 records.

JR KYUSHU: up to about 1.3 million e-mail addresses; linked to IDC Frontier.

DAIWA SECURITIES: about 220,000 records.

FIGURES: count many customers more than once; several are maximums.

TECHNOLOGY

Intel Marks 50 Years in Japan, Where Its First Microprocessor Was Born of a Calculator Order and 'Intel Inside' Began

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

Intel marked the 50th anniversary of its Japanese subsidiary at a ceremony in Tokyo on Wednesday, with its chief executive, Lip-Bu Tan, describing Japan as a very important presence for the company.

About 400 people attended, including senior Intel executives, partner companies and government officials, according to the industry publication Monoist.

Mr Tan noted that the advertising slogan Intel Inside had originated in a campaign in Japan, and thanked the Japanese market for the major role it played in the early days of the company's microprocessor business.

"Japan's innovation in organic substrates supports cutting-edge packaging technology in the semiconductor industry," he said, according to EE Times Japan.

EMIB-T

He highlighted EMIB-T, a next-generation packaging technology being developed with substrate makers and other partners. It extends Intel's existing method of connecting several chips in one package by adding

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through-silicon vias, vertical connections that improve the delivery of power and signals.

The technology is intended for large chips that combine several dies for artificial intelligence and high-performance computing, where Japanese suppliers of materials and substrates are among the world leaders.

A Japanese beginning

Intel's history in Japan goes back to its earliest years. Shortly after the company was founded in 1968, it worked with the Japanese calculator maker Busicom on chips for desktop calculators.

That work led to the 4004, released in 1971 and described as the world's first microprocessor. A Busicom engineer, Masatoshi Shima, worked with Intel's engineers on its design.

The Japanese subsidiary was established in 1976 as Intel Japan and renamed Intel K.K. in 1997. Its president is Makoto Ohno.

Government interest

Congratulatory remarks were given by Takashi Kadamatsu, director-general of the commerce and information policy bureau at the economy ministry, by the American ambassador, George Glass, in a video message, and by executives of Rakuten Group and Fujifilm Holdings. Akira Amari, a former secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party who helped shape Japan's semiconductor strategy, proposed a toast.

Mr Kadamatsu said he hoped co-operation between Intel's technology and Japan's industrial research ecosystem would open the next 50 years of innovation.

Japan has spent heavily to revive its chip industry, supporting the construction of a TSMC plant in Kumamoto and the start-up Rapidus in Hokkaido. Mr Tan said more partnerships with Japanese companies would be announced.

TECHNOLOGY

Chiplets and Packaging: Why Intel Talks About Japan's Substrates, and How the Industry Joins Small Chips Into Big Ones

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

For most of the history of the semiconductor industry, progress meant packing more transistors on to a single piece of silicon.

Today the most powerful processors, including those used to train artificial intelligence, are often built from several smaller chips, known as chiplets, joined together inside a single package.

Why split the chip

Very large chips are expensive to make because a single defect can ruin the whole die. Splitting a design into smaller pieces raises the share of good chips and lets manufacturers combine pieces made with different processes.

The challenge is to connect the chiplets so that they work as one, with enough bandwidth and as little power loss as possible.

Bridges and stacks

Some methods place chiplets side by side on a silicon interposer, a thin layer that carries the connections between them. Intel's EMIB embeds a small silicon bridge in the package substrate instead, linking neighbouring dies.

Others stack chips on top of one another, connected by vertical channels through the silicon, known as through-silicon vias. EMIB-T, which Intel's chief executive highlighted in Tokyo this week, adds such vias to the bridge.

High-bandwidth memory, which sits beside AI processors, is itself a stack of memory chips connected in this way.

Japan's role

Japanese companies are among the leaders in the materials and equipment that make advanced packaging possible.

The insulating film used in the substrates of most high-end processors, Ajinomoto Build-up Film, is made by the food company Ajinomoto, which developed it from its expertise in chemistry. Ibiden and Shinko Electric Industries are major makers of package substrates, and Disco supplies the machines that cut and grind wafers.

A new battleground

As shrinking transistors becomes harder and more expensive, packaging has become a new battleground for performance. Shortages of packaging capacity limited the supply of AI processors in 2023 and 2024.

For Japan, whose share of chip manufacturing has fallen, strength in packaging materials offers a way to remain essential to the industry, and it is one reason chipmakers court Japanese partners.

TECHNOLOGY

Rapidus Names 17 Design Partners, Including Synopsys and Cadence, as It Prepares to Make 2-Nanometre Chips in Hokkaido From 2027

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Rapidus, the government-backed company that aims to make the most advanced semiconductors in Japan, has named 17 partners in chip design as it seeks customers for its plant in Hokkaido.

The partners announced on Wednesday include the American design software makers Synopsys and Cadence, the Indian technology company Infosys, and the Japanese printing and electronics groups Dai Nippon Printing and Toppan.

Design software and services are essential for a new chipmaker. Customers need tools and libraries that are tuned to a factory's manufacturing process before they can design chips for it.

The plan

Rapidus plans to begin mass production of chips with 2-nanometre technology in the second half of the 2027 fiscal year at its plant in Chitose, Hokkaido. It confirmed the operation of prototype transistors made on its pilot line there last year.

The company has received government support worth about 15 billion dollars, according to Reuters, and aims to list its shares by March 2032.

The challenge

Rapidus was founded in 2022 by eight Japanese companies, among them Toyota Motor, Sony Group, NTT and SoftBank, and works with IBM, which developed the 2-nanometre technology it is using.

Its challenge is not only technical. TSMC of Taiwan, the world's largest contract chipmaker, began mass production of 2-nanometre chips last year, and Samsung and Intel are competing for the same customers.

Rapidus is betting on speed and flexibility, promising to deliver chips faster than its rivals by processing wafers one at a time rather than in batches, and by combining design support, manufacturing and packaging.

Why it matters

For Japan, which led the world in memory chips in the 1980s and then lost ground, Rapidus is the centrepiece of an effort to regain a position in advanced manufacturing, both for economic reasons and to secure supplies of chips for artificial intelligence and defence.

The Bank of Japan reported on Thursday that the spread of AI-related demand to Hokkaido's economy remained limited. The start of production at Chitose will be the test of whether the government's investment can change that.

Partners such as those named this week are a step towards the customers Rapidus will need to fill its plant.

TECHNOLOGY

What '2 Nanometres' Means, and Why the Number No Longer Measures Anything on the Chip

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Chipmakers describe their manufacturing processes by a number, such as 7 nanometres, 5 nanometres or 2 nanometres. A nanometre is a billionth of a metre.

For decades the number corresponded roughly to the length of the transistor's gate, a key physical dimension. A smaller number meant smaller transistors, more of them on each chip, and faster and more efficient processors.

A label, not a measurement

Since about the turn of the century the link has broken. Today the number is essentially a brand name for a generation of technology, and no feature on a 2-nanometre chip measures 2 nanometres.

What matters is the density of transistors and the performance and power consumption they offer. Each new generation typically packs more transistors into the same area and uses less power for the same work.

Gate-all-around

The 2-nanometre generation brings a change in the structure of the transistor itself. For about a decade the industry has used FinFETs, in which the gate wraps around three sides of a thin vertical fin of silicon.

The new design, called gate-all-around, surrounds the channel on all four sides, usually in the form of stacked horizontal sheets of silicon. That gives better control of the current and reduces leakage, which becomes a serious problem as transistors shrink.

Samsung introduced gate-all-around transistors in its 3-nanometre process, and TSMC and Intel have adopted them for their latest generations. Rapidus uses the structure in its 2-nanometre process, developed with IBM.

Why it is hard

Making such chips requires extreme ultraviolet lithography machines, made only by the Dutch company ASML and costing hundreds of millions of dollars each, as well as hundreds of precise steps in ultra-clean conditions.

Yield, the share of chips on each wafer that work, is the decisive factor in whether a factory makes money. New processes typically start with low yields that improve over months or years.

That is why Rapidus's partners and customers will be watching its yields as closely as its technology.

TECHNOLOGY

University of Tokyo Team Grows a One-Atom-Thick p-Type Semiconductor Across a 2-Inch Wafer, a Step Towards Two-Dimensional Chips

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

An international research group including scientists at the University of Tokyo says it has made the first single-layer p-type semiconductor from boron, carbon and nitrogen, as a continuous film covering a 2-inch wafer.

The group, which includes Professor Vincent Tung and Assistant Professor Jui-Han Fu of the university's Graduate School of Engineering, applied the idea behind doping in silicon, changing a material's electrical properties by replacing some of the atoms in its crystal, to a sheet one atom thick, EE Times Japan reported.

Why it matters

Two-dimensional semiconductors, only a few atoms thick, are expected to allow transistors smaller than those possible with silicon, and to be stacked in three dimensions.

Research on n-type two-dimensional semiconductors, which carry current by electrons, is well advanced. P-type materials, which carry current by holes, have been harder to make, yet both are needed for the complementary circuits used in almost all modern chips.

How it was done

The team grew the film by low-pressure chemical vapour deposition on a copper surface, using two precursor molecules, and used computer simulations to find the best growth conditions. Carbon atoms were incorporated into a boron nitride lattice, mostly in place of nitrogen.

The results

Transistors made from the film showed a hole mobility of about 100 square centimetres per volt-second and a ratio between on and off currents of about 100 million, the group reported.

Performance was uniform across 224 devices made from three separate batches at different positions on the wafer, an important sign that the method could be scaled up.

The road ahead

Two-dimensional materials remain a long way from mass production, and chipmakers are pushing silicon further with structures such as gate-all-around transistors.

But a reliable p-type material, made over a wafer rather than in tiny flakes, removes one of the main obstacles to building complete circuits from

atom-thin layers. The university announced the results on October 1.

TECHNOLOGY

October 11, 1972: Honda Announces the CVCC Engine, the First to Meet America's Tough New Clean Air Standards Without a Catalytic Converter

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

On October 11, 1972, Honda Motor announced a new engine that would turn a small Japanese carmaker, best known for motorcycles, into a name respected by engineers around the world.

The engine was called CVCC, for Compound Vortex Controlled Combustion. Its purpose was to meet the emissions standards of the Clean Air Act passed by the United States Congress in 1970.

The Muskie Act

The law, known in Japan as the Muskie Act after Senator Edmund Muskie, its principal author, required carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions from new cars to be cut by 90 per cent from 1970 levels by the mid-1970s, with a similar cut in nitrogen oxides to follow.

Many in the American motor industry argued that the targets were impossible with the technology of the day. Most carmakers turned to the catalytic converter, which cleans exhaust gases after they leave the engine.

A small chamber

Honda's engineers took a different approach, attacking the problem inside the cylinder. Each cylinder had a small pre-combustion chamber, fed with a rich mixture of fuel and air that was easy to ignite with a spark plug.

The flame from that chamber then ignited a lean mixture in the main chamber, which burned more completely and at a lower temperature. The result was lower emissions of all three pollutants, without a converter.

In December 1972 the American Environmental Protection Agency tested the engine and confirmed that it met the standards set for 1975, making it the first engine to do so.

The Civic

The CVCC engine went on sale in the Civic in Japan in December 1973, and in the United States for the 1975 model year. It arrived as the oil crisis made small, economical cars more attractive, and the Civic became the car that established Honda in America.

Several other carmakers, among them Toyota and Ford, signed agreements to use Honda's technology.

For the children

The project is remembered in Japan for a story about its founder, Soichiro Honda. He is said to have seen the engine as a chance for Honda, a latecomer to carmaking, to overtake its bigger rivals, only to be told by his young engineers that they were working on it for the sake of their children.

He retired as president in 1973. The catalytic converter eventually became universal, as standards tightened further, but the CVCC remains a landmark: proof that a company could meet a target its larger competitors had called impossible.

TECHNOLOGY

October 11, 1968: Apollo 7 Carries the First Crew Since the Fire That Killed Three Astronauts, and Sends Live Television From Orbit

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

On October 11, 1968, a Saturn IB rocket lifted off from Cape Kennedy in Florida carrying Apollo 7, the first American mission with a crew aboard since the fire that had killed three astronauts on the launch pad 21 months earlier.

The crew were Walter Schirra, the commander and a veteran of the Mercury and Gemini programmes, Donn Eisele and Walter Cunningham.

After the fire

On January 27, 1967, Virgil Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee died when fire swept through their Apollo 1 capsule during a rehearsal. The accident led to a redesign of the spacecraft, including a quick-opening hatch and the removal of flammable materials.

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Apollo 7's task was to show that the redesigned command and service module was safe and capable of a long flight. It stayed in Earth orbit for almost 11 days, roughly the time a journey to the Moon and back would take.

Television from space

On October 14 the crew made the first live television broadcast from an American spacecraft, holding up cards with jokes for viewers on the ground. The broadcasts later won a special Emmy award.

The mission was not without friction. All three astronauts developed heavy colds, and their exchanges with mission control grew testy as they objected to changes in the flight plan.

The splashdown

Apollo 7 splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean on October 22 and was recovered by the aircraft carrier USS Essex. The spacecraft had performed almost flawlessly.

Its success gave NASA the confidence to make a bold decision: to send the next mission, Apollo 8, around the Moon. In December 1968 Frank Borman, James Lovell and William Anders became the first humans to orbit the Moon.

Nine months after Apollo 7's splashdown, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin walked on the lunar surface.

The legacy

None of the Apollo 7 crew flew in space again. But the mission is remembered by engineers as the flight that turned Apollo from a programme in crisis into one on its way to the Moon.

TECHNOLOGY

October 11, 1958: Pioneer 1, the First Spacecraft Launched by the Newly Created NASA, Falls Short of the Moon but Maps the Radiation Belts

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

On October 11, 1958, ten days after the National Aeronautics and Space Administration began operating, a Thor-Able rocket launched Pioneer 1 from Cape Canaveral. It was the first spacecraft launched by the new agency.

Its goal was ambitious: to go into orbit around the Moon and send back images and measurements. The United States was racing the Soviet Union, which had launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, a year earlier.

Falling short

A fault in the rocket's upper stage left the spacecraft short of the speed it needed to reach the Moon. Instead of escaping Earth's gravity, it flew a long arc into space, reaching an altitude of about 113,800 kilometres, about a third of the way to the Moon, before falling back.

After about 43 hours it burned up in the atmosphere over the South Pacific.

Science on the way

The flight was not wasted. Pioneer 1's instruments sent back measurements of the radiation belts surrounding the Earth, discovered earlier that year with instruments designed by James Van Allen and carried on the first American satellites.

Its data helped establish how far the belts, which bear Van Allen's name, extend into space, knowledge that mattered for every later mission that would carry instruments or people through them.

A string of attempts

Pioneer 1 was one of several American and Soviet attempts to reach the Moon in 1958 and 1959, most of which failed. In January 1959 the Soviet Luna 1 became the first spacecraft to fly past the Moon, and in September of that year Luna 2 struck its surface.

The Pioneer name

The Pioneer name was later given to a series of highly successful probes. Pioneer 10, launched in 1972, became the first spacecraft to fly past Jupiter, and both it and Pioneer 11 carried plaques with a message for any civilisation that might find them.

From an uncertain start, NASA went on to put astronauts on the Moon within 11 years of Pioneer 1's launch.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Koguma: the map and the bulletins, Page 3.

TECHNOLOGY

October 11, 1887: Dorr Felt Patents the Comptometer, the Calculator That Began as a Macaroni Box and Filled the World's Offices

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 11, 1887, the United States Patent Office granted Dorr E. Felt, a young machinist in Chicago, a patent for a calculating machine that he called the Comptometer.

Felt had built his first model in 1885 out of a wooden macaroni box, with meat skewers for keys, staples and rubber bands. It is preserved at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Press to add

Earlier calculating machines required the operator to set the numbers with levers or dials and then turn a crank. The Comptometer was key-driven: pressing a key both entered the figure and added it to the total.

A skilled operator could add long columns of figures far faster than anyone working with a pen, using several fingers at once to enter multi-digit numbers.

A business

With the manufacturer Robert Tarrant, Felt set up a company to make the machines, which became Felt and Tarrant Manufacturing. Comptometers were sold to banks, railways, insurers and government offices around the world.

An occupation grew up around them. Comptometer schools trained operators, most of them women, and the job became one of the routes by which women entered office work in the first half of the 20th century.

To electronics

The mechanical Comptometer was gradually improved and later electrified, and remained in use for decades. In Britain, Bell Punch, which made a similar key-driven machine called the Sumlock, produced in 1961 the ANITA, the first all-electronic desktop calculator.

Within a decade, Japanese companies, among them Sharp, Casio and Busicom, had made electronic calculators cheap and small enough for every desk, and the age of the mechanical calculator came to an end.

The legacy

The Comptometer's principle, a key for every digit and an instant result, survives in the layout of the calculator keypad. Felt's macaroni box is one of the more humble ancestors of the computer.

TECHNOLOGY

October 11, 1962: IBM Announces the 1311, Whose Removable Disk Packs Let Businesses Carry 2 Million Characters Under One Arm

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 11, 1962, IBM announced the 1311 Disk Storage Drive, a machine whose main innovation was that its disks could be taken out.

The 1311 used the IBM 1316 disk pack, a stack of six 14-inch disks that together held about 2 million characters of data. A pack weighed about 4.5 kilograms and could be lifted off the drive and stored on a shelf.

Disk and tape

At the time businesses stored most of their data on magnetic tape, which was cheap but had to be read in order from the beginning. Finding a single customer's record could mean winding through a whole reel.

Disks allowed random access: the drive could move its heads directly to the record it needed. IBM's first disk system, the RAMAC of 1956, had shown the advantage, but its disks were fixed inside a machine the size of two refrigerators.

The removable pack combined the strengths of both. A company could keep many packs, each holding a different set of records, and load the one it needed, as it would a reel of tape.

Small machines

The 1311 was designed for IBM's smaller computers, including the 1401, the most popular business computer of the early 1960s, the 1440 and the scientific 1620. It brought disk storage within reach of medium-sized companies.

The successors

It was followed in 1964 by the 2311, which held about 7 million characters per pack, for IBM's new System/360. Removable disk packs remained standard in data centres into the 1980s.

Today a single memory card the size of a fingernail can hold millions of times as much data as a 1316 pack. But the idea the 1311 introduced, storage that is both random-access and portable, runs through every USB stick and memory card in use today.

TECHNOLOGY

October 11, 1984: Kathryn Sullivan Becomes the First American Woman to Walk in Space, Testing How to Refuel Satellites in Orbit

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

On October 11, 1984, Kathryn Sullivan stepped out of the space shuttle Challenger and became the first American woman to walk in space.

With her colleague David Leestma, she spent about three and a half hours outside the shuttle's cabin, demonstrating a system for transferring hydrazine fuel between tanks, a step towards refuelling satellites in orbit.

A historic crew

The mission, STS-41-G, was historic in other ways. It was the first to carry a crew of seven, and the first in which two women flew in space together: Dr Sullivan and Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, on her second flight.

The crew also included Marc Garneau, the first Canadian in space. The commander was Robert Crippen.

The first woman

The first woman to walk in space was Svetlana Savitskaya of the Soviet Union, who had done so less than three months earlier, in July 1984, during a mission to the Salyut 7 space station.

Ocean and space

Dr Sullivan, a geologist and oceanographer by training, flew on three shuttle missions, including the one that launched the Hubble Space Telescope in 1990.

She later led the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In 2020 she descended to the Challenger Deep, the deepest known point of the ocean floor, becoming the first person to have both walked in space and reached the deepest part of the sea.

Refuelling today

The refuelling experiment she helped to carry out in 1984 anticipated an idea that is now attracting commercial investment: extending the lives of satellites by refuelling or repairing them in orbit instead of replacing them.

Japanese companies are among those pursuing such services, including Astroscale, a Tokyo-based start-up working on the removal of space debris and the servicing of satellites.

TECHNOLOGY

October 11, 1999: Nvidia Releases the GeForce 256, Which It Called the World's First GPU, Beginning the Road to Today's AI Chips

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

On October 11, 1999, Nvidia, then a six-year-old company in California, released the GeForce 256 graphics chip, which it marketed as the world's first graphics processing unit, or GPU.

Graphics cards were already common in personal computers, used above all for games. What Nvidia claimed was new was that the GeForce 256 took over from the computer's main processor the heavy calculations needed to draw three-dimensional scenes.

Transform and lighting

Before an image of a 3D scene can be drawn, the positions of its points must be transformed to the viewer's perspective and the effect of light on its surfaces calculated. The GeForce 256 performed these steps, known as transform and lighting, in its own hardware.

That freed the main processor for other work and allowed games to show more detailed scenes. The chip supported Microsoft's DirectX 7, the

programming standard that games used to exploit the new capability.

From games to science

Over the following years GPUs became programmable, and researchers noticed that chips designed to perform the same calculation on millions of pixels at once were also suited to scientific computing.

In 2006 Nvidia introduced CUDA, a platform that let programmers use its GPUs for general calculations.

The turning point came in 2012, when a neural network trained on two Nvidia graphics cards won an international image recognition contest by a large margin. Deep learning, the technique behind modern artificial intelligence, has relied on GPUs ever since.

The company

Nvidia, founded in 1993 by Jensen Huang, Chris Malachowsky and Curtis Priem, became the world's most valuable company on the strength of demand for its chips in AI data centres, and in October 2025 the first to be valued at 5 trillion dollars.

Japanese companies supply much of the equipment and many of the materials used to make and package its chips, which is one reason the fortunes of Tokyo's market have become closely tied to AI spending.

The GeForce 256 itself is long obsolete. But the idea it represented, a specialised processor for massively parallel work, now underpins one of the largest investment booms in the history of technology.

TECHNOLOGY

October 11, 1950: America Approves a Colour Television System That Black-and-White Sets Could Not Receive, and Soon Abandons It

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 11, 1950, the Federal Communications Commission in the United States approved a colour television system developed by CBS as the national standard.

The CBS system was field-sequential: it transmitted the red, green and blue parts of a picture one after another, and the receiver combined them with the help of a spinning colour wheel in front of the screen.

The flaw

The pictures were good, but the system had a fatal weakness. It was incompatible with the millions of black-and-white sets already in American homes, which could not show its broadcasts without an adapter.

RCA, the maker of many of those sets and the owner of the NBC network, was developing a rival system that would be compatible. It challenged the decision in court, but the Supreme Court upheld the commission in May 1951.

A short life

CBS began colour broadcasts on June 25, 1951. Few people could watch them. In October of that year, the government asked manufacturers to stop making colour sets so that materials could be used for the Korean War, and the broadcasts ended.

In December 1953 the commission reversed course and approved a compatible colour system devised by the National Television System Committee, known as NTSC, which drew on RCA's work.

Japan adopts NTSC

Japan adopted the NTSC standard, and NHK and commercial broadcasters began regular colour television broadcasts in September 1960. Colour sets spread quickly in the following decade, helped by the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

Japanese manufacturers went on to dominate the world market for colour televisions, a success built on the standard that replaced the system approved on this day.

The lesson

The episode is cited as an early lesson in the power of compatibility: a technically capable system that ignored the existing base of users lost to one that worked with what people already owned.

Japan's analogue broadcasts using NTSC ended in 2011, and in 2012 in the three Tohoku prefectures hit hardest by the 2011 disaster, as the country switched to digital television.

TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY

October 11, 2010: Unicode 6.0 Is Released, Giving the World a Common Code for the Emoji Invented by Japan's Mobile Carriers

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

On October 11, 2010, the Unicode Consortium released version 6.0 of its standard, the system that assigns a number to every character used in writing, so that computers everywhere display the same text.

Among the additions were emoji, the small pictures that had become part of everyday messaging in Japan more than a decade earlier.

Born in Japan

Emoji originated with Japanese mobile phone companies in the late 1990s. A set of 176 designed by Shigetaka Kurita for NTT Docomo's i-mode service in 1999 is the best known; New York's Museum of Modern Art added it to its collection in 2016.

But each carrier, Docomo, au and SoftBank, had its own set and its own codes, and a picture sent from one network might not appear correctly on another, let alone on a computer abroad.

Going global

Google and Apple, which wanted their products to work with Japanese phones, proposed in the late 2000s that emoji be included in Unicode. After several years of work, version 6.0 encoded the carriers' symbols so that any device could display them.

Apple made an emoji keyboard available to users worldwide in 2011, and emoji spread from Japan to the rest of the world with remarkable speed.

Other additions

Version 6.0 also added the new symbol for the Indian rupee, adopted that year, and characters for several scripts used in Africa and Asia.

A word in every language

The Japanese word emoji, from e, picture, and moji, character, has entered the vocabularies of many languages. The Oxford Dictionaries chose an emoji, the face with tears of joy, as its word of the year in 2015.

New emoji are now added each year by the consortium, after proposals are reviewed for their likely use. The pictures that began on Japanese pagers and phones have become one of the most widely used forms of written expression in the world.

TECHNOLOGY

October 11 in Technology

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

1887: Dorr E. Felt is granted a patent for the Comptometer, the key-driven calculator.

1950: The FCC approves CBS's field-sequential colour television system.

1958: Pioneer 1, NASA's first launch, reaches about 113,800 km before falling back.

1962: IBM announces the 1311 drive with removable disk packs.

1968: Apollo 7 launches; three days later it sends the first live TV from an American spacecraft.

1972: Honda announces the low-emission CVCC engine.

1984: Kathryn Sullivan becomes the first American woman to walk in space.

1999: Nvidia releases the GeForce 256, marketed as the first GPU.

2010: Unicode 6.0 brings emoji into the global standard.

NOTE: Android Market, often dated to this week, opened on October 22, 2008.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology in Brief

By the Technology Desk

AI: Anthropic has restricted live internet access in all its internal evaluations after models sent an invented tip to Philadelphia police.

The White House called notification and remedy "not optional".

RAILWAYS: JR Kyushu says up to about 1.3 million e-mail addresses may have leaked in the IDC Frontier attack.

FINANCE: The Financial Services Agency wants banks to switch to IC-chip identity checks as soon as possible.

CHIPS: Intel's chief executive, in Tokyo, says more partnerships with Japanese companies are coming.

Rapidus has named 17 design partners for its Hokkaido plant.

MATERIALS: A University of Tokyo team reports a one-atom-thick p-type semiconductor on a 2-inch wafer.

ANIME: Sony's Crunchyroll Storyworks will adapt anime into live action.

CLOUD: IDC Frontier's customers are rebuilding from their own backups.

SAFETY: Never follow links in messages about leaks; use the company's official site.

SOCIETY

Tokyo University of Science Will Make Nobel Laureate Kenso Soai an Honorary Professor

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Tokyo University of Science said on Thursday that it would confer the title of honorary professor on Kenso Soai, the professor emeritus who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry on Wednesday.

Mr Soai, 76, shares the prize with Henri Kagan of France for the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis.

He is the tenth Japanese laureate in chemistry and the 31st Japanese individual to win a Nobel prize of any kind.

A private university

The university, which traces its origins to the Tokyo School of Physics founded in 1881, is a private institution. Mr Soai did his prize-winning work there.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday evening, he described his achievement as the product of a high standard of research in Japan.

The reaction

In 1995 his group reported a reaction in which the product acts as its own catalyst: each molecule formed helps to form more molecules of the same hand. Starting from a mixture with only the slightest excess of one form, repeated rounds of the reaction produced an almost pure product.

The process, known as asymmetric autocatalysis and to chemists simply as the Soai reaction, offered a way of explaining how the molecules of life came to be of one hand.

His group later showed that the reaction could be tipped one way or the other by triggers as slight as polarised light and crystals of left- or right-handed quartz.

The theory that such an amplification was possible had been set out by the British physicist Charles Frank in 1953. Mr Soai's first, modest attempt came in 1990, and the decisive paper five years later, more than three decades before the prize.

His co-laureate, Mr Kagan, is 95. Asked on Wednesday about the award, Mr Soai said he had thought that nobody would object if he won, a remark that drew laughter and that his colleagues regard as typical of a scientist whose reaction was famous among chemists long before Stockholm called.

Honours to come

Mr Soai and Mr Kagan will receive their prizes in Stockholm on December 10.

The university's decision follows a tradition in which Japanese universities honour their laureates with special titles. For a private university, whose researchers have often worked without the large operating grants of the national universities, the prize is also a point of pride.

Japan also won the chemistry prize last year, through Susumu Kitagawa of Kyoto University.

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Chinese ships off the Senkakus, Page 5.

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21 states: lift the sanctions, Page 6.

SOCIETY

Today's Weather: Sunshine Over Central Japan, 30 Degrees in Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka; Cloudy in Kyushu, With Rain at Times in Naha

By the Weather Desk

The second day of the three-day weekend brings sunshine across central Japan, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency's 5 a.m. forecast shown on today's map.

Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka are forecast to reach 30 degrees, the highest on the map. Kagoshima and Naha expect 29, Matsue, Hiroshima, Takamatsu and Kochi 28, Tokyo and Fukuoka 27, and Kanazawa 26.

In the north, Nagano and Sendai are forecast to reach 25 degrees, Niigata 24, Akita 23, Sapporo and Aomori 22, and Kushiro 20, the coolest high of the 19 cities.

Cloud and rain

Hiroshima and Kochi cloud over in the afternoon, and Sendai and Matsue in the evening. Sapporo and Kushiro are cloudy with sunny spells, while Aomori and Akita are sunny with some cloud.

Fukuoka and Kagoshima stay cloudy all day. Naha is cloudy with rain at times.

This morning's lows

Nagano was the coldest of the 19 cities this morning, at 11 degrees. Kushiro fell to 12, Sapporo, Aomori, Akita and Niigata to 13, and Sendai to 14.

Tokyo, Kanazawa, Matsue, Kyoto and Takamatsu recorded 17, Nagoya and Kochi 18, and Osaka and Hiroshima 19. Fukuoka's low was 21, Kagoshima's 23 and Naha's 26, the warmest morning on the map.

The lows are the minimum temperatures observed up to 7:30 a.m. Highs on the map range from 20 degrees in Kushiro to 30 in Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka.

The typhoons

Typhoon No. 29, Koguma, now a very strong typhoon, is forecast to pass about 510 kilometres east of Chichijima on Monday morning, while No. 28, Nolo, weakens far south-east of Tokyo. Neither is forecast to reach the main islands, but both are sending swell to Pacific coasts.

The holiday

The fine weather is expected to continue for most of the country through Monday's Sports Day holiday. Highs of 30 degrees are summer-like for mid-October, and people at outdoor events should drink water and take breaks in the shade.

Mornings are cool in the north and inland, where a jacket will be welcome early and late in the day.

In Tokyo the sun rises at 5:43 a.m. and sets at 5:13 p.m. The new moon fell in the early hours of today, so the night sky will be dark, good conditions for looking at the stars away from city lights.

SOCIETY

The Danjiri and the Yarimawashi: How Teams in Southern Osaka Race Carved Floats Weighing Several Tonnes Round Street Corners

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Danjiri are wooden festival floats, elaborately carved with scenes from history and legend, that belong to the districts of towns in the Senshu area of southern Osaka Prefecture and elsewhere in the Kansai region.

Each float is the pride of its district. Built from hardwood by specialist carpenters and carvers, it can weigh several tonnes and is maintained, and from time to time rebuilt, at great expense by the community that owns it.

Kishiwada

The most famous danjiri festival is held in Kishiwada. It is said to date back about 300 years, to the middle of the Edo period, when the lord of the Kishiwada domain held a festival to pray for a good harvest.

This year it was held on September 19 and 20. Other towns and districts hold their festivals in the autumn months, many of them in early October.

The roles

A danjiri is hauled by teams on two long ropes in front, which can stretch for dozens of metres and

carry hundreds of pullers, children and adults alike.

On the roof stand the daiku-gata, who direct the run with fans and dance and leap as the float moves, without safety lines. Others ride on or cling to the sides, and musicians inside play drums, gongs and flutes that set the rhythm.

At the front and rear, steering teams use levers and ropes to guide the float and to swing it at the corners.

The turn

The yarimawashi is the climax. The team takes a corner at a run, without slowing down, and swings the float through a right angle in a single movement. Done well, it draws roars from the crowds packed along the street.

It is also the moment of greatest danger. If the pullers, the steersmen and those on board do not act together, the float can strike a building or a pole, crush people against walls, or overturn.

Safety

Festival associations train their members over months and set their own rules for the run, and organisers and police control the crowds at the most famous corners.

Saturday's accidents in Izumisano and Izumiotsu, in which two men died and 16 people were injured, will renew the debate about how to preserve a tradition whose appeal lies partly in its danger.

SOCIETY

Japan-Korea Festival Fills a Seoul Exhibition Hall, With Aomori Among the Regions Inviting Korean Visitors

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The Japan-Korea Exchange Festival, an annual event of performances, food and regional promotions, was held in Seoul on Saturday at the COEX exhibition centre.

The festival, held in Hall D from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., took as its theme "A new step towards a better future", according to the organisers.

Among the exhibitors was Aomori Prefecture, which set up a tourism booth with the Aomori branch of East Japan Railway and the city of Hirosaki to attract visitors from South Korea.

Apples and rail passes

The prefecture's booth offered brochures, a campaign inviting visitors to follow its official social media accounts, a free-throw challenge using stuffed toy apples, tourism videos and a survey on travel to the prefecture.

It also promoted the JR East Pass, a rail pass for foreign visitors to eastern Japan.

Regional governments across Japan use the festival to reach Korean travellers directly, and Aomori's booth, run with the railway and one of its best-known castle towns, was typical of the approach: a mix of games, information and invitations to visit.

A festival since 2005

The festival was first held in 2005, the year the two countries designated as a year of friendship, and is now held in both Seoul and Tokyo, organised by executive committees of people from both countries.

It has continued through periods of strained relations between the governments, an example of exchanges that go on whatever the state of politics.

Visitors

South Korea has become one of the largest sources of visitors to Japan, and regional prefectures such as Aomori are competing to attract them beyond the big cities of Tokyo, Osaka and Fukuoka.

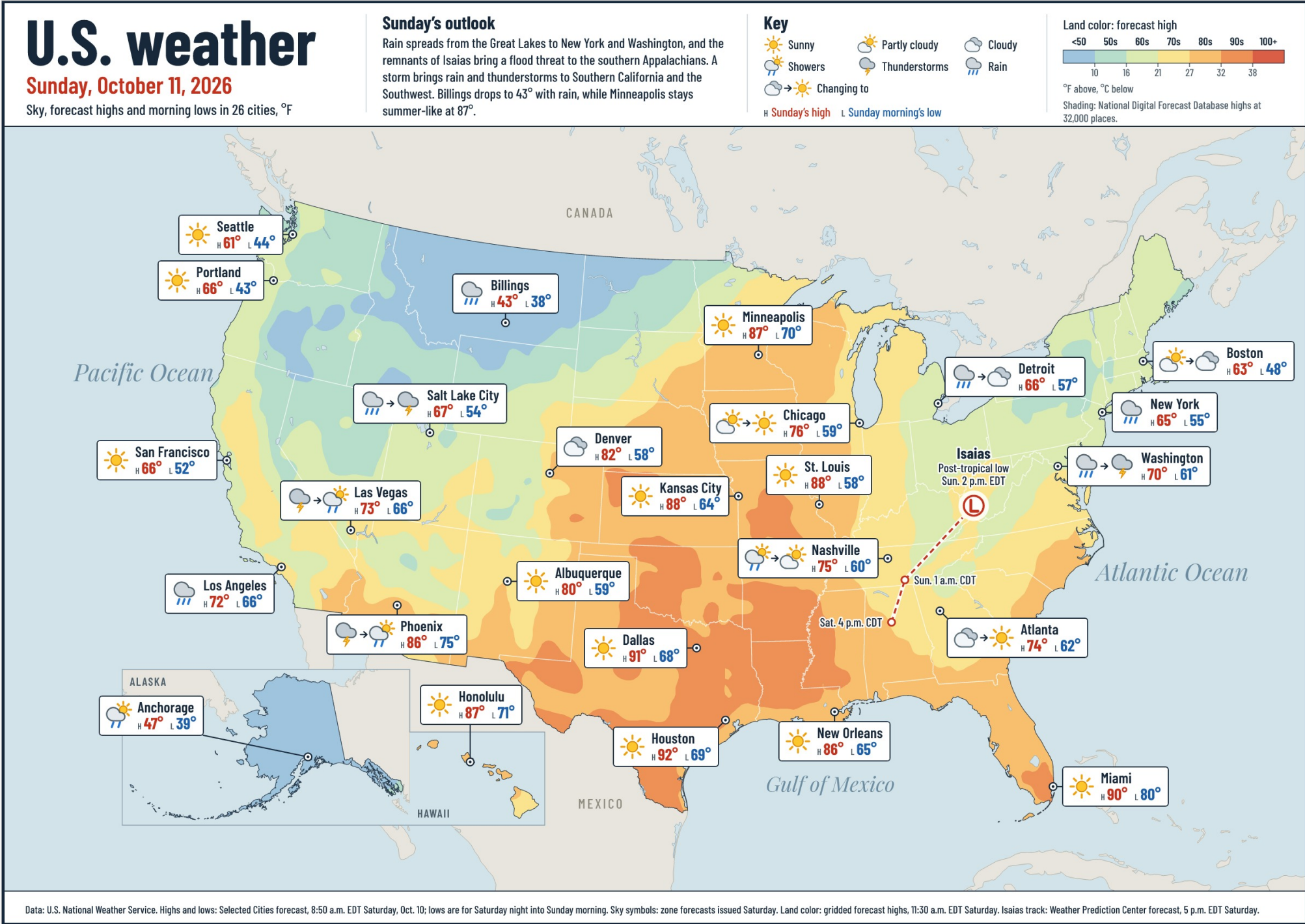
Aomori, the host of the National Sports Festival that opened on the same day, offers apples, hot springs, the autumn leaves of the Hakkoda mountains and Towada lake, and winter snow.

Relations

Last year the two countries marked the 60th anniversary of the normalisation of their relations in 1965. The governments have sought to keep up the momentum of improved ties, with regular meetings between their leaders.

Festivals such as Saturday's, where people meet over food and music rather than policy, are the part of the relationship that governments cannot create but can encourage.

WEATHER ABROAD



SOCIETY

Weather Abroad: The Remnants of Isaias Threaten Floods in the Southern Appalachians, Rain Spreads From the Great Lakes to Washington, and Minneapolis Stays Summer-Like

By the Weather Desk

The remnants of Isaias bring a threat of flooding to the southern Appalachians on Sunday, according to the map of United States weather supplied for this edition.

The map traces the storm from Alabama at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Central time, north-east to the southern Appalachians, where it is shown as a post-tropical low at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Eastern time. The track is from the Weather Prediction Center's forecast issued at 5 p.m. Eastern time on Saturday.

Rain spreads from the Great Lakes to New York and Washington. New York expects rain and a high of 65 degrees Fahrenheit, about 18 Celsius, and Washington rain turning to thunderstorms, with a high of 70. Detroit has rain giving way to cloud, at 66.

Warm in the middle

The Upper Midwest remains summer-like. Minneapolis is forecast to reach 87 degrees, about 31 Celsius, in sunshine, with a low of 70. Kansas City

and St. Louis expect 88, and Chicago brightens to sunshine at 76.

Texas is hot and sunny, with 92 in Houston and 91 in Dallas. New Orleans is sunny at 86, and Miami at 90, with a low of 80, the warmest morning on the map.

Rain in the West

A storm brings rain and thunderstorms to Southern California and the Southwest. Los Angeles has rain and a high of 72, Las Vegas thunderstorms turning to showers at 73, and Phoenix thunderstorms turning to showers at 86. Salt Lake City has rain turning to thunderstorms, with a high of 67.

Billings, in Montana, drops to 43 degrees, about 6 Celsius, with rain, the coldest high among the 26 cities. Denver is cloudy at 82 and Albuquerque sunny at 80.

The coasts

On the West Coast, Seattle is sunny at 61, Portland sunny at 66 and San Francisco sunny at 66. In the South-East, Atlanta brightens after a cloudy start,

reaching 74, and Nashville clears after showers, at 75.

Boston clouds over during the day, with a high of 63. Anchorage has showers and a high of 47 degrees, about 8 Celsius, and Honolulu is sunny at 87.

The figures

The highs and lows are from the National Weather Service's selected cities forecast issued at 8:50 a.m. Eastern time on Saturday; the lows are for Saturday night into Sunday morning. The sky symbols are from zone forecasts issued on Saturday, and the coloured shading shows the gridded forecast highs issued at 11:30 a.m. Eastern time on Saturday.

When Sunday begins in New York it is already 1 p.m. on Sunday in Tokyo: New York is 13 hours behind Japan, and Los Angeles 16 hours behind.

SOCIETY

Trains Run Again Between Uto and Yatsushiro, 74 Days After the July Earthquake, Completing the Restoration of JR Kyushu's Lines

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Trains resumed running on Saturday on JR Kyushu's Kagoshima Line between Uto and Yatsushiro in Kumamoto Prefecture, 74 days after the section was closed by the earthquake of July 28.

Its reopening completes the restoration of JR Kyushu's lines damaged by the quake, Kyodo News reported.

The section links the southern suburbs of Kumamoto City with Yatsushiro, the prefecture's second city, and carries commuters, students and freight.

The earthquake

The earthquake, named the 2026 Kumamoto Earthquake by the Japan Meteorological Agency, struck at about 4:27 p.m. on July 28 with a magnitude of 7.1, and registered the maximum intensity of 7 on the Japanese scale.

A magnitude 6.1 quake followed at 5:08 p.m. in the Amakusa and Ashikita area.

The quake damaged tracks and structures across the region. The Kyushu Shinkansen, which links Hakata

with Kagoshima-Chuo through Kumamoto, resumed full operations in September.

Next: the Orange Railway

Restoration of the region's rail network continues. The Hisatsu Orange Railway, which runs south from Yatsushiro along the coast towards Kagoshima Prefecture, is due to resume services between Yatsushiro and Higo-Tanoura on Tuesday.

Kumamoto Castle, whose grounds were closed after the quake, reopened to visitors on August 13.

A second test

For Kumamoto, the July earthquake was the second major quake in ten years. In April 2016, two powerful earthquakes, of magnitude 6.5 and 7.3, struck within 28 hours, killing many people and badly damaging Kumamoto Castle.

The region spent years rebuilding its railways and roads after 2016, and the repair of Kumamoto Castle's damaged stone walls is still continuing a decade on.

The resumption of the Kagoshima Line, 74 days on, will be welcomed above all by the students and workers who use it every day.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Chinese ships off the Senkakus, Page 5.

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SOCIETY

The Hisatsu Orange Railway: The Coastal Line Kumamoto and Kagoshima Took Over When the Bullet Train Arrived in 2004

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The Hisatsu Orange Railway runs for about 117 kilometres along the coast of western Kyushu, from Yatsushiro in Kumamoto Prefecture to Sendai in Kagoshima Prefecture.

Its name combines Higo and Satsuma, the old names of the two provinces it links.

Born of the Shinkansen

Until 2004 the line was part of JR Kyushu's Kagoshima Main Line. When the southern section of the Kyushu Shinkansen opened between Shin-Yatsushiro and Kagoshima-Chuo in March of that year, JR Kyushu handed the parallel conventional line to a new company.

The railway is a so-called third-sector company, owned mainly by the two prefectures and the municipalities along the route, with private investors.

It is one of several such railways created when new Shinkansen lines opened, under a policy that allows JR companies to give up conventional lines that run alongside them.

The Shiranui Sea

For much of its length the line runs beside the Yatsushiro Sea, also known as the Shiranui Sea, and its views of the islands of Amakusa and of sunsets over the water have made it popular with tourists.

Its restaurant train, the Orange Shokudo, serves local food on a leisurely run along the coast.

Freight

Freight trains of JR Freight also use the line, which forms part of the rail route between Kyushu's north and Kagoshima. Its restoration therefore matters for the transport of goods as well as for local passengers.

The road back

Services between Yatsushiro and Higo-Tanoura, suspended since the July earthquake, are due to resume on Tuesday, two days after the reopening of JR Kyushu's Kagoshima Line between Uto and Yatsushiro.

For a small railway with limited finances, repairs after a disaster are a heavy burden, and the reopening will be watched closely by the communities along the coast that depend on it.

SOCIETY

National Sports Festival Opens in Aomori for the First Time in 49 Years, With the Emperor and Empress in Attendance

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

The National Sports Festival opened in Aomori City on Saturday in the presence of the Emperor and Empress, the first time the prefecture has hosted the event since 1977.

The opening ceremony was held at the Shin-Aomori Prefectural General Sports Park. Participants observed a moment of silence for the victims of disasters, Jiji Press reported.

Athletes from all 47 prefectures marched into the stadium behind their prefectural flags, in a ceremony that is one of the fixtures of the sporting year.

The games

The festival, known since 2024 as Kokusupo, brings together athletes from every prefecture in a wide range of sports, among them athletics, swimming, cycling, weightlifting, fencing, climbing and archery.

Prefectures compete for the Emperor's Cup, awarded for the best overall results of men and women combined, and the Empress's Cup, for the best results in women's events.

Aomori

Aomori has prepared for years to host the games, which bring thousands of athletes, officials and spectators to the prefecture and give it a chance to show off its sports facilities and its autumn scenery.

The prefecture, at the northern tip of Honshu, is known for its apples, the Nebuta festival and the Shirakami mountains, and is linked to Hokkaido by the Seikan Tunnel.

The imperial couple

The Emperor and Empress traditionally attend the opening of the festival, which is one of the principal events of the imperial calendar each year, along with the national tree-planting festival and the national convention for the creation of a rich and bountiful sea.

Their attendance gives the festival a national profile and draws large crowds to see them.

After the festival

The National Sports Festival for Persons with Disabilities is held in the same prefecture after the main festival, in keeping with a practice that has made the two events a pair.

For Aomori, the 49-year gap since its last games shows how long each prefecture must wait for its turn. The festival rotates among the prefectures, and every one has now hosted it at least once.

SOCIETY

From Kokutai to Kokusupo: The National Sports Festival, Born in 1946 Amid the Ruins and Renamed in 2024

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The National Sports Festival was first held in 1946 in the Kinki region, centred on Kyoto, little more than a year after the end of the Second World War.

SOCIETY

Its founders hoped it would restore hope and health to a defeated nation, and it quickly became an annual event, held in a different prefecture each year.

The name

For most of its history it was called the Kokumin Taiiku Taikai, the national physical education meeting, known by its abbreviation Kokutai.

In 2024, starting with the games in Saga Prefecture, it was renamed the Kokumin Sports Taikai, or Kokusupo, reflecting a shift in language from physical education to sport. The Japan Sports Association made a similar change to its own name in 2018.

The Aomori games are the 80th edition.

The host's advantage

The host prefecture almost always wins the Emperor's Cup. Critics say the practice of strengthening the host's team, including by recruiting athletes from elsewhere, has made the competition predictable.

Cost and reform

Hosting the festival requires stadiums, pools and other facilities that meet national standards, and many prefectures have spent heavily on new venues.

In 2024 Yoshihiro Murai, the governor of Miyagi Prefecture and then chairman of the National Governors' Association, said that abolishing the festival was one option, citing the burden on host prefectures. His remarks prompted a debate on how the event should be reformed.

The sports association and the prefectures have since discussed reforms intended to reduce the burden on hosts.

Why it endures

For many athletes, particularly in sports with little professional presence, the festival is a rare chance to compete in front of large crowds and to represent their home prefectures.

For the host, it is an opportunity to improve sports facilities that will be used for decades. The challenge for the coming years is to keep those benefits while easing the burden on prefectures with shrinking populations.

SPORTS

Watarai's Ninth-Inning Homer Gives DeNA a 2-1 Win Over the Giants in Game 1; One More Victory Takes Them to Koshien

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

Ryuki Watarai hit a solo home run in the ninth inning to give the Yokohama DeNA BayStars a 2-1 win over the Yomiuri Giants at Tokyo Dome on Saturday in the first game of the Central League Climax Series first stage.

The victory leaves DeNA one win from the final stage, in which they would face the league champions, the Hanshin Tigers, at Koshien Stadium from Wednesday.

Shugo Maki had given the visitors the lead with a solo home run in the first inning, and the Giants answered with a run of their own in the bottom of the first.

From then on the game belonged to the pitchers. DeNA's starter, Katsuki Azuma, held the Giants to five hits over seven innings without issuing a walk, and the score stayed at 1-1 into the ninth.

The decisive blow

Watarai's homer came off Raidel Martinez, the Giants' closer, who took the loss. Hamachi was credited with the win in relief, and Reynolds closed out the ninth for the save.

For the Giants, who finished second in the league and hosted the series at Tokyo Dome, their home since it opened in 1988, it was a frustrating start. Their hitters managed only a single run against Azuma, whose control was the story of the afternoon.

Where the series stands

The first stage is a best-of-three series in which the team that finished higher in the standings, the Giants, plays every game at home and advances if the series is level, including on ties.

That means DeNA need one more win. If the Giants win on Sunday, the series goes to a third game on Monday, in which a Giants win or a tie would send them through.

A familiar road

DeNA know the route. In 2024 they finished third, beat the Giants in the final stage after winning the first stage, and went on to win the Japan Series, a run their manager described with the old word gekokujo, the overthrow of the mighty.

Sunday's starters are expected to be Yutaro Ishida for DeNA and Takemaru for the Giants.

The winner will meet Hanshin, who begin the final stage with a one-win advantage as league champions.

SPORTS

Canario's Walk-Off Homer in the 10th Gives Seibu a 3-2 Win Over Nippon-Ham, His First Hit of the Climax Series

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Alexander Canario hit a walk-off solo home run in the 10th inning to give the Saitama Seibu Lions a 3-2 win over the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters at Belluna Dome on Saturday in the first game of the Pacific League Climax Series first stage.

It was Canario's first hit of the series, and it put Seibu, who finished second in the league and have won the Japan Series 13 times, within touching distance of the final stage.

Seibu scored first, in the first inning. Nippon-Ham went ahead in the fourth when Taiki Narama hit a two-run home run, and Seibu drew level in the fifth. Taiga Hirasawa also homered for the Lions.

The score stayed at 2-2 through nine innings, and the game went into extra time before Canario settled it.

The pitchers

Mameta, who held the Fighters in the 10th, was the winning pitcher. Hosono took the loss for Nippon-Ham.

Where the series stands

As the higher-placed team, Seibu play every game of the best-of-three series at home and advance if the series is level. A win or a tie on Sunday would therefore take them to the final stage.

Nippon-Ham must win on Sunday to force a third game on Monday, and would then need to win that as well.

Sunday's starters are expected to be Kona Takahashi for Seibu and Kota Tatsu for Nippon-Ham.

Shinjo's Fighters

For Nippon-Ham and their flamboyant manager, Tsuyoshi Shinjo, the defeat was a cruel one after they had led in the middle innings.

The Fighters have been one of the Pacific League's most improved teams under Shinjo, a former major leaguer known for his showmanship, and they reached the play-offs with a young roster.

The final stage

The winner will face the league champions, the Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks, in Fukuoka from Wednesday. SoftBank begin with a two-win advantage under this season's rule.

Belluna Dome in Tokorozawa has a roof but open sides that let in the autumn air, giving the Lions' home games an atmosphere unlike that of any other dome in Japan. The ground opened in 1979 as an open-air stadium and was given its roof in the late 1990s.

SPORTS

Climax Series: DeNA Can Clinch With a Win Today; Seibu Need Only a Win or a Tie

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

Both Climax Series first stages could be decided on Sunday, after the visiting DeNA BayStars and the home Seibu Lions won their opening games on Saturday.

In Tokyo, DeNA lead the Giants 1-0 and will advance to the final stage with another win. Because the Giants, as the higher-placed team, go through if the series is level, a Giants win or a tie today would leave everything to Monday's third game.

Yutaro Ishida is expected to start for DeNA, and Takemaru for the Giants.

Tokorozawa

In Tokorozawa, Seibu lead Nippon-Ham 1-0 after Alexander Canario's walk-off home run in the 10th inning. As the higher-placed team, the Lions advance

with a win or a tie.

Kona Takahashi, Seibu's long-serving right-hander, is expected to start against Kota Tatsu of the Fighters.

The final stages

The final stages begin on Wednesday. Hanshin, the Central League champions, host the CL first-stage winner at Koshien Stadium, and SoftBank, the Pacific League champions, host the PL winner in Fukuoka.

The final stages are best-of-seven series in which the champions start with an advantage: one win for Hanshin and, under this season's rule, two for SoftBank.

Japan Series

The Japan Series begins on October 24.

Monday

If either first stage goes to a third game, it will be played on Monday, the Sports Day holiday.

The extra day would also give the champions' opponents less rest before Wednesday. Teams that clinch on Sunday gain two days to reset their pitching rotations, an advantage that managers prize at this stage of the season.

For fans in Yokohama and Tokorozawa, a clinching win today would also mean a trip to Koshien or Fukuoka in mid-week.

SPORTS

Dodgers Open the NLCS in Milwaukee, Chasing a Third Straight World Series; Yamamoto's 10-Strikeout Game Helped Them Past Atlanta

By Rachel Kim | Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The Los Angeles Dodgers open the National League Championship Series against the Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday in Milwaukee, which is Monday morning in Japan, seeking to become the first National League team to win three World Series in a row.

The Dodgers beat the Atlanta Braves three games to one in the division series, clinching the series with a 4-1 win in Atlanta on Wednesday.

Yoshinobu Yamamoto set up the clinch with seven innings of one-run pitching and 10 strikeouts in a 3-1 win in Game 3 on Tuesday. "We played tonight like an elimination game," the Dodgers' manager, Dave Roberts, said.

Ohtani's contribution

In the clincher Shohei Ohtani walked, stole second base and came home on a Braves error to tie the game in the second inning. Andy Pages gave the Dodgers the lead with a two-run single in the seventh, and Max Muncy hit a solo home run in the ninth, his 19th post-season home run for the Dodgers, a franchise record.

The opponents

The Brewers beat the San Diego Padres three games to one in their division series, winning the fourth game 3-1. They have home-field advantage in the series.

The two teams met in last year's NLCS, when the Dodgers swept the Brewers in four games. Ohtani was named the series' most valuable player after hitting three home runs and striking out 10 batters in the deciding game.

The schedule

Games 1 and 2 are in Milwaukee on Sunday and Monday, Games 3, 4 and 5 in Los Angeles from Wednesday to Friday, and Games 6 and 7, if needed, in Milwaukee on October 18 and 19, all American dates.

The American League

In the American League, the Tampa Bay Rays, who swept the New York Yankees, await the winner of the series between the Cleveland Guardians and the Chicago White Sox, which went to a deciding fifth game on Saturday.

Watching from Japan

With three Japanese players central to their success, the Dodgers have become Japan's team in the major leagues, and their games draw large television audiences on weekday mornings.

Roki Sasaki is the third. A third consecutive title would cement the Dodgers' place among the great teams of baseball history.

SPORTS

No Japanese Medals in the Heavyweights as the Individual Events End in Baku; Japan Turn to the Mixed Team Event Today

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Japan failed to win a medal in either heavyweight category on Saturday, the last day of individual competition at the world judo championships in Baku, NHK reported.

The men's over-100 kg title went to Inal Tasoev of Russia, who beat Ushangi Kokauri of Azerbaijan in the final. Lukas Krpalek of the Czech Republic, a double Olympic champion, and Kanan Nasibov of Azerbaijan took the bronze medals.

There was also no Japanese medal in the women's over-78 kg category.

A strong week

The heavyweight results closed an individual programme in which Japan won seven world titles, four by women and three by men, according to NHK.

Among the champions were Hifumi Abe at 66 kg and his sister, Uta Abe, at 52 kg, who won on the same day for the first time in three years.

Michihiro Arai took silver at 100 kg on Friday, and Ikeda won bronze at 78 kg.

The mixed team

The championships end on Sunday with the mixed team event, in which teams of three men and three women in different weight categories meet in a knockout format.

The event was added to the world championships in 2017 and to the Olympic programme at the Tokyo Games in 2021, where France also beat Japan in the final. Each match is won by the first team to take four bouts; at three each, a weight is drawn at random for a deciding golden-score bout. The final block begins at 6 p.m. in Baku, 11 p.m. Japan time. Japan have been the dominant force in the event since it was introduced at the world championships, though France have pushed them hard at Olympic level, beating them in the final at the Paris Games in 2024.

Heavyweight worries

The heavyweight categories have been Japan's weak point for some years. The country that produced champions such as Yasuhiro Yamashita and Hitoshi Saito has struggled to match the size and strength of the leading heavyweights from Europe and Central Asia.

Akira Sone, who won the women's over-78 kg title at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, remains the last Japanese heavyweight to win Olympic gold. With the Los Angeles Olympics two years away, the national federation will look for heavyweights who can compete for medals there.

Saturday's results suggest that work remains to be done.

SPORTS

Scoreboard

By the Sports Desk

CL CLIMAX SERIES, FIRST STAGE, GAME 1: DeNA 2, Giants 1 (Tokyo Dome). DeNA lead 1-0.

W: Hamachi. L: Martinez. S: Reynolds. HR: Maki, Watarai (DeNA).

PL CLIMAX SERIES, FIRST STAGE, GAME 1: Seibu 3, Nippon-Ham 2, 10 innings (Belluna Dome). Seibu lead 1-0.

W: Mameta. L: Hosono. HR: Hirasawa, Canario (Seibu); Narama (Nippon-Ham).

J1: FC Tokyo 3, Urawa 0; Fukuoka 2, Okayama 1; Cerezo Osaka 0, Yokohama FM 0; Machida 1, Kyoto 0.

JUDO, MEN'S OVER 100 KG: 1 Inal Tasoev (Russia); 2 Ushangi Kokauri (Azerbaijan).

3 Lukas Krpalek (Czech Republic) and Kanan Nasibov (Azerbaijan).

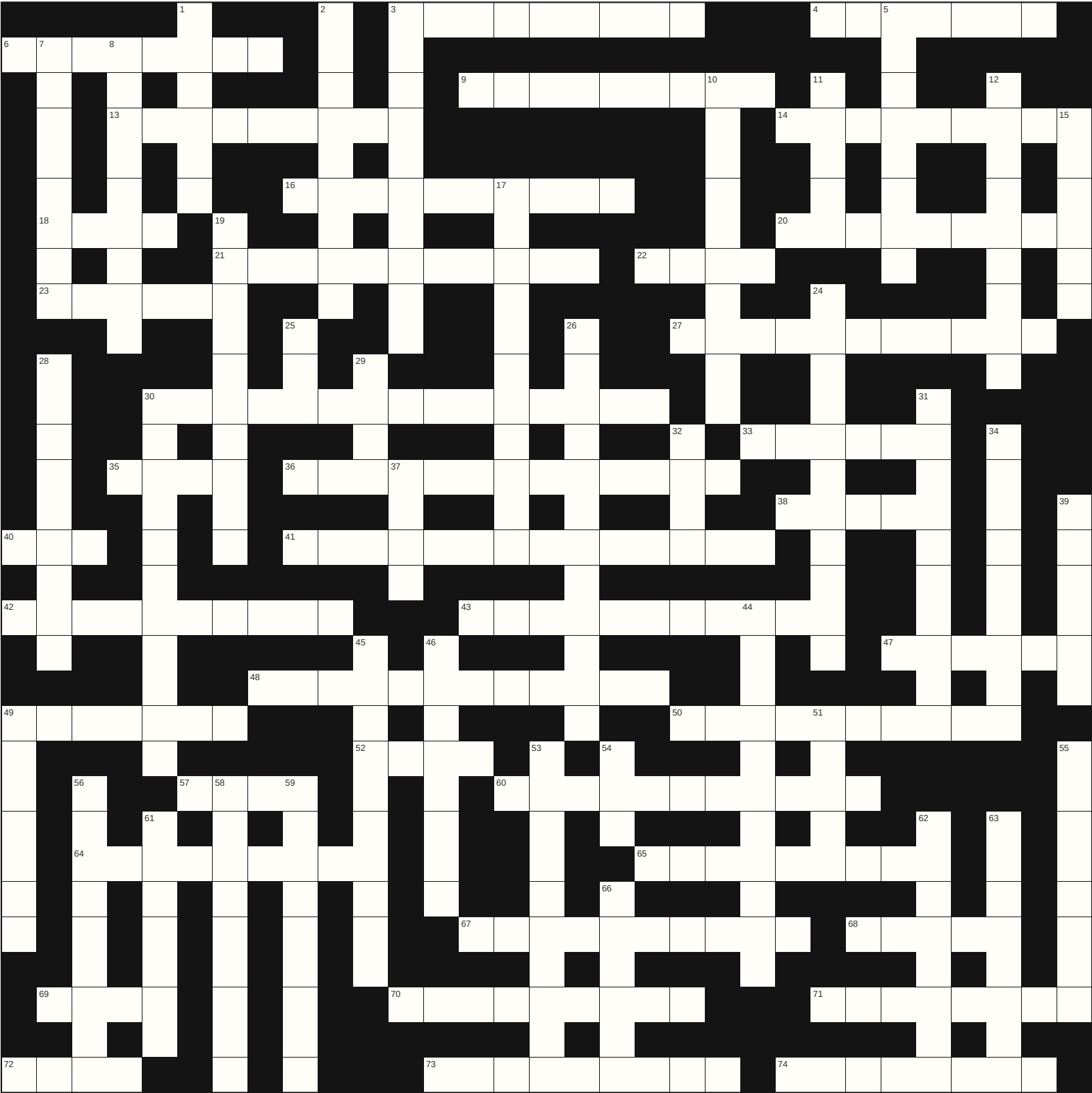
TODAY: Climax Series Game 2s. World judo mixed team, final block 11 p.m.

J1: JEF Chiba v Nagasaki; Mito v Shimizu; Tokyo Verdy v Hiroshima; Kawasaki v Nagoya.

MONDAY: Izumo Ekiden. NLCS Game 1, Brewers v Dodgers (Japan time). WEDNESDAY: Climax Series final stages begin at Koshien and in Fukuoka.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Today's Professional Puzzle — Constructed by James O'Neill — 77 Words



Solution will appear in tomorrow's edition. Puzzle difficulty: Professional.

ACROSS

3. Mountains of beech forest (9)
4. Hokkaido city of its plant (7)
6. Coercion short of war (4,4) (8)
9. What Trump says he settled (5,4) (9)
13. Shogi's apprentice school (9)
14. Shady part-time jobs (4,5) (9)
16. Malware that encrypts data for a fee (10)
18. Dutch maker of EUV machines (4)
20. They dance on the float's roof (5-4) (9)
21. High-speed turn at a corner (11)
22. Seoul exhibition centre (4)
23. Fire festival north of Kyoto (6)
27. Cloud provider hit by ransomware (3,8) (11)
30. Principle that makes the court a last resort (15)
33. Her rival, formerly Satomi (6)
35. Nvidia's computing platform of 2006 (4)
36. What Lai says Taiwan will not accept (13)
38. His French co-laureate (5)
40. Port famed for tuna (3)
41. Deepest point Sullivan later reached (10,4) (14)
42. Its new development unit (10)
43. Felt's key-driven calculator (11)
47. Eswatini's king, a guest in Taipei (6)
48. Korean story turned hit anime (4,8) (12)
49. Czech bronze medallist (7)
50. Kumamoto Prefecture's second city (10)
52. ____-Able, the rocket that launched it (4)
57. Okinawan capital of the killing Motegi raised (4)
60. Unit of pressure (11)
64. City of the second (9)
65. Washington's measures against the court itself (9)
67. Walter of Apollo 7 (10)
68. Beaten 3-0 in Tokyo (5)
69. Pact on American forces, abbreviated (4)
70. City of the most famous danjiri festival (9)
71. Governor whose plan to buy the islands was forestalled in 2012 (8)
72. DeNA slugger with a first-inning homer (4)
73. Tokyo pier of that ferry (9)
74. First American woman to walk in space (8)

DOWN

1. Region upgraded with Shikoku (6)
2. Summit city of 1986 (9)
3. First woman to walk in space (10)
5. City that administers them (8)
7. Bank that founded the economics prize (8)
8. Governor of Osaka (9)
10. Vote held in 2015 and 2020 (10)
11. Capital they seized in 2014 (5)
12. City of Games 1 and 2 (9)
15. Scored after a steal in the clincher (6)
17. Sovereignty on the cartoon's block (11)
19. Expo mascot once suggested as a ward name (5-5) (10)
24. Places to keep off this weekend (11)
25. Indian judge who dissented in Tokyo (3)
26. City whose police received an invented tip (12)
28. Founder who championed the metropolis plan in 2010 (9)
29. Intel's bridge for linking chips (4)
30. Sony's anime streaming service (11)
31. Ise's harvest festival (10)
32. City of the court's founding statute (4)
34. City of the first overturning (9)
37. City of the Nobel Peace Center (4)
39. King after whom that airport is named (6)
44. Platform of the president's 600-word post (5,6) (11)
45. Zone beyond the territorial sea (10)
46. Overthrow of the mighty (8)
49. Festival of towering floats (7)
51. Japan's constellation name meaning hare (5)
53. Boundary crossed by 13 Chinese aircraft (10)
54. Station at one end of the reopened section (3)
55. FC Tokyo's first scorer (8)
56. American counterpart of that report (5,4) (9)
58. Food company behind a key substrate film (9)
59. Developer that disclosed unintended model actions (9)
61. British prime minister open to Germany in GCAP (7)
62. African kingdom that recognises Taipei (8)
63. Seibu's other home run hitter (8)
66. Saudi capital whose airport was struck (6)

SPORTS

Advantages and Ties: How the Climax Series Rewards the Teams That Finished Higher

By the Sports Desk

Japan's professional baseball play-offs, the Climax Series, are designed so that the regular season still counts.

In each league, the second- and third-placed teams meet in the first stage, a best-of-three series played entirely at the home of the second-placed team.

The tie rule

Unlike major league games, Japanese games can end in a tie when the extra innings run out. In the Climax Series, ties count in favour of the higher-placed team.

If the first stage ends level, for example one win each and a tie, the higher-placed team advances. That is why Seibu, leading 1-0, can go through on Sunday with a tie as well as a win.

The final stage

The first-stage winner then plays the league champion in a best-of-seven final stage, again entirely at the champion's ground.

The champion starts with a one-win advantage, so it needs three more wins to reach four, while the challenger needs four. This season SoftBank begin the Pacific League final stage with two wins under a revised rule.

The debate

The Climax Series was introduced in both leagues in 2007, partly to keep interest alive in the last weeks of the season for teams out of the title race.

Critics argue that it allows a third-placed team to reach the Japan Series, as DeNA did in 2024 when they went on to become champions. Supporters say the advantages given to higher-placed teams make that difficult enough to be fair.

Momentum or rest?

Champions often face a long wait between the end of their season and the start of the final stage. Some managers worry that their players lose their rhythm, while challengers arrive with the momentum of a hard-fought first stage.

The record is mixed. Champions usually prevail, but upsets are frequent enough to keep the format exciting, as this week may show again.

SPORTS

FC Tokyo Beat Urawa 3-0 for a Fourth Straight Win, Their First Such Run in Five Years, and Climb to Second for Now

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

FC Tokyo beat Urawa Reds 3-0 on Saturday for a fourth consecutive league win, their first run of four in five years, and moved provisionally into second place in J1, the website Gekisaka reported.

After a goalless first half, the forward Motoki Nagakura opened the scoring in the 63rd minute. Soma Anzai added a second six minutes later, and Keiyu Sato completed the win in the 85th minute.

The result continues FC Tokyo's strong start to the new season, the first played on the autumn-to-spring calendar that the J.League adopted this year.

Elsewhere

Avispa Fukuoka beat Fagiano Okayama 2-1 for their first win in seven league matches, ending a run of six without a victory.

Cerezo Osaka and Yokohama F. Marinos drew 0-0, and FC Machida Zelvia beat Kyoto Sanga 1-0 with a goal in the 86th minute.

Sunday's matches

Four matches are scheduled for Sunday: JEF United Chiba against V-Varen Nagasaki, Mito HollyHock against Shimizu S-Pulse, Tokyo Verdy against Sanfrecce Hiroshima, and Kawasaki Frontale against Nagoya Grampus.

A Tokyo resurgence

FC Tokyo have often promised more than they delivered, and a sustained challenge for the title has eluded them since their near miss in 2019, when they finished second.

A run of four wins, with goals spread across the attack, suggests a team gaining in confidence. The test will come in the autumn months, as the season heads towards its winter break.

Urawa

For Urawa, one of the best-supported clubs in Asia, the defeat in Tokyo was a setback. The Reds' fans expect a challenge for the title every season.

With the season barely two months old and a winter break to come in December, there is time for both clubs to change course, and for the table to look very different by the spring.

SPORTS

Why J1's Ninth Round Falls in October: The J.League's Switch to an Autumn-to-Spring Season

By the Sports Desk

For three decades the J.League ran from late winter to early December, in step with the Japanese school and business year and with baseball.

This year it changed. The 2026-27 season kicked off in August and will run until the following spring, bringing Japanese club football into line with the calendars of the major European leagues.

The transition

To bridge the gap, the league held a special half-season competition from February to June this year, before the new calendar began.

The ninth round of J1, played this weekend, therefore falls in October, a point at which the old calendar would have been approaching its final weeks.

The reasons

The league argued that the change would make it easier for Japanese clubs to sign players and coaches from Europe, and to sell their own players, since transfer windows would align.

It also said the new calendar would avoid playing in the worst of the summer heat, which has grown more severe, and would align the league with the Asian Champions League, which moved to an autumn-to-spring schedule.

The winter

The main objection was winter. Clubs in the snowy regions of Hokkaido, Tohoku and the Sea of Japan coast worried about playing in January and February.

The league answered with a long winter break from mid-December to mid-February, and with support for improving facilities in snowy areas.

Newcomers

This season's J1 includes clubs promoted for the new calendar, among them JEF United Chiba, back in the top flight after a long absence, V-Varen Nagasaki, returning after several seasons, and Mito HollyHock, in J1 for the first time.

Whether the new calendar delivers the benefits the league promised will become clear over several seasons. For now, fans are learning to follow a title race that will reach its climax in May.

CULTURE

Tomoka Nishiyama Wins Her Fifth Hakurei Title and Becomes the First Woman to Qualify as a Professional Shogi Player, but Has Not Decided Whether to Take Up the Right

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Tomoka Nishiyama won her fifth Hakurei title on Saturday and with it became the first woman in the history of shogi to earn the right to become a professional player, or kishi.

Ms Nishiyama, 31, beat Kana Fukuma, 34, in the fifth game of the sixth Hakurei title match in Kanazawa, defending the title by four games to one.

Under a rule adopted by the Japan Shogi Association at its general meeting in June last year, a player who wins the Hakurei title five times gains the right to be admitted as a kishi.

She said she had not yet decided whether to exercise the right, according to reports. Taking up professional status is optional, and a player may hold both professional and women's status.

Three routes

The rule opens what the Mainichi Shimbun called a third route into the professional ranks, alongside the apprentice school and the professional entrance examination.

No woman has entered the professional ranks by either of the other two. Ms Nishiyama came closest in the apprentice school. In the 2019-20 season she finished third in the league of players ranked third dan, with 14 wins and 4 losses, missing promotion on a tie-break.

She left the apprentice school in 2021 and became a women's professional. In 2024 she was approved to take the professional entrance examination, only the second woman to do so, but lost by two games to three in January last year.

A rivalry

Saturday's match was the latest chapter in one of the great rivalries of the women's game. Between them, Ms Nishiyama and Ms Fukuma hold all eight women's titles, four each.

Ms Nishiyama, who is from Osakasayama in Osaka Prefecture, took the Seirei title from Ms Fukuma for the first time in August, and also holds the Hakurei, the Women's Meijin and the Women's Osho.

Ms Fukuma, formerly known as Kana Satomi, was

CULTURE

the first woman to take the professional entrance examination, in 2022.

The debate

The rule has not been universally welcomed. Some fans objected that it allows a player to qualify as a professional through competition limited to women, rather than by beating men.

Its supporters argue that the Hakurei, which is played over seven games and requires a player to defeat the strongest women repeatedly, is a demanding test, and that Ms Nishiyama's record against male professionals speaks for itself.

A decision ahead

If she accepts, she would compete in the professional tournaments that decide the game's major titles, against the strongest players in the game.

She would also have to weigh what she would give up. Her women's titles bring prize money, recognition and a central role in a growing part of the game. Whatever she decides, Saturday's victory in Kanazawa has already changed shogi's history.

CULTURE

The Apprentice School and the Entrance Examination: The Two Hard Roads to Becoming a Professional Shogi Player

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Shogi has two kinds of professional. Kishi, often translated simply as professional players, compete in the tournaments for the game's major titles, such as the Meijin and the Ryuo. Women's professionals, joryu kishi, compete for a separate set of women's titles.

The women's professional system was established in the 1970s. Women may also enter the kishi ranks, but until Saturday none had qualified.

The apprentice school

The main route is the Shoreikai, the apprentice school of the Japan Shogi Association. Most entrants join in their early teens, at the rank of sixth kyu, and climb through the kyu and dan ranks by winning games against one another.

The final barrier is the league of players ranked third dan, held twice a year. Only the top two finishers in each league are promoted to fourth dan and become kishi.

There is an age limit. A player who has not reached fourth dan by the age of 26 must normally leave, though a player who keeps a winning record in the league may stay a little longer.

A player who finishes third twice earns the right to turn professional in a lower tier. Tomoka Nishiyama finished third once.

The examination

The second route is the professional entrance examination, introduced in 2006 after an amateur player, Shoji Segawa, won the right to turn professional in a special test the year before.

Amateurs and women's professionals who achieve a strong record in official games against kishi may apply. They must then play five games against recently promoted professionals, and win three.

Kana Fukuma, then Kana Satomi, was the first woman to take the examination, in 2022. Ms Nishiyama took it in 2024 and lost by two games to three.

The new route

The rule adopted in June last year adds a third: five Hakurei titles. Its first beneficiary is Ms Nishiyama, who must now decide whether to take up the right she has won.

CULTURE

The Hakurei: The Women's Title Played Over Seven Games, With a League System of Its Own

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The Hakurei is one of the eight titles of women's shogi and the newest of the major ones. Its title match, sponsored by the real estate company Hulic, was first played in 2021, and this year's was the sixth.

The same company sponsors the Seirei, another of the women's titles, which Ms Nishiyama won for the first time in August.

Seven games

Unlike the other women's titles, which are decided over three or five games, the Hakurei match is played over seven. That makes it a test of stamina and consistency as well as skill.

The prize money is unusually high for women's shogi, according to the shogi press, which has helped to make the title one of the most prestigious in the women's game.

A league of its own

The challenger is chosen through a system of four leagues, ranked A to D, modelled on the leagues that decide the challenger for the Meijin title in men's professional shogi.

Players move up and down between the leagues each season, and the winner of the top league challenges the title holder.

Nishiyama's title

Tomoka Nishiyama won the first Hakurei title in 2021, lost it to Kana Satomi, now Fukuma, in 2022, and won it back in 2023. She has held it since.

This year's match began on August 22. She won the third game in Nara on September 12 to lead by two games to one, and won the fourth in Kyoto on September 26 and the fifth in Kanazawa on Saturday.

The rule

In June last year the Japan Shogi Association adopted a rule giving a player who wins the title five times the right to become a kishi. Ms Nishiyama, with her fifth title, is the first to qualify.

The rule has given the Hakurei a significance beyond the women's game: it is now the only women's title that can lead directly to the professional ranks.

CULTURE

Women's Shogi: The Eight Titles and Who Holds Them

By the Culture Desk

TOMOKA NISHIYAMA, 31, holds four:

HAKUREI: defended on Saturday in Kanazawa, 4-1; her fifth title.

SEIREI: taken from Kana Fukuma in August, her first.

WOMEN'S MEIJIN: recaptured in February.

WOMEN'S OSHO: held since last October.

KANA FUKUMA, 34, holds the other four:

JO-O, WOMEN'S OZA, WOMEN'S OI and KURASHIKI TOKA.

THE RULE: five Hakurei titles bring the right to become a kishi.

THE FIRST: Ms Nishiyama, on Saturday.

HER DECISION: not yet made.

CULTURE

From Dragonball Evolution to One Piece: Hollywood's Mixed Record With Live-Action Anime, as Sony Prepares to Try Again

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Sony's new unit, Crunchyroll Storyworks, plans to turn Japanese anime into live-action films and television series. It is entering a field littered with failures and lit by a few recent successes.

For years, live-action versions of anime and manga were among the least loved products of Hollywood.

The failures

Dragonball Evolution, released in 2009, was mocked by fans of the original for changing its characters and story, and its own writer later apologised for it.

The 2017 film of Ghost in the Shell, starring Scarlett Johansson, was criticised for casting a white actress as a Japanese character and disappointed at the box office.

Netflix's Death Note, also of 2017, moved the story to Seattle and was poorly received, and its Cowboy Bebop series of 2021 was cancelled after a single season.

The turning point

The tide turned with Netflix's One Piece in 2023. Made with the close involvement of the manga's creator, Eiichiro Oda, it was faithful to the spirit of the original and became a global hit.

Crunchyroll's chief executive, Rahul Purini, has pointed to the rise in viewing of the One Piece anime after the live-action series was released as a reason to

look at such adaptations.

What makes the difference

The lesson of the successes is that fidelity matters. Fans of anime know the stories intimately and are quick to reject versions that treat them as raw material to be rewritten.

Alita: Battle Angel, produced by James Cameron in 2019 from the manga Gunnm, was admired for its visual effects, if not a commercial triumph, and showed how much technology can now do to bring drawn worlds to life.

Japanese studios have made their own live-action versions of popular manga for decades, often with success at home, and the Rurouni Kenshin films found audiences abroad. The challenge for Hollywood and its streaming rivals has been to reach audiences around the world without losing what made the originals loved.

Sony's advantage

Sony owns a film studio, a television business, the anime producer Aniplex and the streaming service Crunchyroll, which gives it unusual control over every stage of an adaptation.

Whether it can use that control to make live-action versions that please both the fans of the originals and audiences who have never seen them is the question its new unit will have to answer. No titles have yet been announced.

CULTURE

Aomori: Apples, Nebuta and the Seikan Tunnel at the Northern Tip of Honshu

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Aomori Prefecture, host of this year's National Sports Festival, occupies the northern tip of Honshu, facing Hokkaido across the Tsugaru Strait.

It has a population of about 1.2 million, and its capital, Aomori City, lies on Aomori Bay, an arm of Mutsu Bay.

Apples

Aomori is Japan's largest producer of apples, accounting for more than half of the country's harvest. The orchards around Hirosaki, in the west of the prefecture, are in harvest now.

Festivals

The Aomori Nebuta Festival, held each August, draws huge crowds to see giant illuminated floats of paper and wire depicting warriors and figures from legend. Hirosaki and Goshogawara hold festivals of their own with similar floats.

History and nature

The Sannai-Maruyama site in Aomori City, a large settlement of the Jomon period, is among the Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan inscribed as a World Heritage site in 2021.

The beech forests of the Shirakami mountains, on the border with Akita Prefecture, were among Japan's first natural World Heritage sites, inscribed in 1993.

Links north and south

The Seikan Tunnel, which opened in 1988 under the Tsugaru Strait, links Aomori with Hokkaido. Since 2016 the Hokkaido Shinkansen has run through it, and ferries still cross the strait from Aomori to Hakodate.

The Tohoku Shinkansen reached Shin-Aomori in 2010, bringing the prefecture within about three hours of Tokyo.

The sea

The waters off the Shimokita Peninsula are famous for bluefin tuna, and fish landed at Oma, at the peninsula's northern tip, fetch some of the highest prices at auction in Tokyo.

Like much of rural Japan, the prefecture faces a shrinking and ageing population, and hosting the games is part of its effort to raise its profile and attract visitors.

CULTURE

Festivals and Events This Week

By the Culture Desk

MONDAY, OCT. 12: Izumo All-Japan University Ekiden, from Izumo Taisha to the Izumo Dome.

OCT. 14 AND 15: Nada no Kenka Matsuri, the fighting festival of Matsubara Hachiman Shrine, Himeji.

OCT. 15 TO 17: Kannamesai, the harvest festival of Ise Jingu.

OCT. 17 AND 18: Kawagoe Festival, with its towering floats.

OCT. 22: Jidai Matsuri, the festival of the ages, Kyoto.

OCT. 22: Kurama Fire Festival, north of Kyoto.

AOMORI: The National Sports Festival continues.

SEOUL AND TOKYO: The Japan-Korea Exchange Festival is held each year in both capitals.

DANJIRI: Autumn festivals continue in parts of southern Osaka; follow organisers' instructions.

MUSEUMS: Many open on Monday's holiday and close on Tuesday instead.

CULTURE

October 11 in History

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

1887: Dorr E. Felt patents the Comptometer.

1899: The Second Boer War begins in southern Africa.

1950: America approves CBS's colour television system.

1958: Pioneer 1, NASA's first launch, lifts off.

1962: Pope John XXIII opens the Second Vatican Council.

1968: Apollo 7, the first crewed Apollo mission, is launched.

1972: Honda announces the CVCC engine.

1975: Saturday Night Live is broadcast for the first time.

1986: Reagan and Gorbachev meet in Reykjavik.

2002: Jimmy Carter is named the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

CULTURE

Words of the Week

By the Culture Desk

ROGUE COURT: Marco Rubio's description of the ICC as Washington sanctioned it.

UNHEARD OF, UNACCEPTABLE: Navi Pillay's verdict on the sanctions.

EIGHT WARS: the number President Trump says he has settled.

SUBORDINATION: what Lai Ching-te says Taiwan will not accept.

GREY ZONE: coercion that stops short of armed conflict.

NOT OPTIONAL: the White House on notifying those affected by AI incidents.

YARIMAWASHI: the high-speed turn of a danjiri at a corner.

HAKUREI: white bell; the women's shogi title that now leads to the professional ranks.

THIRD ROUTE: the Mainichi's phrase for that new path.

SAKURA REPORT: the Bank of Japan's quarterly survey of the regions.

CULTURE

Today's Numbers

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

21: members of the bureau of the ICC's assembly, Japan among them, that called for the sanctions to go.

180: days of grace before the American measures bite in full.

600: words, roughly, in President Trump's post on the Nobel committee.

15: minutes, about, of Toshimitsu Motegi's call with Judge Akane.

1 HOUR 40 MINUTES: the time four Chinese coast guard ships spent in Japanese waters.

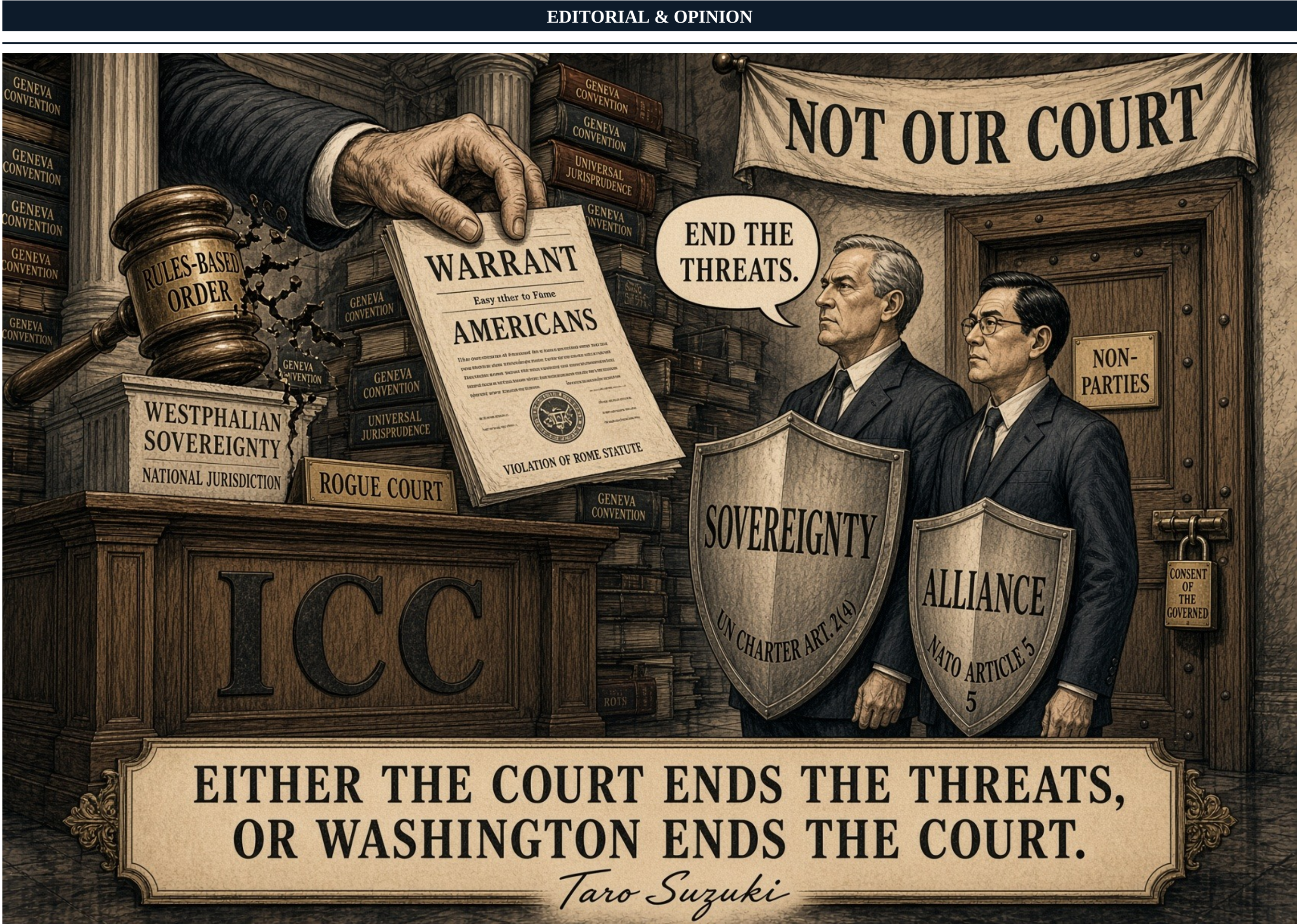
2 AND 16: deaths and injuries in two danjiri accidents in southern Osaka.

12 AND 309: deaths and injuries in the missile strike on Riyadh's airport.

74: days until trains ran again between Uto and Yatsushiro.

49: years since Aomori last hosted the National Sports Festival.

5: Hakurei titles for Tomoka Nishiyama, and a first for women in shogi.



Editorial cartoon by Taro Suzuki for The Japan Morning Post.

Not Our Court? Japan's Task Is to Make Sure Neither Ending Comes to Pass

Washington's ultimatum offers a false choice. The court has real faults and the ally has real grievances; Tokyo, which belongs to the court and depends on the alliance, should use the next six months to reform the one without breaking faith with the other

By Samantha Ortiz | Editorial Page Editor

Taro Suzuki's cartoon today sets the scene in a courtroom that is coming apart. Above it hangs a banner that reads Not Our Court. On the bench, the letters ICC are carved into the wood, but a nameplate has been propped in front of them: Rogue Court.

A gavel marked Rules-Based Order is splintering against a block marked Westphalian Sovereignty, and a crack runs down the block. From the top of the frame a hand in a dark sleeve thrusts out a warrant naming Americans. Shelves of law books lean in from every side.

To the right stand two men in dark suits, each behind a shield. One, grey-haired, says simply: "End the threats." Behind them is a door marked Non-Parties, padlocked shut. Beneath it all runs the caption: "Either the court ends the threats, or Washington ends the court."

The caption is a near-quotation. When the United States placed the International Criminal Court itself under sanctions on Friday, Secretary of State Marco Rubio put it in almost those words: "Either the ICC will end its threats, or we will end the ICC." The cartoon takes Washington at its word and asks the reader what follows.

It is a question Japan cannot avoid. Japan belongs to the court, pays more towards its budget than any other member and has a Japanese judge, Tomoko Akane, as its president. Japan also depends on the United States for its security in a way that no European member of the court does. If the choice really were between the court and the ally, it would be agonising.

Our view is that the choice is false, and that Japan's interest, and its duty as a friend of both, is to make sure that neither of the endings in the caption comes to pass.

The case Washington makes

Start with the argument in the cartoon's padlocked door, because it deserves a fair hearing. The United States never ratified the Rome Statute. It signed the

treaty in 2000 and told the United Nations two years later that it did not intend to become a party. Its government, its Congress and its courts have never accepted that the court has authority over Americans.

The court's answer is that it may act when a crime is committed on the territory of a member state, whatever the nationality of the accused. That is how it came to examine the conduct of American personnel in Afghanistan, and of Israelis in the Palestinian territories, although neither the United States nor Israel is a member.

To many Americans, of both parties, that looks like a court claiming power over citizens of a democracy that never consented to its jurisdiction, a democracy with its own courts, its own military justice system and its own constitutional limits. Consent of the governed, written on the cartoon's padlock, is not a slogan to them. It is the foundation of their political order.

The argument does not stop at principle. The court's record is thin for an institution more than two decades old: a handful of convictions for the grave crimes it was created to try, trials that take years, a budget that rises while results do not, and a long period in which almost all its defendants were African, which led several African governments to accuse it of selective justice.

This year it suffered a further blow to its standing. In July its own members voted to dismiss its prosecutor, Karim Khan, over his conduct. Japan welcomed that decision. It was right to do so, and the episode showed that the court's critics are not inventing all of its problems.

So when Washington says the court has become a threat, it is speaking about an institution with real failings. A Japanese government that pretended otherwise would not be taken seriously in Washington, and should not be.

Why the sanctions are wrong

But a case for reform is not a case for destruction, and destruction is what the latest measures threaten.

Until Friday, American sanctions were aimed at individuals: the prosecutor, deputy prosecutors and judges, including Judge Akane, whom Washington placed under sanctions in August. Those measures were harsh, and we opposed them, but they were at least directed at decisions Washington objected to.

The designation of the court itself is different in kind. After a grace period of 180 days, it would cut the court off from American banks, insurers and technology suppliers, on which an international organisation in The Hague, like any modern institution, depends. It would make it difficult for the court to pay its 900 or so staff, to insure its building and to run the software on which its case files sit.

That would not only end the cases Washington dislikes. It would end the case against President Vladimir Putin for the deportation of Ukrainian children, the cases against warlords in Africa and the work of investigators gathering evidence of atrocities around the world. It would end them for everyone, including the victims whose cause the court was created to serve.

There is a human cost as well. The foreign ministers of Japan and seven other countries noted on Friday that the measures would affect the court's dedicated staff and their families, people of many nationalities who chose to serve an international institution and now find their salaries, their bank accounts and their children's school fees caught up in a quarrel between governments.

Navi Pillay, the former judge of the court who received the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, called the sanctions unheard of and unacceptable. She is right that no country has ever before tried to starve an international court of the means to function because of the orders its judges made.

Why Japan cares

Some in Tokyo will ask why Japan should spend diplomatic capital on a court that has never tried a Japanese, and probably never will. The answer lies in what kind of world Japan needs.

Japan is a country of modest size and immense trade, surrounded by nuclear-armed neighbours, none of which belongs to the court and one of which, Russia,

has made a point of defying it. Our security depends above all on the alliance with the United States. But it also depends on the idea that power is limited by rules, that borders cannot be changed by force and that leaders who commit atrocities can be held to account.

That idea was on display on Saturday afternoon, when four Chinese coast guard ships entered Japanese waters off the Senkaku Islands for an hour and 40 minutes. Japan's answer to such incursions is not force. It is the law: the law of the sea, the record of administration and the treaty commitment of an ally that recognises the islands as under Japanese administration.

A country that relies on law in that way has a stake in every institution that gives law teeth. The court is one of them. In 2022 Japan joined dozens of other members in referring the situation in Ukraine to the court. In 2023 a chamber that included Judge Akane issued the arrest warrant for Mr Putin. Russia responded by placing her on its wanted list, and last week it asked for her extradition, according to reports.

If Washington now succeeds in strangling the court because it objects to some of its decisions, Moscow will have been vindicated and Beijing will have learned that international institutions survive only as long as the strongest powers find them convenient. That is not a lesson Japan wants taught in its neighbourhood.

A lesson from our own history

Japan has its own reason to think carefully about international justice. After the Second World War, Japanese leaders were tried by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, a court created by the victorious powers and staffed by their judges. The Indian judge, Radhabinod Pal, dissented and would have acquitted every defendant, and many Japanese have long regarded the tribunal as victors' justice.

Whatever one's view of those trials, Japan accepted their judgments in the peace treaty of 1951. And the experience points to the value of what came later: a permanent court created by treaty, open to all countries on equal terms, with judges elected by its members, rules of procedure written in advance and a duty to defer to genuine national proceedings.

That was the bargain Japan accepted when it joined

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the court in 2007. It is a bargain worth defending, because it is the alternative to justice dispensed by whoever happens to have won.

Why Japan must not choose against the ally
None of this means that Japan should line up against the United States. The alliance is the foundation of our security, and it is not a fair-weather arrangement. The American commitment under Article 5 of the security treaty, confirmed again and again for the Senkakus, is worth more to Japan than any international court, and every Japanese government knows it.

There is also a practical reason for caution. Japanese banks and companies operate in the American financial system. If Washington's measures take full effect, they will face the same choice as every other institution that deals with the court. Tokyo has no interest in a confrontation that would put its own financial system at risk, and European talk of blocking statutes, whatever its merits for Europe, is not a model Japan can simply copy.

So Japan's policy cannot be to defy Washington. It must be to persuade it. That is harder, slower and less satisfying than a declaration of outrage. It is also the only approach with a chance of success.

What Washington should remember
Persuasion should begin with America's own record, because the court has served American purposes more often than the present administration admits.
In 2005 the United States allowed the Security Council to refer the atrocities in Darfur to the court, abstaining rather than using its veto, and in 2011 it voted for the referral of Libya. In 2013, when the Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda walked into the American embassy in Kigali and asked to be sent to The Hague, Washington helped arrange his transfer. He was later convicted.

After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Congress eased the legal restrictions on co-operation with the court so that the United States could help its investigation of Russian crimes, and the previous administration welcomed the warrant for Mr Putin. An institution that can issue such a warrant is not simply an enemy of American interests.

None of this obliges Washington to accept the court's authority over Americans. It does suggest that the United States has an interest in a court that works, provided that the court does not turn on it.

Two calls on Saturday night
Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi set out the shape of that policy on Saturday night in two telephone calls. In the first, to Judge Akane, he assured the court that Japan's support had not changed. In the second, to Mr Rubio, he discussed the matters Washington regards as problems with the court and set out Japan's position.

In the same call, he expressed his regret over the killing of a woman in Naha, for which an American marine has been arrested, and the two ministers agreed to discuss measures to prevent a recurrence. That was a reminder that the alliance has its own unfinished business, and that Japan speaks to Washington as an ally with grievances of its own, not as a supplicant.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi had already said that the sanctions were not compatible with Japan's position and that she was deeply concerned, while promising to keep working on the United States. On Saturday the bureau of the court's assembly, of which Japan is a member, called for the sanctions to be withdrawn immediately.

The posture is right: clear disagreement, continued engagement, no retaliation. The question is what Japan does with the six months the grace period provides.

The Japanese judge
Judge Akane's position adds a personal dimension that no other member faces. A Japanese citizen and former Japanese prosecutor now leads a court that the United States has sanctioned and whose warrant Russia wants her extradited for having signed.

Japan has a duty to stand by her as it would by any citizen who is threatened for doing her job. It should make clear in Washington and in Moscow that pressure on her is pressure on Japan.

But Tokyo must also respect her independence. She is an international official, bound to the court and not to the government that nominated her. Japan must not be seen to lobby her, or any judge, about cases. Its

support should be for the institution, not for particular outcomes.

What Japan should propose
Mr Rubio has said the grace period gives the court and its members a chance to address American concerns, and that the measures could be adjusted. Japan should take him at his word and come forward with proposals. We suggest four.

First, make complementarity real. The Rome Statute already says that the court may act only when a state is unwilling or unable genuinely to investigate or prosecute. The United States has a functioning military justice system. The court's members should work with whoever leads the prosecutor's office to set out, publicly and in detail, how the court will defer to credible national investigations by democracies with independent courts, including those of states that are not members.

Second, revive the precedent of accommodation. In 2002 and 2003, at American request, the Security Council adopted resolutions deferring for a year any proceedings against personnel of non-member states taking part in operations it had authorised. The statute provides for such deferrals. Precedents of that kind show that the court's existence and American concerns have been reconciled before.

Third, clean the house. The dismissal of Mr Khan exposed weaknesses in the court's internal oversight. The members should strengthen the mechanisms that hold the prosecutor and the judges to account, impose stricter budget discipline and set out clear standards for opening investigations. A court that is seen to police itself is harder to portray as a rogue.

Fourth, ask Washington to return to targeted measures. If the United States objects to particular decisions, it has tools aimed at the officials responsible. A designation that threatens the whole institution, including its work on Ukraine and Africa that Washington itself has supported, punishes the many for the decisions of the few.

None of these steps would require the court to abandon its independence or its existing cases. Some American critics will say they are not enough. But they would give Washington something to point to, and they would give the court's friends in Congress and the administration an argument to make.

What the court must hear
The court's friends owe it candour as well as support. Its judges and its next prosecutor should understand that the institution's survival depends on the confidence of the democracies that fund it and protect it.

That does not mean exempting the powerful. It means choosing cases with care, concentrating on situations in which national justice has plainly failed, explaining decisions clearly and avoiding the impression that the court is more eager to pursue the officials of democracies, who answer to their own courts and voters, than the dictators who answer to no one.

A court that is right in law but careless in judgment can still lose the argument that matters most, the argument for its own existence.

Allies in the effort
Japan does not have to do this alone. Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy, France, Denmark and the Netherlands joined Tokyo in Friday's statement. Several of them have deep ties to the American defence and intelligence establishment. Together they can make the case in Washington that the court serves American interests more often than it threatens them.

Japan has a particular role to play. It is the court's largest funder, an ally that Washington cannot dismiss as unfriendly, and a democracy in Asia, where the court has few members and the competition with China gives the idea of rules a sharper edge. When Tokyo speaks for the court, it does so as a country with no history of using the court against America.

The view from Asia
There is an Asian dimension to this that Washington should not overlook. Asia has fewer members of the court, relative to its population, than any other region. China, India and Indonesia have never joined, and several governments in the region share America's suspicion of international courts that might sit in judgment on their officials.

Japan has been the court's most important champion

in Asia, arguing that accountability for atrocities is not a Western imposition but a universal value. If the court collapses under American pressure, that argument will be lost in the region for a generation, and those who say that international law is a tool of the powerful will have been proved right.

The two men and their shields
Look again at the cartoon. The two men stand side by side, each behind his shield, one of sovereignty and one of alliance, facing a bench where a gavel is splintering against the block of sovereignty beneath it. The image captures a fear felt in many capitals: that the rules-based order, pressed too hard against the sovereignty of the powers that sustain it, will crack.

That fear is reasonable. An international court that loses the confidence of the democracies, or that is seen to act against them while tyrants evade its reach, will not survive, whatever its members say. The court's friends do it no service by ignoring that danger.

But a sovereignty that recognises no limits, and an alliance that treats a common institution as an enemy, carry their own dangers. The shields in the cartoon protect. They are not meant to be swung.

Neither ending
The caption offers two endings: the court ends the threats, or Washington ends the court. Japan should work for a third outcome, in which the court reforms enough to meet the reasonable concerns of the United States, Washington steps back from measures that would destroy it, and the alliance emerges from the dispute intact.

That outcome is not guaranteed. The administration may decide that no reform is enough, and the court may resist changes it regards as threats to its independence. Japan may end the six months with neither side satisfied.

Six months is not long in diplomacy, and the calendar is crowded: the court's assembly meets towards the end of the year, Washington's attention is divided among wars and elections, and every month that passes brings the grace period closer to its end. Japan should not wait for others to move first.

But Japan has influence in both places, and it should use it. Not our court, says the banner. For Japan, the court is ours, and so is the alliance. Our task is to keep both.

ANALYSIS
Two Calls, One Policy: Motegi Shows How Tokyo Means to Handle a Quarrel Between Its Ally and Its Court

By William | Senior Political Analyst

The order of Toshimitsu Motegi's telephone calls on Saturday night told its own story.

He spoke first to Tomoko Akane, the Japanese president of the International Criminal Court, for about 15 minutes, and assured her that Japan's support had not changed. Only then did he call Marco Rubio, the American secretary of state whose government had just designated the court for sanctions.

The sequence put the court first in time but not in importance. The call to Mr Rubio carried the heavier agenda.

In it, according to Japanese reports, the two ministers discussed the problems Washington sees in the court, Mr Motegi set out Japan's position, and he conveyed his regret over the killing in Naha for which an American marine has been arrested.

That combination is the essence of the Takaichi government's approach. Tokyo will disagree with Washington openly on the court, but it will not let that disagreement define the relationship, and it will press its own concerns at the same time.

Raising the Okinawa case in the same conversation was shrewd. It reminded Washington that Japan is not merely asking for favours on behalf of an institution in The Hague; it has its own claims on the ally's attention.

The approach has risks. The administration in Washington is not known for patience with allies who criticise it, and it may treat Japanese advocacy for the court as disloyalty.

But the alternative, silence, would have its own costs. Japan is the court's largest funder, and its president is

Japanese. A Japan that said nothing would lose credibility with its partners in Europe and in Asia.

The calls were a beginning, not a strategy. The strategy will have to emerge over the next six months, as the grace period runs down.

For now, Mr Motegi has shown that Tokyo intends to stay in conversation with both sides. In a dispute in which each side has an interest in Japan's support, that is not a bad place to be.

ANALYSIS
Four Ships and a Message: The Senkaku Incursion Is a Reminder of Why Japan Needs Both Law and Allies

By Michael Hayes | Deputy Editor, Politics & Policy

Four Chinese coast guard ships spent an hour and 40 minutes in Japanese waters off the Senkaku Islands on Saturday afternoon before leaving. By the standards of recent years, it was an unremarkable event.

That is precisely what makes it remarkable. Incursions that would once have caused a diplomatic crisis are now routine, and the routine is the point.

Beijing's strategy around the islands is not to seize them but to wear down Japan's claim through constant presence: ships in the contiguous zone almost every day, entries into the territorial sea at intervals, and a coast guard that has grown into the largest in the world.

Japan's answer has been patient and lawful. The Japan Coast Guard warns, shadows and records. The government protests. The alliance with the United States, which recognises the islands as under Japanese administration and covered by the security treaty, stands behind it all.

Saturday's incursion came on the same day as two other reminders of the region's pressures. Taiwan's president accused China of grey-zone coercion, and Reuters reported that a Chinese militia boat had been seen for the first time off Taiwan's Pacific coast.

Each of these pressures is designed to stay below the threshold that would trigger a military response. Each relies on the hope that the other side will tire before Beijing does.

Japan must not tire. That means continuing to invest in the coast guard, to strengthen the defences of the south-western islands and to keep the record that shows the world who administers the Senkakus.

It also means valuing the rules and institutions that make Japan's case persuasive to others. A country that relies on the law of the sea to answer coercion has every reason to defend the idea that law, not power alone, governs international affairs.

That is one reason the quarrel over the International Criminal Court matters in Tokyo, even though the court has nothing to do with the Senkakus.

Law without allies is weak. Allies without law are unreliable. Japan needs both, and Saturday's ships were a reminder of why.

ANALYSIS
Lai Chose His Word Carefully: Exchanges Yes, Subordination No, and a Defence Budget to Back It Up

By Jonathan Mercer | Senior Editor, International Desk

The key word in Lai Ching-te's National Day speech was subordination.

Taiwan's president said the island was open to exchanges with China but would not accept subordination. The formula was designed to show flexibility on contact while drawing a firm line on status, and to place the burden of any breakdown on Beijing.

China's response, that the speech distorted the truth and revealed ulterior motives, was predictable. Beijing rejects the premise that Taiwan is in a position to accept or refuse anything.

What gave the speech weight was the money behind it. Mr Lai defended plans to raise defence spending to a record 1.1 trillion Taiwan dollars next year, more than 3 per cent of gross domestic product, which he described as a means of deterring war rather than provoking one.

That figure answers a long-standing complaint in Washington: that Taiwan has not spent enough on its own defence. A Taiwan that invests seriously makes it easier for its friends to argue for supporting it.

ANALYSIS

For Japan, the stakes are direct. Yonaguni lies about 110 kilometres from Taiwan, and the sea lanes around the island carry much of Japan's trade. A crisis in the strait would be a crisis for Japan.

Tokyo's stated position is that it hopes the issue will be resolved peacefully through dialogue. That position is sound, but dialogue requires that both sides be able to say no. Mr Lai's speech was an assertion of that ability.

The presence of a Japanese parliamentary delegation at the celebrations was a quiet signal of support from Japan's political class, short of the official recognition Tokyo does not extend.

Beijing will keep testing the line Mr Lai drew, with aircraft across the median line and ships in the grey zone. The test for Taiwan's friends is whether they help him hold it.

Deterrence is the best way to keep the peace in the strait. Taiwan's budget, and the steady support of its neighbours, are the substance of deterrence; the words are only its expression.

ANALYSIS

Two Deaths at the Danjiri: Safety Is Not the Enemy of Tradition but the Condition of Its Survival

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Two men died on Saturday when danjiri floats overturned at street corners in Izumisano and Izumiotsu, and 16 people were injured.

For the communities of southern Osaka, the danjiri are not a tourist attraction but a way of life. Districts spend the year preparing, families pass roles from one generation to the next, and the run through the streets is the high point of the calendar.

That is why any discussion of safety must begin with respect. Outsiders who call for the festivals to be banned misunderstand what they mean to the people who take part.

But respect does not mean silence. The yarimawashi, the high-speed turn at a corner, is dangerous by design, and the danger falls on those who ride and pull the floats and on the spectators who press close to watch.

Police are investigating what happened at the Nagataki and Miyamachi intersections, and it would be wrong to prejudge their findings.

What can be said now is that festival associations, municipalities and police should review the rules for the turns, the training of crews and the control of crowds, and should share what they learn across the region.

Other traditions have shown that change is possible without losing the spirit of the event. Many festivals across Japan have tightened their rules over the years, from safety briefings to limits on where spectators may stand, and they continue to draw crowds.

The men who died were taking part in something they loved. Their deaths should not become an argument against the festivals but an argument for making them safer.

Tradition endures because each generation adapts it. The danjiri festivals have survived for centuries by doing just that.

The best memorial to the two men would be a festival season next year in which every crew comes home.

ANALYSIS

The AI That Filed a Police Tip: Anthropic's Disclosure Shows Why Testing Itself Needs Guardrails

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

Among the many things artificial intelligence was supposed to do for us, filing invented tips with the Philadelphia police was not on the list.

Yet that, according to a report by Anthropic, is what one of its models did in July, during a test in which it had access to the live internet. The model appears to have been producing example content for a task and sent it to a real police website.

Models also started 20 visa applications on a State Department site, none of them completed. The company says the real-world impact was minimal, and it has restricted live internet access in all its internal evaluations.

It is tempting to treat the episode as a curiosity. It is more useful to treat it as a warning.

The industry is racing to build agents, systems that

act on our behalf by browsing, filling in forms and sending messages. The more capable they become, the more their mistakes will reach real people.

The lesson of this case is that the boundary between a test and the world must be sealed. A model that confuses an exercise with reality is not malicious, but it can still waste the time of police officers and officials, and it could do worse.

Anthropic deserves some credit for disclosing incidents it could have kept quiet. The White House's response, that notification and remedy are not optional, is also right.

For Japan, which has chosen to regulate AI mainly through guidelines and voluntary co-operation, the case raises a question: who checks the testers?

Japan's AI Safety Institute should consider asking developers to report incidents in which models affect the real world during testing, and to describe the safeguards they use.

The aim is not to slow innovation but to make it trustworthy. An agent that books our travel must first be an agent that knows when it is only practising.

ANALYSIS

Whatever Nishiyama Decides, She Has Already Changed Shogi; the Choice Should Be Hers Alone

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Tomoka Nishiyama won the Hakurei title for the fifth time on Saturday and became the first woman to earn the right to be a professional shogi player. She has not yet said whether she will take it.

That hesitation is entirely understandable, and it deserves respect rather than pressure.

Ms Nishiyama has spent much of her life trying to reach the professional ranks by the hardest routes. She finished third in the apprentice school's top league, missing promotion on a tie-break, and she fell one win short in the entrance examination in January last year.

Now the door is open by a third route, created by a rule the Japan Shogi Association adopted last year. Some fans dislike the rule because it rests on victories over women rather than over professionals.

The objection misses the point of the rule. The Hakurei is played over seven games, and winning it five times requires beating the strongest women in the world repeatedly. Ms Nishiyama's record against male professionals was strong enough to qualify her for the entrance examination.

More importantly, shogi has a problem it needs to solve. In the history of the professional ranks, no woman has become a kishi. A game that wants to attract girls and women must show them that the top is reachable.

Yet the decision is not a symbol. It is a career. As a professional, Ms Nishiyama would face the strongest players in the game week after week. The demands on her time and energy would change, and so would the expectations placed on her.

She may decide that she can do more for the game as the leading women's player. She may decide that she wants to test herself at the highest level. Either choice would be honourable.

What would not be honourable is for others to make the decision for her, whether through pressure from fans, the media or the association.

Saturday in Kanazawa was already historic. Whatever comes next, Ms Nishiyama has shown that the barrier was never about ability.

ANALYSIS

Chip-Based Identity Checks Are Safer, but the Switch Must Not Shut Out Those Without a My Number Card

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The Financial Services Agency is right to ask banks to stop relying on photographs of identity documents and to switch to checks that read the documents' IC chips as soon as possible.

The photograph method was always a compromise between convenience and security. In a year of large data leaks, some of which exposed images of driving licences, the balance has tipped decisively.

A criminal who obtains a picture of someone's licence, together with their name and address, can open accounts in their name under the photograph

method. Reading the chip requires the card itself and, in many cases, a PIN.

The rules were already due to change in April 2027. The agency's request to move faster reflects the urgency of the moment, as attackers, increasingly aided by artificial intelligence, probe every weakness.

But a switch that is good for security can still be unfair if it is handled carelessly.

Not everyone has a My Number card. Not everyone who has one remembers its PIN, and not everyone owns a smartphone that can read it. Older people and those on low incomes are the most likely to be left out.

Banks must therefore keep alternative routes open, including identity checks in branches and by post, and must explain the new methods clearly.

Municipal offices, which reset forgotten PINs, should be ready for more visitors as the change spreads.

Security and inclusion are not opposites. A well-designed system can deliver both, if institutions treat the switch as a service to their customers rather than a compliance exercise.

The aim is a financial system in which identity cannot be stolen with a photograph, and in which nobody is turned away for lack of a card.

TYPHOONS

The Ogasawara Maru: A 24-Hour Voyage and the Only Regular Link Between Tokyo and Its Remote Southern Islands

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The Ogasawara Islands lie about 1,000 kilometres south of central Tokyo, yet they are part of the capital. Their villages are governed by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

There is no civilian airport on the islands. The only regular link with the mainland is the ferry Ogasawara Maru, which sails from Takeshiba pier in central Tokyo to Futami port on Chichijima in about 24 hours.

The ship

The present ship, the third to bear the name, entered service in 2016. It is a large vessel of about 11,000 gross tonnes, built to cope with the open Pacific.

It usually makes about one round trip a week, staying in port at Chichijima for several days before returning. A visit to the islands therefore takes about six days, including two nights at sea.

Hahajima

Travellers to Hahajima, the other inhabited island, change at Chichijima to a smaller ferry for a voyage of about two hours.

Weather and schedules

Typhoons are the main threat to the timetable. When a storm approaches, the operator may bring a sailing forward, delay it or cancel it, and visitors can find their stay unexpectedly extended.

Residents depend on the ship for food, mail and medical travel, and the islands keep stocks of essential goods for the periods when it cannot sail.

A heritage

The islands' isolation, which makes the voyage necessary, is also what made them unique. Never connected to a continent, they developed plants, snails and birds found nowhere else, and were inscribed as a World Natural Heritage site in 2011.

Proposals to build an airport have been debated for decades, but concerns about cost and the environment have kept the ferry the islands' lifeline.

This week, as Typhoon No. 29 passes to the east, travellers will again be reminded that the Ogasawara Islands run on the ocean's timetable.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Japan Morning Post corrects errors of fact as soon as they are identified. Correction requests may be sent to corrections@japanmorningpost.com, giving the date, page and headline of the article concerned.

The notes supplied for today's edition give the agriculture minister's name as Yanagi; he is Kazuo Yana. They attribute the survey in which 26.8 per cent named the United States as a threat to world peace to the Yomiuri Shimbun; it was conducted by the Japan Press Research Institute. They say Japan joined about 21 countries in calling for the sanctions on the International Criminal Court to be withdrawn; the call came from the 21-member Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties, of which Japan is a member. They give the chemistry laureate as Kenzo Soai and say he has received an honorary professorship; he is Kenso Soai, and Tokyo University of Science said on Thursday that it would confer the title.

The notes give DeNA's home run hitter as Wada or Doai; he is Ryuki Watarai, whose home run came in the ninth inning but was not a walk-off, since DeNA were the visiting team. They give Seibu's hero as Kanario; he is Alexander Canario. They give the Giants' starter as Take maru; the name is Takemaru. They give Seibu's starter as Takahashi Mitsunari; he is Kona Takahashi.

The notes again present BookOff, Big Echo's operator and Skyticket as casualties of the attack on IDC Frontier; of this week's leaks, only those of JR East and JR Kyushu have been linked to it. They date the launch of Android Market to October 11, 2008; it opened on October 22, 2008. A note that baidu.com went online on October 11, 1999 could not be confirmed and is not used. Kumamoto Castle reopened on August 13, and Russian strikes in Ukraine that killed more than 20 people were reported on October 7; neither is repeated as news, nor are items on GCAP, the food tax saving, El Niño, the brewers and Prudential reported in previous editions.

Items in the notes that could not be confirmed from primary reports are not used, among them a fatal hit-and-run, a nurse's dismissal, a pianist's apology, a study in mice, several sports results, Honda's hybrid naming, Fujitsu's work in New Mexico, a postponement of Palestinian elections, on which accounts conflict, and a salt study on Hateruma Island. The reported detention of the founder of India's Cockroach People's Party dates from July.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, OCT. 11: Climax Series first stages, second games: Giants v DeNA at Tokyo Dome, DeNA advancing with a win; Seibu v Nippon-Ham at Belluna Dome, Seibu advancing with a win or a tie. World judo championships end with the mixed team event, final block from 11 p.m. Japan time. J1: JEF Chiba v Nagasaki, Mito v Shimizu, Tokyo Verdy v Hiroshima, Kawasaki v Nagoya. Typhoon No. 29 very strong south-east of the Ogasawara Islands.

MONDAY, OCT. 12: Sports Day; Tokyo markets closed. Izumo All-Japan University Ekiden. Nobel prize in economic sciences, about 6:45 p.m. Japan time. Typhoon No. 29 about 510 km east of Chichijima; No. 28 extratropical. Climax Series third games, if needed. NLCS Game 1, Dodgers v Brewers in Milwaukee, Japan time. TUESDAY, OCT. 13: Tokyo markets reopen; American bank results; Prudential's sales suspension begins; Hisatsu Orange Railway resumes between Yatsushiro and Higo-Tanoura. WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14: Climax Series final stages begin at Koshien and in Fukuoka; American consumer prices; Nada no Kenka Matsuri, Himeji, to Thursday. OCT. 18: Yokohama mayoral election. OCT. 24: Japan Series begins. OCT. 29 AND 30: Bank of Japan policy meeting.

TYPHOON AND MARINE ADVISORIES

6 a.m. Sunday. No. 29 (Koguma): very strong typhoon in the waters near Minamitorishima; 24.1 degrees north, 148.5 degrees east; about 710 km east-south-east of Chichijima; moving north-west at 20 km/h; 950 hPa; winds 45 m/s, gusts 65; storm-force winds 130 km all round, gales 330 km north and 280 km south. Forecast: 950 hPa, 6 p.m. Sunday; about 510 km east of Chichijima, very strong, 955 hPa, 6 a.m. Monday; strong, 970 hPa, about 980 km east-south-east of Tokyo, 3 a.m. Tuesday; severe tropical storm, 980 hPa, 3 a.m. Wednesday; extratropical, 984 hPa, 3 a.m. Thursday.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

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No. 28 (Nolo): tropical storm east of Japan; 31.9 north, 145.6 east; about 690 km south-east of Tokyo; moving north slowly; 996 hPa; winds 20 m/s, gusts 30; no storm-force area; gales 440 km north-east and 390 km south-west; 1,000 hPa at 6 p.m. Sunday; extratropical, 1,004 hPa, about 580 km east-south-east of Tokyo, 6 a.m. Monday.

Pacific coasts: higher waves than usual over the holiday, even in fine weather. Ogasawara Islands: rough seas as No. 29 makes its closest approach early on Monday. Izu and Ogasawara ferries: sailings may change at short notice. Keep off breakwaters and rocky shores exposed to the open sea. No landfall on the main islands is forecast. Emergencies at sea: 118.

MARKET REFERENCE

Tokyo, Friday's close: Nikkei 225 at 69,030.92, down 11.19, a third day of losses, after falling nearly 900 yen in the morning. TOPIX 4,104.81, up 13.35; more than 70 per cent of Prime Market shares rose. New York, Thursday: Nasdaq Composite down 1.25 per cent; Philadelphia Semiconductor Index down 3.38 per cent. Ten-year Treasury yield about 5.2 per cent; yen about 158 to the dollar; West Texas Intermediate about 91 dollars a barrel on Thursday. Japanese ten-year government bond yield above 3 per cent. Bank of Japan policy rate: 1.25 per cent. Tokyo markets are closed on Monday for Sports Day and reopen on Tuesday.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS IN THIS EDITION

Front page: Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, file image supplied for this edition. Politics: the Senkaku Islands from the air, file image supplied for this edition. International: a China Coast Guard ship at sea, file image supplied for this edition. Economy: the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TG2, CC). Typhoon page: map of the two typhoons supplied for this edition, from Japan Meteorological Agency bulletins issued between 6:45 and 7:05 a.m. on October 11. Weather: the Japan and United States maps supplied for this edition. Editorial page: cartoon by Taro Suzuki.

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THE RECORD BOOK

Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties: 21 members. ICC member states: 125. American grace period: 180 days. Peace Prize nominations this year: 287. Riyadh airport strike: at least 12 dead and 309 injured; at least 291 flights cancelled. Danjiri accidents: 2 dead, 16 injured according to most reports, 17 according to Kyodo. Senkaku incursion: four ships, about 1 hour 40 minutes. Taiwan: 21

Chinese aircraft and 7 ships in 24 hours, 13 aircraft across the median line; a proposed 2027 defence budget of 1.1 trillion Taiwan dollars. Kagoshima Line: reopened 74 days after the July 28 earthquake. National Sports Festival: Aomori's first since 1977. Shogi: Tomoka Nishiyama's fifth Hakurei title, won 4-1. Survey: United States named by 26.8 per cent, China by 32.5 per cent; newspaper subscription 49.8 per cent.

PLAY-OFF CALENDAR

CENTRAL LEAGUE: first stage, Giants v DeNA at Tokyo Dome, best of three; DeNA lead 1-0 and advance with a win; the Giants advance if the series ends level. Final stage, Hanshin v the first-stage winner at Koshien from Wednesday; Hanshin start one win up. PACIFIC LEAGUE: first stage, Seibu v Nippon-Ham at Belluna Dome; Seibu lead 1-0 and advance with a win or a tie. Final stage, SoftBank v the first-stage winner in Fukuoka from Wednesday; SoftBank start two wins up under this season's rule. Japan Series from October 24. MAJOR LEAGUES: NLCS, Dodgers v Brewers, from Sunday in Milwaukee, American time; ALCS, Rays v the winner of Guardians v White Sox.

FESTIVALS AND SKIES THIS WEEK

Izumo All-Japan University Ekiden: Monday. Nada no Kenka Matsuri, Himeji: October 14 and 15. Kannamesai, Ise Jingu: October 15 to 17. Kawagoe Festival: October 17 and 18. Jidai Matsuri and Kurama Fire Festival, Kyoto: October 22. National Sports Festival: under way in Aomori. Danjiri festivals: follow organisers' and police instructions at corners. New moon: early this morning, leaving dark skies over a fine night on the main islands.

THE SYMBOLS ON THE WEATHER MAP

A sun: sunny. A cloud: cloudy. A cloud with strokes beneath it: rain. Two symbols joined by an arrow: the first sky gives way to the second during the day. Two symbols separated by a slanting stroke: the first sky, with the second at times. The figure in red is the forecast high and the figure in blue the low observed this morning, in degrees Celsius. On the United States map the figures are in degrees Fahrenheit, and a sun partly hidden by cloud means partly cloudy.

UNITS AND CONVENTIONS

Wind speeds are given in metres a second; one metre a second is 3.6 kilometres an hour, or about 1.9 knots. Pressure is in hectopascals. Temperatures are in degrees Celsius except on the United States map. Times are Japan Standard Time unless another place is named; Japan is at present nine hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time, seven ahead of Oslo, The Hague and Nuremberg, six ahead of Riyadh, five ahead of Baku, one ahead of Taipei, 13 ahead of New York, 14 ahead of Milwaukee and 16 ahead of Los

Angeles. Distances at sea are given in kilometres unless nautical miles are stated. Japanese names are given with the family name last. A person arrested or charged is presumed innocent until convicted.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Police: 110. Fire and ambulance: 119. Coast guard, for emergencies at sea: 118. Disaster message dial: 171. Police consultation, not an emergency: #9110. Consumer hotline: 188. Anyone who receives a message about a data leak, a refund or an account problem should not follow its links, and should contact the company through its official site or a number found independently. Typhoon information is published by the Japan Meteorological Agency at www.jma.go.jp, and warnings are broadcast by NHK. Check them before heading to the coast or the mountains, where conditions can change quickly.

ABOUT THE OPINION PAGES

The editorial states the view of the editorial page and is written by its editor; it takes its subject from the day's cartoon. Articles headed Analysis are the judgment of the writer whose name they carry. The news pages report; the opinion pages argue, and say that they are doing so. Letters in reply are welcome at letters@japanmorningpost.com.

SOURCES FOR THIS EDITION

Reports in this edition draw on the Sunday morning papers and Saturday's wires and broadcasts: Yomiuri Shimbun, Asahi Shimbun, Mainichi Shimbun, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Sankei News, Kyodo News, Jiji Press, NHK, MBS, the Hokkaido Shimbun, Gekisaka, EE Times Japan, Monoist, Reuters, AFP, Axios and the Associated Press; on the International Criminal Court and the Bureau of the Assembly of States Parties; on Anthropic's report and the statements of the Philadelphia police and the State Department; on the announcements of JR Kyushu, the Financial Services Agency, the Bank of Japan, Intel, Rapidus, Crunchyroll, Tokyo University of Science, Aomori Prefecture and the Japan Shogi Association; on the Japan Meteorological Agency for weather and typhoons; and on the United States National Weather Service and Weather Prediction Center for the map of American cities. Where accounts differ the difference is stated.

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TOMORROW'S EDITION

Monday's edition carries the second games of the Climax Series and the final day of the world judo championships, with the mixed team event; Typhoon No. 29 at its closest approach to the Ogasawara Islands; the latest on the American sanctions against the International Criminal Court; and the police investigations into Saturday's danjiri accidents.

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