

★ WARRANTS GO ONLINE ★ HARASAWA WINS YOKOHAMA ★ CHAMPI TO TURN VIOLENT ★ CABINET SUPPORT BELOW 50% ★ NIKKEI DIPS BELOW 64,000 ★ PARA GAMES OPEN ★

Arrest Warrants Will Be Requested and Issued Online From This Fiscal Year, Starting With Drug Cases in Tokyo and Three Neighbouring Prefectures

The Supreme Court has set the timetable for electronic warrants, the Yomiuri Shimbun reports: Osaka, Fukuoka and other areas follow next May, and every court in the country will handle every kind of case online by next summer

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News



The Kyoto District Court, in a file photo. Under a timetable drawn up by the Supreme Court, courts in Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba will begin issuing warrants online in stimulant drug cases within the fiscal year, and every court in the country will handle all cases electronically from July next year. (File photo: WPM Productions)

Police officers in Japan will soon be able to ask a judge for an arrest warrant without leaving the station, and carry the warrant on a tablet instead of a sheet of paper, under a timetable for so-called electronic warrants drawn up by the Supreme Court, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported on Monday.

The courts will begin with cases involving stimulant drugs, chiefly the possession and use of methamphetamine, in Tokyo and the three neighbouring prefectures of Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba within the current fiscal year, which ends in March. Osaka, Fukuoka and other areas are to follow next May, and from July next year requests and warrants for every kind of case will be handled online across the country, according to the report.

The change will alter one of the most routine and least visible parts of criminal justice. Every arrest that is not made in the act, every search of a home or office and every seizure of evidence begins with a written request to a judge, and until now that request has had to travel to the court on paper, carried by an officer.

What the Constitution requires

Article 33 of the Constitution says no person shall be apprehended except upon a warrant issued by a competent judicial officer, unless he or she is caught committing an offence. Article 35 extends the same protection to homes, papers and belongings, which may be searched or seized only under a warrant that specifies the place to be searched and the things to be seized.

In practice that means a steady stream of paperwork. Courts issued 441,139 warrants in fiscal 2020, according to judicial statistics cited by Jiji Press in a 2022 report on the Justice Ministry's plans. Officers prepare a written request with the material that supports it, take it to a judge, wait for a decision and take the signed warrant back, often at night or at weekends, when judges are on duty to receive urgent requests.

In some areas the round trip to the nearest court is long, which slows investigations, and the requirement holds even in an emergency. Under the new system the request and its supporting material will be sent electronically, the judge will issue the warrant as electronic data, and officers will show it on a screen to the person being arrested or searched.

The law behind it

The legal basis was laid last year. On May 16, 2025, the Diet enacted bills revising the Code of Criminal Procedure and related laws to bring criminal proceedings into the digital age, with the support of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the Constitutional Democratic Party, then the main opposition.

Besides electronic warrants, the revisions turn trial

records into digital files that lawyers can read online, widen the use of video links in court, so that victims who do not want to face a defendant can take part from another room or place, and allow companies to hand electronic data to investigators online instead of copying it onto memory devices. Investigators can also order social media operators to keep such requests secret for up to a year.

At the time of enactment the government expected the warrant provisions to take effect by the end of fiscal 2026. The schedule now reported fits that expectation: the first courts go online before March, and the rest follow in two stages over the following summer.

Starting small

Beginning with a single category of crime in one metropolitan area means the system will be tried on real cases, in the courts of the capital region, before it carries the full national load less than a year later.

The courts have already been through a similar change on the civil side. Civil lawsuits filed since May 21 have been handled digitally from start to finish: complaints are submitted as electronic files, lawyers representing clients are required to file online, and parties can read the case record through the courts' online system, known as mints. Shortly before it started, the Supreme Court and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations estimated that about 30,000 lawyers had registered to use it.

What changes for the public

For people who are arrested, the difference will be mostly visual: the warrant read out to them will be shown on a screen rather than handed over on paper. What it must contain, and the judge's duty to decide whether there are grounds to issue it, do not change.

For the police and the courts, the gains are time and, in principle, accuracy. A request that does not have to be driven across a prefecture at night can be decided sooner, and electronic records are easier to keep, search and check than bundles of paper.

Questions to settle

The move also raises practical questions that the courts will have to answer as the system spreads: how the network carrying requests and warrants will be protected against attack, how the identity of the officer and the judge will be verified, and how a warrant will be shown when a screen fails or a signal drops in a mountain village or on a remote island.

Those questions matter more because warrants are among the state's most intrusive powers. A system built to make them faster must also make it easier, not harder, to see who asked for each one, on what grounds and who approved it.

POLITICS

Harasawa Wins Yokohama by a Landslide as the Sanseito-Backed Newcomer Finishes Second and Former Mayor Yamanaka Loses More Than 460,000 Votes

The 59-year-old lawyer, backed by local branches of four parties, takes 552,207 votes and becomes the city's second woman mayor; turnout rises in all 18 wards

By Michael Hayes | Political Correspondent

Atsumi Harasawa, a 59-year-old lawyer standing for office for the first time, was elected mayor of Yokohama on Sunday, winning more votes than her two nearest rivals combined in an election called after the previous mayor resigned over power harassment.

Ms Harasawa, who ran as an independent with the backing of the Kanagawa organisations of the Liberal Democratic Party, the Japan Innovation Party and the Democratic Party for the People and of Komeito's group in the city assembly, received 552,207 votes, or 39.49 per cent, according to the city's election board.

Atsushi Fukuyama, 37, a company president recommended by Sanseito, came second with 230,418 votes. Takeharu Yamanaka, 54, the former mayor who was trying to win back the office he gave up in September, was third with 199,746. In August last year he had been re-elected with 663,876 votes, or 52 per cent.

'Yokohama's future'

Her victory was projected at about 8 p.m., as polls closed. Greeted by loud applause at her campaign office, she shook hands with supporters and bowed deeply several times. "I will work hard to build Yokohama's future," she said.

Ms Harasawa, who has worked as an aircraft maintenance engineer, served as an outside director and auditor of companies and is a reserve member of the Self-Defense Forces, said her lack of political experience was balanced by what she could do from the citizens' point of view, which she called her strength.

She campaigned on restoring the morale of city employees, summed up in a promise to bring back their smiles, on getting a stalled administration moving again and on strengthening the city's finances by attracting companies. She is the second woman to lead Japan's largest city after Fumiko Hayashi, who served from 2009 to 2021.

The fall of the former mayor

Mr Yamanaka resigned in September after a third-party investigation found that he had abused his authority over personnel and called members of staff "human scum," conduct it judged to be power harassment. He ran again saying he wanted to carry out the policies he had promised residents.

Conceding defeat, he apologised for his shortcomings, his voice trembling. He said he was proud of his administration's record and hoped its policies would be carried on and the city would keep developing.

The rest of the field

Kazuma Nakatani, 43, a former member of the House of Representatives supported by the Kanagawa chapter of the Constitutional Democratic Party, received 179,739 votes. Sachiko Fujikawa, the representative of a citizens' group, received 97,819; Yuka Asaga of the Japanese Communist Party, 89,052; and Riken Yamamoto, the architect, 49,377.

Turnout was 45.56 per cent, up 3.92 points from last year's election, and rose in all 18 wards. About 1,416,000 people voted, some 124,000 more than last time.

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WEATHER — TOKYO

27°C

Low 18°C · Sunny, then cloudy

Sapporo

22°

Osaka

28°

Fukuoka

29°

Naha

31°

Rain spreads across central and western Japan, heavy at times in Kanazawa and Osaka; 31°C in Naha, 27°C in Tokyo. Typhoon No. 30, Champi, forecast to become violent by Wednesday. Full weather, Page 14.

TODAY IN BRIEF

- Courts: warrants go online this fiscal year, starting with drug cases in Tokyo and three neighbouring prefectures.
- Yokohama: lawyer Atsumi Harasawa wins by a landslide; Sanseito's candidate is second, ex-mayor Yamanaka third.
- Typhoon: Champi, large and very strong, is forecast to turn violent by Wednesday and pass south of Sakishima on Friday.
- Polls: Kyodo puts cabinet support at 49.1%, below half for the first time; most say Yana went too late.
- Markets: the Nikkei falls more than 1,400 yen at one point, below 64,000, on worries about U.S. tech.
- Para Games: Muraoka, Nakanishi and Miyake light the cauldron in Nagoya before a thin crowd.

THE WARRANTS

- Online from this fiscal year.
- Drug cases in four prefectures.
- Osaka, Fukuoka next May.
- All cases from July 2027.

TODAY

- Keen Sword begins.
- Upper house Budget Committee.
- Yasukuni festival ends.
- Tokyo 27, sunny then cloudy.

MARKETS	
Nikkei 225 (Mon a.m.)	64,534.03 ▼790.26
Topix (Mon a.m.)	4,050.34 ▼15.66
Dow (Fri)	52,002.41 ▼175.28
WTI crude (Fri)	\$101.41 ▲3.44
10-yr JGB	about 2.9%
Yen	about 158 per \$
BOJ policy rate	1.25%

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THE WEEK

- Tue. 20: tax cut bill; MMX launch.
- Wed. 21: Champi turns violent.
- Thu. 22: baseball draft.
- Sat. 24: Japan Series.

THE TROPICS

- Champi: 950 hPa, large.
- 920 hPa forecast by Wednesday.

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Arrest Warrants Will Be Requested and Issued Online From This Fiscal Year, Starting With Drug Cases in Tokyo and Three Neighbouring Prefectures

Continued from Page 1

The next steps

The Supreme Court's plan, as reported, leaves the rest of the year for preparation in the four prefectures around the capital. Police there will need equipment,

training and procedures before the first electronic warrant is issued, and the experience of those months will shape the national roll-out next year.

FROM PAGE 1

Harasawa Wins Yokohama by a Landslide as the Sanseito-Backed Newcomer Finishes Second and Former Mayor Yamanaka Loses More Than 460,000 Votes

Continued from Page 1

Why it matters

With about 3.7 million people, Yokohama is the country's largest municipality, and the result will be studied by every party ahead of next April's unified local elections. The alliance of local organisations that carried Ms Harasawa spanned the governing and opposition camps, and Sanseito's second place showed the party's reach in a big-city electorate.

SOCIETY

Electronic Warrants: The Road So Far

By the Society Desk

WHAT: Arrest, search and other warrants requested by investigators and issued by judges online, and shown on a screen when used.

MAY 16, 2025: The Diet enacts bills revising the Code of Criminal Procedure and related laws to digitise criminal proceedings.

MAY 21, 2026: Civil lawsuits move fully online, from filing to judgment, through the courts' mints system.

BY MARCH 2027: Courts in Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba begin handling warrants online in stimulant drug cases.

MAY 2027: Osaka, Fukuoka and other areas follow, according to the Supreme Court's schedule reported by the Yomiuri Shimbun.

JULY 2027: Electronic warrants for every kind of case, nationwide.

SCALE: Courts issued 441,139 warrants in fiscal 2020, according to judicial statistics.

ALSO IN THE LAW: Digital trial records that lawyers can read online, wider video links in court, and online submission of data by companies to investigators.

UNCHANGED: The constitutional rule that no one may be arrested, except in the act, without a warrant from a judge.

SOURCE: Yomiuri Shimbun, Jiji Press, the Supreme Court.

SOCIETY

From Request to Detention: How Japan's Warrant System Works, and the Clock That Starts When Someone Is Arrested

A judge must approve almost every arrest and search; after an arrest, police and prosecutors have three days before a court decides on detention

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Japan's Constitution makes the judge the gatekeeper of the state's power to arrest and search. Article 33 forbids arrest without a warrant issued by a competent judicial officer, except when a person is caught committing an offence, and Article 35 requires a warrant that names the place to be searched and the things to be seized before police can enter a home or take property.

Who may ask

Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, prosecutors and police officers designated as judicial police officers may ask for warrants. For arrest warrants, police requests are limited to officers of the rank of inspector or above who have been designated by a public safety commission, a rule meant to ensure that requests are weighed by senior officers before they reach a court.

What the judge sees

The request is accompanied by material showing why the suspect is thought to have committed the offence and why an arrest is needed. The judge examines it and either issues the warrant or rejects the request. A warrant is normally valid for seven days.

Three kinds of arrest

Besides an ordinary arrest under a warrant, the law allows an arrest in the act, which needs no warrant, and an emergency arrest for serious crimes when there is no time to obtain one, in which case a warrant must be sought immediately afterwards.

The clock

Once a suspect is arrested, police must send the case to prosecutors within 48 hours. Prosecutors then have 24 hours to ask a judge to order detention. Detention can last 10 days and can be extended by up to 10 more, so a suspect may be held for up to 23 days before being charged, and a fresh arrest on another allegation starts the process again.

What goes online

The new system will change how requests and warrants travel, replacing paper carried to the court with electronic data, and how they are shown, on a screen instead of a sheet of paper. It does not change who may ask, what the judge must weigh or how long a suspect may be held.

POLITICS

Yokohama Mayoral Election: The Result

By the Political Desk

ATSUMI HARASAWA, 59, independent, lawyer: 552,207 votes (39.49 per cent). Elected. Backed by the LDP, Japan Innovation Party and Democratic Party for the People in Kanagawa and by Komeito's city assembly group.

ATSUSHI FUKUYAMA, 37, independent, company president, recommended by Sanseito: 230,418 (16.48).

TAKEHARU YAMANAKA, 54, independent, former mayor: 199,746 (14.28).

KAZUMA NAKATANI, 43, independent, former lower house member, supported by the CDP's Kanagawa chapter: 179,739 (12.85).

SACHIKO FUJIKAWA, independent, citizens' group representative: 97,819 (7.00).

YUKA ASAGA, 46, Japanese Communist Party: 89,052 (6.37).

RIKEN YAMAMOTO, 81, independent, architect: 49,377 (3.53).

TURNOUT: 45.56 per cent, up 3.92 points; men 44.72, women 46.37. Higher than last year in all 18 wards, most of all in Tsuzuki, Kohoku and Aoba in the north of the city.

LAST TIME: In August 2025 Mr Yamanaka was re-elected with 663,876 votes, 52.00 per cent, on a turnout of 41.64 per cent.

SOURCE: Yokohama City Election Commission.

POLITICS

Four in Five Voters Said Harassment Mattered, the Exit Poll Shows, and Sanseito's Candidate Led Among People in Their Thirties

Most voters rated the former mayor's record well, but only about one in five voted for him; party leader Sohei Kamiya campaigned in the city several times

By Naomi Kato | Political Desk

Voters in Yokohama did not reject Takeharu Yamanaka's policies so much as the way he behaved, an exit poll conducted by Kyodo News suggests.

Of 2,246 voters questioned at 45 polling stations on Sunday, 64 per cent said they rated Mr Yamanaka's five years as mayor highly or fairly highly. Yet only 22 per cent said they had voted for him, against 36

per cent for Atsumi Harasawa.

The harassment question

Eighty-one per cent said the power harassment issue had been an important factor, very important or fairly important, in their choice, and 41 per cent of those voters backed Ms Harasawa. Kyodo attributed the former mayor's poor showing to residents' strong aversion to power harassment.

Independents and the young

Ms Harasawa, who held the vote of the Liberal Democratic Party's supporters firmly, also won 35 per cent of voters who support no party, more than any other candidate. She led in most age groups. Among voters in their twenties and younger she took 28 per cent to 25 per cent for Atsushi Fukuyama.

Voters in their thirties were the exception: there Mr Fukuyama, recommended by Sanseito, took 35 per cent to Ms Harasawa's 21.

The Sanseito campaign

Sanseito's leader, Sohei Kamiya, visited Yokohama several times during the campaign to build support for Mr Fukuyama, a 37-year-old company president with far less name recognition than the former mayor. He finished second, about 30,000 votes ahead of Mr Yamanaka.

Screens and the vote

Thirty-nine per cent of the voters questioned said information from social media and video sites had been important in deciding how to vote, a reminder of how campaigns in big cities are increasingly fought online as well as on the street.

What the parties take away

For the Liberal Democrats and their partners, the result showed that a candidate backed by a broad local alliance and untouched by scandal could win comfortably. For Sanseito, a second place in Japan's largest city is a platform ahead of next April's unified local elections. For the Constitutional Democrats, whose candidate came fourth, it was a disappointing night.

Turnout

Turnout rose to 45.56 per cent, up 3.92 points from last year's election, and was higher in all 18 wards. It rose most in the three northern wards of Tsuzuki, Kohoku and Aoba, by between 4.6 and 4.8 points. Women voted at a slightly higher rate than men, 46.37 per cent against 44.72.

Where they ran strongest

Ms Harasawa's highest shares came in Naka and Kanazawa wards, at more than 42 per cent. Mr Fukuyama did best in Nishi and Aoba, with more than 18 per cent, Mr Yamanaka in Seya, with nearly 17 per cent, and Kazuma Nakatani, the Constitutional Democrats' candidate, in Kohoku, where he took nearly a quarter of the vote.

POLITICS

Sanseito: The 'Japanese First' Party That Went From One Seat to a Force in Six Years

Founded in 2020, it won 14 upper house seats last year; its second place in Yokohama shows it can compete for big-city votes

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Sanseito, whose candidate came second in Sunday's Yokohama mayoral election, is one of the fastest-growing forces in Japanese politics.

The party was founded in 2020 by a group that included Sohei Kamiya, a former member of the Suita city assembly in Osaka Prefecture, who leads it. It built its following largely online, through videos and talks posted on social media, and through a network of local branches whose members volunteer for its campaigns.

From one seat

In the House of Councillors election of 2022, Mr Kamiya won a seat in the national proportional representation section, giving the party its first member of the Diet.

In the upper house election of July 2025 it campaigned under the slogan "Japanese First," calling for tighter controls on immigration and on foreign ownership of land, and won 14 seats, one of the surprises of the election.

What it stands for

The party presents itself as defending Japanese interests and identity. It calls for reducing the tax and social insurance burden on households, raising food self-sufficiency and protecting farmland, and for a

more cautious approach to accepting foreign workers.

Critics have accused it of stirring hostility towards foreigners and of spreading unfounded claims about health and vaccines, charges the party rejects.

In the cities

Sunday's result showed its appeal is not confined to national elections. Its recommended candidate, a 37-year-old company president, won 16.5 per cent of the vote in Yokohama and finished ahead of a former mayor, and he led among voters in their thirties, according to Kyodo's exit poll. The unified local elections next April will test whether it can turn that support into seats in local assemblies.

POLITICS

Three Polls After the Farm Minister's Exit

By the Data Desk

KYODO NEWS (October 17-18, telephone): Approval 49.1 per cent, the lowest for the Takaichi cabinet and the first time below 50; disapproval 33.0.

ON THE DISMISSAL: Too late, 57.7 per cent; appropriate, 25.7.

ON THE RESIGNATION: Only natural, 81.5 per cent; unnecessary, 11.1.

IMPACT ON THE GOVERNMENT: 54.7 per cent expect an effect.

FOOD TAX CUT: 65.1 per cent are anxious about the effect on public finances; 50.8 per cent support the income-linked benefit.

YOMIURI SHIMBUN: Approval 57 per cent, down two points, described as nearly flat; 46 per cent do not hold the prime minister responsible for the dismissal; 59 per cent approve of expansionary fiscal policy.

ASAHI SHIMBUN (October 17-18, telephone): Approval 50 per cent, down one point; disapproval 35, up from 33; 52 per cent do not rate the government's handling of the dismissal.

NHK (earlier this month): Approval 51 per cent; 78 per cent found Mr Yana's explanation unacceptable.

CONTEXT: The surveys were the first since Kazuo Yana resigned as agriculture minister on October 14 after 28 days in the post.

COMPARING THEM: The polls use different questions and methods, so their levels are not directly comparable; all three showed support slipping.

POLITICS

The Week Ahead

By the Political Desk

MONDAY 19: Keen Sword begins, through October 29. Upper house Budget Committee. Yasukuni Shrine's autumn festival ends.

TUESDAY 20: The bill to cut the consumption tax on food goes before a plenary session of the House of Representatives. The H3 rocket is due to launch the MMX probe to the moons of Mars at 4:41 a.m. from Tanegashima. Men's team final at the gymnastics world championships in Rotterdam, early on Wednesday Japan time.

WEDNESDAY 21: Typhoon Champi is forecast to become violent. Women's team final in Rotterdam, early on Thursday Japan time.

THURSDAY 22: Professional baseball draft. The education ministry's experts meet on the draft guidelines for digital textbooks. The Internal Affairs Ministry's study group on telecoms cyber defence meets for the first time. Jidai Matsuri in Kyoto.

FRIDAY 23: Champi is forecast to pass south of the Sakishima Islands.

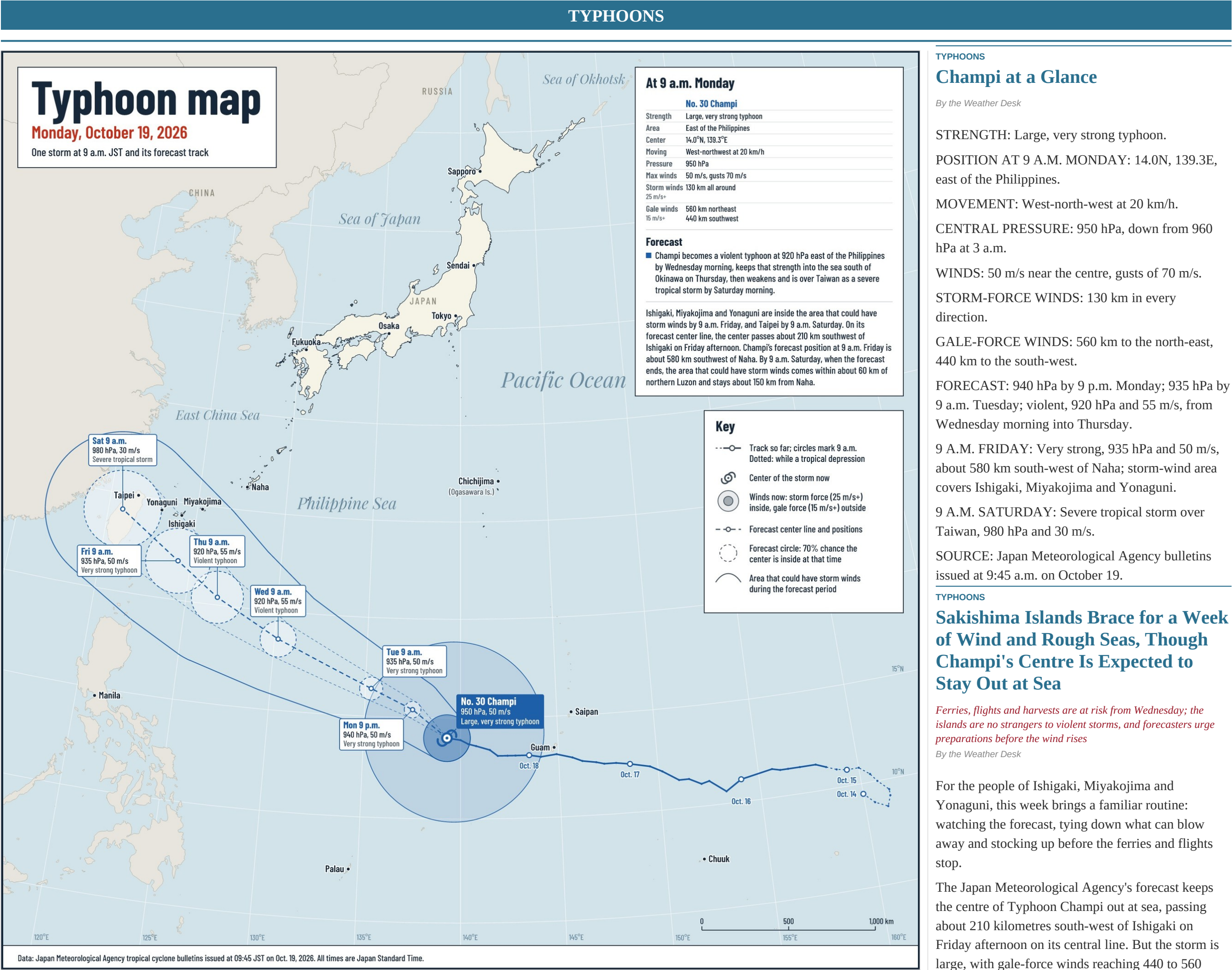
SATURDAY 24: The Japan Series opens at Yokohama Stadium. The Asian Para Games close. The World Series begins in the United States.

SUNDAY 25: Fukushima governor election. Naha mayoral election. Brazil's presidential runoff.

LATER: Israeli general election, October 27; U.S. Federal Reserve, October 27-28; Bank of Japan, October 29-30; U.S. midterms, November 3; APEC leaders' meeting in Shenzhen, November 18-19.

OCTOBER 29: Keen Sword ends.

DECEMBER 12: The Diet session ends; the government aims to enact the food tax cut by then.



Typhoon No. 30, Champi, at 9 a.m. on Monday and its forecast track, in the map supplied for this edition: a large, very strong typhoon east of the Philippines at 14.0N, 139.3E, moving west-north-west at 20 km/h, with a central pressure of 950 hPa and maximum winds of 50 m/s, gusting to 70. Storm-force winds extend 130 km all around; gale-force winds 560 km to the north-east and 440 km to the south-west. It is forecast to become violent, at 920 hPa and 55 m/s, by Wednesday morning, to stay violent on Thursday, and to be very strong about 580 km south-west of Naha at 9 a.m. Friday, when Ishigaki, Miyakojima and Yonaguni are inside the area that could have storm winds; by 9 a.m. Saturday it is over Taiwan as a severe tropical storm. Each dashed circle is where the centre is expected to be at that time with a probability of 70 per cent; the solid outline encloses the area that could have storm-force winds during the forecast period. (Data: Japan Meteorological Agency tropical cyclone bulletins issued at 9:45 a.m. on October 19)

TYPHOONS

Champi Grows Into a Large, Very Strong Typhoon and Is Forecast to Become Violent by Wednesday Before Passing South of the Sakishima Islands

At 9 a.m. on Monday the storm was east of the Philippines at 950 hPa with winds of 50 metres a second; Ishigaki, Miyakojima and Yonaguni lie inside the area that could have storm-force winds by Friday morning

By the Weather Desk

Typhoon No. 30, Champi, grew into a large, very strong typhoon over the sea east of the Philippines on Monday and is forecast to strengthen into a violent typhoon, the highest grade on the Japanese scale, by Wednesday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

At 9 a.m. the centre was at 14.0 degrees north and 139.3 degrees east, moving west-north-west at 20 kilometres an hour. Its central pressure was 950 hectopascals, with maximum sustained winds of 50 metres a second near the centre and gusts of up to 70 metres a second, according to bulletins issued at 9:45 a.m.

Storm-force winds of 25 metres a second or more extended 130 kilometres in every direction from the centre. Gale-force winds of 15 metres a second or more reached 560 kilometres to the north-east and 440 kilometres to the south-west, a reach that puts the storm in the agency's "large" category.

Deepening overnight

The storm has been strengthening steadily. At 3 a.m. it was at 13.7 degrees north and 140.4 degrees east, with a central pressure of 960 hectopascals and winds of 45 metres a second. Six hours later its pressure had fallen by 10 hectopascals and its winds had risen by 5 metres a second.

The agency expects the pressure to fall to 940 hectopascals by 9 p.m. on Monday and to 935 by 9 a.m. on Tuesday. By 9 a.m. on Wednesday the storm is forecast to be a violent typhoon of 920 hectopascals with winds of 55 metres a second, and it is expected to keep that strength into the sea south of

Okinawa on Thursday.

The islands in its path

After Thursday the typhoon is forecast to weaken gradually. At 9 a.m. on Friday it is expected to be a very strong typhoon of 935 hectopascals, about 580 kilometres south-west of Naha. By 9 a.m. on Saturday, when the official forecast ends, it is expected to be over Taiwan as a severe tropical storm of 980 hectopascals with winds of 30 metres a second.

The agency's map shows Ishigaki, Miyakojima and Yonaguni inside the area that could have storm-force winds by 9 a.m. on Friday, and Taipei inside it by 9 a.m. on Saturday. On the forecast centre line, the centre passes about 210 kilometres south-west of Ishigaki on Friday afternoon. By the end of the forecast period, the area that could have storm-force winds comes within about 60 kilometres of northern Luzon in the Philippines and stays about 150 kilometres from Naha.

What the islands can expect

Weathernews, the private forecaster, said on Monday that maximum gusts of about 30 metres a second were possible in the Sakishima Islands from Wednesday into the second half of the week even though the centre would pass at some distance, and that the seas could become very rough. On the main island of Okinawa it expects strong north-easterly winds and high waves, and rain bands spreading from the typhoon could bring heavy rain to the Nansei Islands.

The agency's probabilities, as cited by Weathernews,

give Ishigaki and the rest of the Yaeyama area a 74 per cent chance of entering the storm's zone of storm-force winds within five days, Yonaguni 73 per cent and Miyako 41 per cent, against 1 per cent for the main island of Okinawa and for Kumejima.

After Saturday

The track beyond the end of the official forecast is uncertain. Weathernews said most conventional, physics-based computer models take the storm west towards the Asian mainland, while many models built with artificial intelligence turn it north just before Taiwan and send it up the East China Sea.

The season

Champi, the 30th typhoon of the year, formed near the Marshall Islands on October 15. Thirty typhoons in a year was last reached in 2013. The name was proposed by Laos; the agency translates it as red jasmine.

On the mainland

The typhoon has no direct effect on the main islands of Japan on Monday, where a front is bringing rain to central and western areas. Forecasters advise people in Okinawa, and travellers planning trips there this week, to prepare early and to follow the latest bulletins.

TYPHOONS

Champi at a Glance

By the Weather Desk

STRENGTH: Large, very strong typhoon.

POSITION AT 9 A.M. MONDAY: 14.0N, 139.3E, east of the Philippines.

MOVEMENT: West-north-west at 20 km/h.

CENTRAL PRESSURE: 950 hPa, down from 960 hPa at 3 a.m.

WINDS: 50 m/s near the centre, gusts of 70 m/s.

STORM-FORCE WINDS: 130 km in every direction.

GALE-FORCE WINDS: 560 km to the north-east, 440 km to the south-west.

FORECAST: 940 hPa by 9 p.m. Monday; 935 hPa by 9 a.m. Tuesday; violent, 920 hPa and 55 m/s, from Wednesday morning into Thursday.

9 A.M. FRIDAY: Very strong, 935 hPa and 50 m/s, about 580 km south-west of Naha; storm-wind area covers Ishigaki, Miyakojima and Yonaguni.

9 A.M. SATURDAY: Severe tropical storm over Taiwan, 980 hPa and 30 m/s.

SOURCE: Japan Meteorological Agency bulletins issued at 9:45 a.m. on October 19.

TYPHOONS

Sakishima Islands Brace for a Week of Wind and Rough Seas, Though Champi's Centre Is Expected to Stay Out at Sea

Ferries, flights and harvests are at risk from Wednesday; the islands are no strangers to violent storms, and forecasters urge preparations before the wind rises

By the Weather Desk

For the people of Ishigaki, Miyakojima and Yonaguni, this week brings a familiar routine: watching the forecast, tying down what can blow away and stocking up before the ferries and flights stop.

The Japan Meteorological Agency's forecast keeps the centre of Typhoon Champi out at sea, passing about 210 kilometres south-west of Ishigaki on Friday afternoon on its central line. But the storm is large, with gale-force winds reaching 440 to 560 kilometres from the centre, and the agency's map places all three islands inside the area that could have storm-force winds by Friday morning.

The timetable

Weathernews expects maximum gusts of about 30 metres a second in the Sakishima Islands from Wednesday into the second half of the week. Gusts of that strength can overturn unsecured objects and damage roofing, and rough seas and strong winds can halt ferries and flights between the islands and the main island of Okinawa.

Waves are likely to build first. The swell from a large typhoon travels far ahead of the storm, and the forecaster warns that the seas around the islands could become very rough.

Getting ready

Forecasters advise residents to secure or bring indoors anything that could be blown away, such as potted plants, bicycles and garden furniture; to check drains and gutters; to store drinking water and food for several days; and to charge phones and keep a battery-powered light and radio. People who live in low-lying areas near the coast should check where and how they would evacuate.

Visitors with trips planned for the second half of the week should check with airlines and ferry operators, which often announce cancellations in advance when a typhoon approaches.

Islands used to storms

The Sakishima Islands have been battered by some of the most powerful typhoons ever recorded in Japan, and many houses there are built of concrete to withstand them. But a storm forecast to reach violent intensity deserves respect even if its centre does not come close, and forecasters urge residents not to wait until the wind rises before preparing.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Pope's first Angelus, Page 8.

Tokyo stocks slide, Page 10.

Subaru's software cars, Page 11.

MMX launch Tuesday, Page 10.

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TYPHOONS

TYPHOONS

Where Champi Goes After Taiwan Splits the Forecasters' Computers: Physics Says West, Artificial Intelligence Says North

The models agree on the track south of Okinawa this week; beyond that, two families of forecasts point in different directions

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

For the next five days the computers broadly agree about Typhoon Champi. The Japan Meteorological Agency's forecast circles, which show where the centre is expected to be with a probability of 70 per cent, stay relatively small through Saturday, a sign of confidence in the track south of Okinawa and on to Taiwan.

After that the agreement breaks down, and the way it does so says something about how weather forecasting is changing.

Two families of models

Most conventional numerical models, which simulate the atmosphere by solving the equations of physics on supercomputers, take the storm west towards the Asian mainland, Weathernews said on Monday.

Many of the newer models built with artificial intelligence, which learn the behaviour of the atmosphere from decades of past weather data and can produce a forecast in minutes, instead turn the storm north just before Taiwan and send it up the East China Sea.

A shifting picture

The forecaster noted that the runs produced on Sunday night had favoured a westward track because of a strengthening area of high pressure, while Monday morning's runs split into the two main scenarios. It advised people to keep checking for updates.

Over the weekend Weathernews had observed that AI forecasts tended to show a more westward track than physics-based models for this storm; the roles have now partly reversed, a reminder that neither approach is infallible.

Why it matters

A northward turn up the East China Sea would keep the storm, by then expected to be weaker, in waters closer to Japan, while a westward track would carry it away. There is no official forecast beyond Saturday morning, and the agency's five-day forecast is the one on which warnings are based.

A new tool

Weather services and research centres around the world are studying how best to use AI models alongside traditional ones. Typhoons, whose tracks depend on large-scale winds that both kinds of model must capture, are one of the most closely watched tests.

TYPHOONS

Gusts of 85.3 Metres a Second on Miyakojima in 1966: The Typhoons That Set Okinawa's Records

The second-highest gust ever measured in Japan was recorded on Miyakojima; in 2003 and 2015 storms left islands without power and destroyed homes

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The islands that Typhoon Champi will brush this week hold some of Japan's most extreme weather records.

Miyakojima, 1966

On September 5, 1966, the storm remembered in Okinawa as the Second Miyakojima Typhoon drove a maximum gust of 85.3 metres a second on Miyakojima, the second-highest ever recorded in Japan. About 90 per cent of the homes on the Miyako Islands were destroyed or damaged, crops were wiped out and 22 people were injured, according to the Ryukyu Shimp'o's records.

Miyako, 2003

In September 2003 Typhoon No. 14, Maemi, brought a gust of 74.1 metres a second to Miyako, with a central pressure as low as 912 hectopascals. One person died and 93 were injured, and about 20,900 households, 96 per cent of those on the island, lost power.

Yonaguni, 2015

In September 2015 Typhoon No. 21, Dujuan, produced a gust of 81.1 metres a second on Yonaguni, the fourth-highest on record. It damaged 322 homes, 10 of them destroyed completely, broke

more than 40 utility poles and cut telephone lines for a long time.

The main island

The main island has had its own ordeals. Typhoon No. 17 of 2012 brought a gust of 61.2 metres a second to Naha and left about 334,400 households without power at one point, and Typhoon No. 24 of 2018 cut power to about 250,000 households across the main island and Miyako.

This week

Champi is forecast to pass well south of the islands, but its expected strength, violent at its peak, is a reminder of what typhoons have done here before and why islanders take every forecast seriously.

TYPHOONS

Why Champi Is No. 30: How Japan Numbers Typhoons Each Year and How 14 Countries Share the List of Names

Japan counts from January 1; the names rotate through a list of 140 contributed by members of a regional committee, and Japan's contributions are constellations

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Japanese forecasts refer to typhoons mainly by number. The Japan Meteorological Agency numbers them in the order in which they form, starting again from No. 1 each January, which is why the storm now heading south of Okinawa is Typhoon No. 30 of 2026.

A shared list of names

Each storm also receives a name, which is used internationally. Since 2000 the names have been drawn in order from a list of 140 contributed by the 14 members of the Typhoon Committee, a regional body under the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the World Meteorological Organization. The members include Japan, China, the two Koreas, the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and the United States, among others.

When the end of the list is reached, it starts again from the beginning, so names recur every few years.

Where the names come from

The names reflect the cultures of the members: flowers, animals, mythological figures and places. Champi was proposed by Laos, and the agency translates it as red jasmine. Japan's contributions are the names of constellations, such as Koguma, the Little Bear, the name given to this year's Typhoon No. 29.

Retired names

The names of storms that cause great loss of life or damage can be retired at the request of affected members and replaced with new ones, so that they are not reused.

The numbers that matter

For residents, the more important numbers are those in the bulletins: the central pressure, the maximum winds and the radius of storm- and gale-force winds. Champi was at 950 hectopascals with winds of 50 metres a second at 9 a.m. on Monday and is forecast to deepen to 920 hectopascals by Wednesday.

POLITICS

Yokohama's New Mayor at a Glance

By the Political Desk

NAME: Atsumi Harasawa.

AGE: 59.

PROFESSION: Lawyer.

EARLIER CAREER: Aircraft maintenance engineer; outside director and auditor of companies.

ALSO: A reserve member of the Self-Defense Forces.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: None; Sunday's election was her first.

BACKING: Kanagawa organisations of the LDP, the Japan Innovation Party and the Democratic Party for the People, and Komeito's city assembly group.

RESULT: 552,207 votes, 39.49 per cent, more than her two nearest rivals combined.

PLEDGES: Restore the morale of city employees, restart a stalled administration and strengthen the finances by attracting companies.

SECOND WOMAN MAYOR: After Fumiko Hayashi, who served from 2009 to 2021.

THE CITY: About 3.7 million people, Japan's largest municipality.

POLITICS

Debate on the Food Tax Cut Opens in the Lower House on Tuesday With Its Funding Still Unclear and the Opposition Demanding 30 Hours of Questions

The ruling bloc wants the bill through the House of Representatives in early November and enacted by December 12; the LDP signals it will consider changes, and two opposition parties bring alternatives

By Naomi Kato | Political Desk

The government's bill to cut the consumption tax on food and drink goes before a plenary session of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, opening a debate in which the government will have to explain how it will pay for the measure and how the new cash benefit attached to it will work.

The government and the ruling parties aim to pass the bill through the lower house in early November and to enact it before the Diet session ends on December 12, Kyodo News reported. They want the lower house Committee on Financial Affairs to begin its deliberations within the week.

The bill

The bill would cut the reduced rate of consumption tax on food from 8 per cent to 1 per cent for two years from fiscal 2027, returning it to 8 per cent in fiscal 2029. It also creates a new income-linked cash benefit for working people, provisionally called a support payment to reduce the burden on workers, which the government has said would average about 30,000 yen a year for some 20 million people.

How the cut, which would cost several trillion yen a year, will be funded remains unclear, as does the detailed design of the benefit. Support for restaurants, whose meals the tax cut does not cover, and for farmers are also unsettled, the Tokyo Shimbun reported.

The opposition's demands

Yuichi Goto, who handles Diet affairs for the Chudo group in the lower house, has said about 30 hours of questioning will be needed, along with joint sessions with the agriculture committee and others, and has asked that the prime minister attend committee sessions.

Because the ruling bloc lacks a majority in the House of Councillors, it needs the votes of opposition or independent members to pass the bill, and how far it is willing to compromise is the central question.

Alternatives

The Democratic Party for the People plans to submit its own bill, centred on a cut in resident tax, as early as Tuesday, together with a cash payment of about 50,000 yen in fiscal 2026 aimed at people on low and middle incomes who bear a heavy burden of social insurance contributions.

Komeito has declared its opposition to the government bill for now and has drawn up an alternative under which every resident would receive about 80,000 yen over two years.

Signals on television

On an NHK programme on Sunday, Koichi Hagiuda, the Liberal Democratic Party's acting secretary-general, signalled that the party was open to amendments. The conclusion and the vote were not decided in advance, he said, and points raised by the opposition that deserved to be corrected would be corrected.

He acknowledged that there was some truth in the criticism that the bill's content and structure were hard to understand, and said the effect of the tax cut on the regions also needed to be considered.

Kazuya Shinba, secretary-general of the Democratic Party for the People, said his party was not opposed to the bill as a matter of course and that "realistic" negotiations with the ruling side might be possible because it lacked an upper house majority. He questioned whether the rate could really return from 1 per cent to 8 per cent in fiscal 2029.

Takumi Shibata, secretary-general of the Japan Innovation Party, the Liberal Democrats' coalition partner, said farmers, foresters and fishermen and the restaurant industry could be affected, and that his party would respond sincerely to good proposals from the opposition. Makoto Nishida, Komeito's secretary-general, said the support payment for workers on low and middle incomes had many

ambiguous points.

The public mood

A Kyodo News poll conducted on Saturday and Sunday found that 65.1 per cent of respondents were anxious about the effect of the tax cut on public finances, while 50.8 per cent supported the income-linked benefit.

POLITICS

Yasukuni's Autumn Festival: Who Went, Who Sent

By the Political Desk

THE PRIME MINISTER: A private tamagushi-ryo, delivered on Monday.

HER MESSENGER: Hiroshi Kajiyama, LDP General Council chairman.

ON SATURDAY: A masakaki from the prime minister.

LAND MINISTER: Tatsunori Ibayashi visited.

LDP ELECTION CHIEF: Yasutoshi Nishimura visited.

CROSS-PARTY GROUP: Visited together on Monday.

ITS CHAIRMAN: Ichiro Aisawa, LDP.

THE FESTIVAL: October 17 to 19.

LAST PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT: Shinzo Abe, December 2013.

IN APRIL: A masakaki and a tamagushi-ryo from Ms Takaichi.

POLITICS

Yasukuni Shrine: Why Offerings, Visits and Absences There Are Watched in Beijing, Seoul and Washington

Founded in 1869 to honour Japan's war dead, it has enshrined 14 Class-A war criminals since 1978; no emperor has visited since 1975

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Yasukuni Shrine, in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward, honours about 2.46 million people who died in Japan's wars, from the conflicts of the 1860s to World War II.

Its origins

It was founded in 1869, at the direction of Emperor Meiji, as Tokyo Shokonsha, to honour those who died fighting for the imperial side in the Boshin War, and was renamed Yasukuni Jinja, the shrine of the peaceful country, in 1879. Before 1945 it was administered by the army and navy and was a central institution of State Shinto.

The war criminals

In 1978 the shrine enshrined 14 wartime leaders convicted or charged as Class-A war criminals by the Allied tribunal in Tokyo, among them the former prime minister Hideki Tojo. The decision became public the following year.

The emperors

Emperor Showa visited Yasukuni several times after the war, the last time in 1975, and no emperor has visited since. A memo by a former grand steward of the Imperial Household Agency, published in 2006, suggested that the emperor had stopped going because of his displeasure over the enshrinement of the Class-A criminals.

Prime ministers

Yasuhiro Nakasone made an official visit on August 15, 1985, which drew strong protests from China. Junichiro Koizumi visited every year from 2001 to 2006. Shinzo Abe visited in December 2013, drawing criticism from Beijing and Seoul and an expression of disappointment from the United States. Since then prime ministers have sent offerings instead.

The festivals

The shrine holds its main festivals in spring, in April, and in autumn, in October, when politicians' offerings and visits are most closely watched, and many lawmakers visit on August 15, the anniversary of the end of the war.

The debate

Supporters say it is natural for a nation's leaders to honour those who died for it. Critics, at home and abroad, say the enshrinement of war leaders and the shrine's museum, the Yushukan, present a view of the war that glorifies it. Proposals for a secular national memorial have been discussed at times, and the nearby Chidorigafuchi National Cemetery holds the remains of unidentified war dead.

POLITICS



Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi answers questions in the Diet. In the House of Councillors Budget Committee on Monday she said bond issuance would be kept under appropriate control as the government cuts the consumption tax on food, and urged the former farm minister Kazuo Yana to keep explaining himself. (File photo: WPM Productions)

POLITICS

Takaichi Promises to Keep Bond Issuance 'Under Appropriate Control' While Cutting the Food Tax, and Denies Her Policies Weakened the Yen

In the upper house Budget Committee the prime minister says spending and revenue will both be reviewed, urges Kazuo Yana to keep explaining himself and rules out a blanket duty to record lawmakers' budget requests

By Michael Hayes | Political Correspondent

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on Monday that the government would pay for its cut in the consumption tax on food through a reform of the way budgets are drawn up, reviewing both spending and revenue, and would keep the total issuance of government bonds under appropriate control.

Answering questions in the House of Councillors Budget Committee, which held a general session with the prime minister and all cabinet ministers present, Ms Takaichi said the government would examine the overall size of its spending and manage the year's bond issuance, across the initial budget and any supplementary budgets, appropriately.

The remarks came a day before the bill to cut the tax on food and drink goes before a plenary session of the House of Representatives, and as markets watch closely for signs of how the government intends to finance the measure.

The yen and interest rates

Ms Takaichi firmly rejected the argument that her policies were behind the weak yen and rising interest rates. She said the criticism had been made repeatedly and that she denied it, arguing that building a strong economy would raise confidence in the currency.

The yen was trading in the high 157 range against the dollar on Monday morning, and the yield on the 10-year government bond has risen to about 2.9 per cent.

Yana's accountability

Asked about Kazuo Yana, who resigned as agriculture minister on October 14, Ms Takaichi said that leaving the Cabinet did not end his accountability as a politician. She urged him to decide for himself how to explain his conduct and to fulfil that responsibility carefully.

Mr Yana stepped down after a recording surfaced in

which he said road budgets for two municipalities in his Tochigi constituency, whose mayors had not supported him, had been cut sharply. He has withdrawn the remark and denied asking for any cut.

No duty to keep records

Ms Takaichi said the government was not considering, for now, a uniform requirement for ministries to make and keep records when sitting lawmakers contact them about budget allocations, citing the efficient running of the administration.

Tatsunori Ibayashi, the land, infrastructure and transport minister, gave a narrower answer, saying ministries would decide case by case, in line with the relevant laws, whether a record should be made. The transport ministry has said it kept no record of Mr Yana's inquiry about road money for the two municipalities.

A watchdog for political funds

The prime minister also said she expected an appropriate start for a political funds monitoring committee, a third-party body provided for in legislation drafted by lawmakers to improve the transparency of political money. "I expect this provision to be realised appropriately," she said.

The week's battle

The opposition is expected to press the government this week on how it will fund the tax cut, on the design of the new benefit for working people that accompanies it, and on the Yana affair, which a Kyodo News poll at the weekend found had pushed support for the cabinet below 50 per cent for the first time.

appropriate. Asked whether his resignation was justified, 81.5 per cent said it was only natural and 11.1 per cent that it had been unnecessary.

Some 54.7 per cent said the resignation would affect the running of the government, including those who expected some effect.

A belated decision

In an analysis of the results, Kyodo concluded that the delay in removing the minister had pushed support down, and described the coming weeks as a critical test of the prime minister's ability to keep her grip on her party and the government.

Other surveys

Other polls taken over the weekend found smaller changes. The Yomiuri Shimbun put approval at 57 per cent, down two points and described as nearly flat, with 46 per cent saying the prime minister was not responsible for the de facto dismissal and 59 per cent approving of expansionary fiscal policy.

The Asahi Shimbun found approval of 50 per cent, down one point, and disapproval of 35 per cent, up from 33. Fifty-two per cent said they did not rate the government's handling of the dismissal.

The tax cut

On the government's flagship economic measure, the Kyodo poll found 65.1 per cent anxious about the effect of the food tax cut on public finances, and 50.8 per cent in favour of the income-linked cash benefit for working people.

Why it matters

The government needs opposition votes to pass the tax cut bill through the House of Councillors, where it lacks a majority. A weakened prime minister has less leverage in those negotiations, and her party will be watching the numbers ahead of next April's unified local elections.

POLITICS

Takaichi Sends a Private Offering to Yasukuni Through Kajiyama but Stays Away, While Two of Her Ministers and Party Executives Visit

Land Minister Ibayashi and election chief Nishimura pray at the shrine on the last day of the autumn festival, and a cross-party group of lawmakers visits together

By the Political Desk

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi did not visit Yasukuni Shrine during its autumn festival, which ended on Monday, but paid a private offering of tamagushi-ryo through Hiroshi Kajiyama, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's General Council.

Mr Kajiyama visited the shrine in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward on Monday. "I was entrusted with the feelings of LDP President Takaichi as tamagushi-ryo, and I presented it," he told reporters.

On Saturday, the first day of the festival, Ms Takaichi sent a masakaki, a sacred tree offering, under the name "Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi." She was expected to stay away during the festival out of consideration for China and South Korea.

Ministers and party leaders

Tatsunori Ibayashi, the land, infrastructure and transport minister, and Yasutoshi Nishimura, chairman of the party's Election Strategy Committee, visited the shrine.

Members of a cross-party group of lawmakers who visit Yasukuni together, Minna de Yasukuni Jinja ni Sanpai suru Kokkai Giin no Kai, prayed there on Monday. Ichiro Aisawa, the group's chairman and a Liberal Democratic member of the House of Representatives, said the visit renewed their pledge to build Japan as a peaceful nation, mindful of the horror of war and the value of peace.

Her record

Ms Takaichi sent a masakaki and a private tamagushi-ryo for the spring festival in April. She did not visit during the autumn festival last October, shortly before she became prime minister, or the spring festival this year. On August 15, the anniversary of the end of the war, she paid her respects towards the shrine from the car park of the nearby Nippon Budokan without entering it.

Why it is sensitive

Yasukuni honours about 2.46 million people who died in Japan's wars, including 14 leaders convicted as Class-A war criminals by the Allied tribunal after World War II, and Beijing and Seoul regard visits by Japanese leaders as glorifying the country's militarist past. No serving prime minister has visited since Shinzo Abe in December 2013.

The balance

By making offerings without going in person, Ms Takaichi has followed the practice of most of her recent predecessors, honouring the war dead while avoiding a clash with neighbours whose cooperation she needs on security and the economy.

POLITICS

Keen Sword Begins With More Than 50,000 Japanese and American Troops, as the Type 25 Missile Leaves Kumamoto and a U.S. Carrier Sails From Yokosuka

The long-range missile's launchers moved to a training area in Nagasaki and Saga for their first major exercise; the USS Theodore Roosevelt, the first visiting carrier at Yokosuka since 2022, joins the drills

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

Japan's Self-Defense Forces and the United States military began Keen Sword, their largest joint field exercise, on Monday, with more than 50,000 personnel from the two countries training across Japan, including Okinawa, through October 29.

For the first time since it entered service, the Ground Self-Defense Force's Type 25 surface-to-ship guided missile, Japan's new long-range missile, is taking part in a large-scale exercise.

From Kumamoto

On Sunday morning, launchers and related equipment left Camp Kengun in Higashi Ward, Kumamoto City, where the missile was deployed in March, and headed for the Onohara training area, which straddles Nagasaki and Saga prefectures.

The domestically produced missile is fired from launchers mounted on vehicles on the ground and has a range of about 1,000 kilometres, enough to reach parts of China's coast. The government acquired it as part of its counterstrike capability, the means to strike enemy bases.

According to the Defense Ministry, the training will simulate responses to enemy warships. No missiles will be fired.

A carrier at Yokosuka

The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt left the U.S. Navy's Yokosuka base in Kanagawa Prefecture on Monday to join the exercise. It had called at Yokosuka for the first time on Friday for supplies and rest, the first visit by a carrier not based there since 2022.

The scale

About 45,000 members of the Self-Defense Forces and about 12,000 American personnel are taking part, according to figures released before the exercise, in a scenario in which Japan comes under attack. Seven countries besides Japan and the United States are joining in, five of them, including France and Germany, for the first time.

Why now

Keen Sword is held roughly every two years. This year's comes as Chinese military activity around Japan increases and as Tokyo and Washington work to integrate their command structures and to strengthen defences on the Nansei Islands, the chain that runs from Kyushu towards Taiwan.

The message

For the government, the deployment of the Type 25 is a visible sign of a capability it has spent years building under the national security documents adopted in 2022, intended to make an attack on Japan more costly and therefore less likely.

POLITICS

Energy Subsidies 'Will Continue,' Says Hagiuda, Pointing to Help With Winter Electricity and Gas Bills Alongside the Food Tax Cut

The government paid subsidies for July to September; the LDP's acting secretary-general says utility costs must be considered as the year end approaches

By Ethan Cole | Economics Correspondent

Koichi Hagiuda, the Liberal Democratic Party's acting secretary-general, indicated on Sunday that the government would consider resuming subsidies for household electricity and gas bills this winter.

"We have provided energy subsidies until now, and we will continue to do so," he said on an NHK programme.

Utility costs such as electricity and gas must be considered as the end of the year approaches, he said, adding that the government would protect household finances with a package of measures that includes the cut in the consumption tax on food and drink.

The summer subsidy

The government subsidised electricity and gas bills for July, August and September, when air conditioning pushes up household energy use, to ease the burden on families.

Mr Hagiuda did not say which months a new subsidy would cover or how much it would cost, and no formal decision has been announced.

The backdrop

Energy prices have been pushed up this autumn by the conflict in the Middle East, which has disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and supplies from the Gulf, and the government has already introduced a subsidy for imported kerosene, the fuel many homes in northern Japan use for heating.

The cost

Subsidies for energy bills have been one of the government's main tools against rising prices since 2023, but they are costly and have been criticised for

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helping high and low earners alike. Any new round would add to the pressure on public finances at a time when the government is also seeking funds for the food tax cut.

POLITICS

Komeito's Okamoto Begins His First Regional Tour as Leader, Admitting the Failed Merger Could Hurt the Party in Next Spring's Local Elections

In Sendai he repeats the goal of electing every candidate; the party says it will end the electoral cooperation agreed in April with the Constitutional Democrats and the Centrist Reform Alliance
By Naomi Kato | Political Desk

Mitsunari Okamoto, the leader of Komeito, began his first tour of the regions since taking office on Sunday, telling a convention of the party's Miyagi prefectural chapter in Sendai that the goal was to elect every Komeito candidate in next spring's unified local elections.

Achieving that, he said, should lead to "new expectations from the people" for the party.

Headwinds

Komeito faces headwinds after the break-up of the Centrist Reform Alliance, the joint party formed in January by lower house members of the Constitutional Democratic Party and Komeito to fight the general election in February, and it is moving quickly to rebuild its strength.

Speaking to reporters after the convention, Mr Okamoto acknowledged that the failed merger could affect the local elections and said the party would work to keep the damage to a minimum. Decisions on cooperation with other parties would depend on the people and policies involved, he said.

Ending a pact

Komeito said it would end the electoral cooperation for the unified local elections that it had agreed in principle in April with the Constitutional Democratic Party and the Centrist Reform Alliance.

In opposition

Komeito, which spent more than two decades in coalition with the Liberal Democrats until last year, now sits in opposition. It has come out against the government's food tax cut bill and proposes instead a payment of about 80,000 yen per person over two years.

The stakes

The unified local elections are the foundation of Komeito's strength, built on the organisation of its support base in prefectural and municipal assemblies. How it fares next April will show whether its new course outside the coalition, and without the merger, can hold that base together.

POLITICS

Four Candidates Launch Campaigns for Naha Mayor, With the Incumbent Backed by Six Parties From Across the Spectrum

Satoru Chinen, 63, promises an early move of the military port to Urasoe; a candidate backed by the Communists and Social Democrats calls for its unconditional return; voting is on October 25
By the Political Desk

Campaigning for the mayoral election in Naha, the capital of Okinawa Prefecture, officially began on Sunday, with four candidates, all running as independents, filing their candidacies. Voting takes place on Sunday, October 25.

The election follows the end of the incumbent's term, and voters' verdict on the current administration is the main issue.

The candidates

Satoru Chinen, 63, the incumbent, is seeking a second term with the backing of the Liberal Democratic Party, the Japan Innovation Party, the Democratic Party for the People, Komeito, the Constitutional Democratic Party and the Okinawa Social Mass Party.

Sachiko Kuteken, 74, a newcomer who chairs a civic group, is supported by the Japanese Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party.

Kento Yajima, 35, a company president, and Ryo Yoshimine, 25, a company employee, are also standing, both as newcomers.

The bases

Mr Chinen has promised an early relocation of the Naha Military Port to Urasoe, north of the city, along with more support for child-rearing.

Ms Kuteken calls for the unconditional return of the military port and opposes the use of Naha Airport by the U.S. military.

Mr Yajima proposes hiring more teachers and raising the pay of nursery workers, and Mr Yoshimine stresses raising household incomes.

An unusual line-up

The breadth of Mr Chinen's support, from the Liberal Democrats to the Okinawa Social Mass Party, reflects local politics in Naha rather than the national divide. On Okinawa's main island, the question of the U.S. bases has long shaped elections, and the campaign coincides with the Keen Sword exercise and with a typhoon expected to pass south of the prefecture later in the week.

POLITICS

Defense Ministry Considers Letting Retired Self-Defense Force Members Set Up Companies to Take On Logistics Work

Outsourcing support tasks to firms run by former personnel would free uniformed members for front-line duties, the Sankei Shimbun reports, as the forces struggle to recruit
By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

The Defense Ministry is considering allowing retired members of the Self-Defense Forces to establish companies that would take on logistics and other support work outsourced by the forces, the Sankei Shimbun reported on its front page on Monday.

The idea would let the forces draw on the skills of people who have left the service while concentrating serving members on duties that only uniformed personnel can perform, according to the report.

A shortage of hands

The Self-Defense Forces have struggled for years to recruit enough people, as the number of young people declines and competition with private employers for workers intensifies, and the government and the Liberal Democratic Party have been discussing how to speed up improvements in pay and conditions.

Looking after veterans

The ministry began a review in June of economic and welfare support for retired personnel and their families, including the possibility of a new organisation to provide it, NHK reported at the time. Japanese media have since reported that the ministry is studying an agency for retired members that could be set up as early as fiscal 2027.

Second careers

Most members of the Self-Defense Forces retire much earlier than civil servants, many in their mid-50s, and finding them second careers has long been a concern for the ministry, which runs programmes to help them find jobs with companies and local governments.

What is next

The Sankei did not report a timetable for the proposal. Any change would have to address questions such as how contracts would be awarded to companies run by former personnel and how to prevent conflicts of interest, issues that have dogged the hiring of retired officials by defence contractors in the past.

POLITICS

Airbus Defence Chief Says Germany Must Get a 'Fair Share' of Work and Technology if It Joins the Fighter Programme Japan Leads With Britain and Italy

Michael Schoellhorn tells Handelsblatt a decision is needed by the end of the year; Chancellor Merz is due in Tokyo later this month
By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

The head of Airbus Defence and Space has said that Germany's industrial partner should receive a fair share of the work if the country joins the Global Combat Air Programme, the next-generation fighter being developed by Japan, Britain and Italy.

In an interview published online on Sunday by Handelsblatt, the German business newspaper, Michael Schoellhorn, the company's chief executive, said Germany would have to invest large sums and should therefore share fairly in the workload and in technology development, not only in production.

What Airbus offers

He said Airbus was strong in flight control and in the central section of the fuselage. A decision on whether Germany takes part, he said, must be made by the end of the year.

Airbus Defence and Space is based in Taufkirchen, in southern Germany.

The diplomacy

Britain's prime minister, Andy Burnham, told Chancellor Friedrich Merz in Berlin on October 8 that Britain would welcome Germany's participation. Mr Merz is expected to visit Japan later this month and meet Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, and the fighter programme could be on the agenda.

The programme

GCAP brings together Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Britain's BAE Systems and Italy's Leonardo, with the aim of fielding a stealth fighter in the mid-2030s to replace Japan's F-2 and the Eurofighter Typhoons flown by Britain and Italy. Germany is part of a separate European project with France and Spain, the Future Combat Air System, which has been troubled by disputes between the partner companies over the division of work.

The question for Tokyo

A German partner could bring money and a larger market for the fighter, but adding a fourth country also risks the kind of argument over shares that Mr Schoellhorn's remarks foreshadow, in a programme whose partners have stressed the need to keep to its schedule.

POLITICS

Property Brokers Will Be Asked to Report Deals Involving Suspicious Foreign Companies or Cryptocurrency Under a Tougher Money-Laundering Checklist

The transport ministry's draft revision tells agents to report a transaction if even one item applies, or if they are unsure; the police will use the information in investigations
By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has drafted a revised checklist to help real estate brokers spot suspicious transactions, adding deals involving questionable foreign corporations and payments in cryptocurrency, in an effort to stop criminals laundering money through property, Kyodo News reported on Sunday, citing people familiar with the plan.

Under the draft, brokers would be asked to report to the ministry or a prefectural government if a transaction meets even one item on the list, or if they are unsure whether it is suspicious. The National Police Agency would gather the reports and use them in its investigations.

Countries to watch

Brokers would also be encouraged to report dealings with individuals or companies based in countries with weak defences against money laundering, identified by referring to the lists published by the Financial Action Task Force, the intergovernmental body that sets standards in the field.

Cryptocurrency is being added in anticipation of its wider use in property deals.

When

A council of industry associations is expected to reflect the changes in the checklist this month.

Why property

Real estate involves large sums of money and can be bought and resold quickly, which makes it attractive to people trying to disguise the origin of criminal proceeds. In a recent case cited in the report, a senior figure in a criminal organisation based in Cambodia with links to China had bought and resold expensive properties in Tokyo within a short period.

The wider picture

Property prices in central Tokyo have soared in recent years, drawing buyers from abroad, and concern about opaque purchases has grown alongside them. The checklist does not change the law, but it gives brokers clearer guidance on when to raise the alarm.

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POLITICS

Self-Defense Force Firefighters Come Home From Indonesia After Their First Overseas Mission Against Forest Fires

Ground forces' CH-47 helicopters fought the blazes, carried there and back by the transport ship Kunisaki; Defense Minister Koizumi says the unit completed its mission admirably
By the Political Desk

The Defense Ministry held a ceremony at the Maritime Self-Defense Force's base in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, on Sunday to welcome home a unit sent to Indonesia to fight forest fires as part of Japan's international disaster relief team.

It was the first time the Self-Defense Forces had fought fires overseas. Ground Self-Defense Force CH-47 transport helicopters dropped water on the fires, and the Maritime Self-Defense Force transport ship Kunisaki carried them to Indonesia and back.

'An admirable job'

Members of the unit and their families attended the ceremony. Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said the unit had worked in an unprecedented and harsh environment overseas, "completed its mission admirably and returned home safely," and said he was glad to see them back.

He said Indonesian officials had repeatedly expressed their gratitude and that every member of the unit had been awarded a medal.

Trust between neighbours

The mission had strengthened trust between the two countries so that they could help each other in times of need, Mr Koizumi said.

Why it matters

Forest and peat fires in Indonesia, which recur in dry seasons, can spread smoke across South-East Asia. Japan and Indonesia have deepened their security ties in recent years, and disaster relief is one of the least controversial ways for the Self-Defense Forces to work alongside partners abroad.

The helicopters

The CH-47, a twin-rotor heavy transport helicopter, can carry a large bucket of water slung beneath it, and the Ground Self-Defense Force regularly uses it to help fight forest fires in Japan.

POLITICS

Princess Aiko Walks Through Kurayoshi's White-Walled Storehouses, Rebuilt After the 2016 Earthquake, and Tries Her Hand at a Hakota Doll

On the second day of her visit to Tottori she asks a young survivor about the quake, worries she has painted the eyebrows too thick and tours the museum of a local yokozuna
By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Princess Aiko, the daughter of the Emperor and Empress, visited the Shirakabe Dozo-gun district of Kurayoshi in Tottori Prefecture on Sunday afternoon, seeing how the town has recovered from the earthquake that struck the centre of the prefecture in 2016.

The district, a preservation area of townhouses and storehouses from the Edo and Meiji periods known for their white walls and red roof tiles, is one of Tottori's best-known tourist attractions and was badly damaged in the earthquake.

A survivor's memories

Walking through the streets, the princess spoke with a young woman who had lived through the earthquake. "It must have shaken quite strongly, didn't it?" she asked, and also asked whether the woman had had a chance to eat emergency food.

A doll to paint

At a workshop that makes Hakota dolls, a traditional local craft, she tried painting one herself. She appeared nervous as she worked on the face and laughed as she said, "I may have made the eyebrows too thick."

A yokozuna's museum

She also toured a memorial museum dedicated to Kotozakura, the former yokozuna who was born in the area.

Her visit

The princess, who works for the Japanese Red Cross Society, is in Tottori for Bosai Kokutai 2026, a national event on disaster preparedness. On Saturday

POLITICS

she heard women's perspectives on running evacuation shelters. The visit coincides with a visit by her parents to the prefecture.

POLITICS

Princess Kako, Signing Her Greeting, Hopes Society Will Better Understand People Who Lose Their Hearing

At a national conference in Kyoto she praises the spread of captioned broadcasts, telling honorees it was 'a very big thing'
By the Society Desk

Princess Kako, the second daughter of Crown Prince Akishino, attended the 30th national welfare conference for people with acquired hearing loss and the hard of hearing in Kyoto on Sunday, her first time at the gathering.

At the opening ceremony she expressed the hope that society as a whole would deepen its understanding of acquired hearing loss and hearing difficulties, that people with them could obtain information widely and communicate with confidence, and that everyone could live together.

In sign language and on screen

The princess delivered her greeting in sign language. It was conveyed to the audience by a staff member and shown as text on a screen in the hall.

Captions on television

After the ceremony she met people honoured for helping to spread captioning on television. "I felt that the spread of captioned broadcasting was a very big thing," she said.

Her interests

The princess, who arrived in Kyoto on Saturday, has long been involved in events concerning sign language and people with hearing impairments, and frequently uses sign language at public engagements.

Why captions matter

For people who lose their hearing later in life, many of whom never learn sign language, written information such as subtitles is often the main way to follow television, announcements and public events.

POLITICS

Residents of Shimizu in Hokkaido Petition for a Referendum on Renaming Their Town Tokachi Shimizu After the Assembly Rejected the Idea

The mayor's plan failed in June on the speaker's casting vote; a residents' group gathered 2,535 signatures, and an ordinance will go to an extraordinary session in early November
By the Society Desk

A residents' group in Shimizu, a town in the Tokachi region of Hokkaido, formally asked Mayor Yasuhiro Tsuji on Monday to enact an ordinance for a referendum on changing the town's name to Tokachi Shimizu.

Tsukasa Miyagawa, who represents the group, which calls itself the study group on changing the town's name, delivered a draft ordinance and signature lists to the town office. In September the group had submitted 2,535 signatures to the town's election commission.

A tied vote

An ordinance proposed by the mayor, who expects the change to raise the town's profile, was defeated in June after the assembly vote was tied and the speaker cast the deciding vote against it.

The town is expected to submit the referendum ordinance to an extraordinary session of the assembly in early November.

'A first step'

"This is the first step towards holding a referendum," Mr Miyagawa told reporters. "We want the assembly to take it into account."

Why a name matters

Shimizu shares its name with several other places in Japan, most famously the Shimizu district of Shizuoka City, and supporters of the change argue that adding Tokachi, the name of one of Hokkaido's best-known farming regions, would make the town easier to identify.

The town

Shimizu lies in the west of the Tokachi plain, at the foot of the Hidaka Mountains, in one of Hokkaido's main farming and dairy regions.

INTERNATIONAL

France Detains 2,397 People After Riots and Looting, as Paris Sees a Second Day of Clashes and Macron Says the Looters Will Pay

About 1,500 shops were damaged across the country and 997 police officers injured; Limoges city hall was almost destroyed by fire, and the prime minister promises to rebuild it
By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

French police detained 2,397 people in connection with the riots that broke out during large demonstrations across France on Saturday, and young people clashed with riot police in Paris for a second day on Sunday, Kyodo News reported.

At the Place de la Republique in Paris, police fired tear gas at youths throwing stones. Three shops in the capital were looted on Sunday, local media said.

The damage

The demonstrations on Saturday, over conditions in schools and rising prices, turned into riots in many parts of the country, with arson and looting. The city hall in Limoges, in central France, was set on fire and almost completely destroyed.

The French retail federation, the FCD, estimated that about 1,500 shops had been damaged nationwide, with initial estimates of the losses running to hundreds of millions of euros. A total of 997 police officers were injured.

Macron's warning

In a televised address on Sunday, President Emmanuel Macron called for calm and order. Those who had destroyed property would be made to pay, he said, and looters would have to make restitution.

Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu wrote to the mayor of Limoges promising that the city hall would be rebuilt, and is to chair a meeting to consider support for businesses that suffered damage.

How it began

About 550,000 people joined the protests on Saturday, according to the interior minister, Laurent Nunez. High school students have staged a series of protests demanding better conditions in schools, and anger over the cost of living has added to the discontent.

The politics

The violence comes six months before next April's presidential election, in which Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Rally leads the polls. A poll published last week by the business newspaper Les Echos gave her 35 per cent, far ahead of a divided field of rivals.

Across the Alps

Similar unrest spread to Italy, where young people looted shops in Milan, Turin and Bologna over the weekend in protests against the rising cost of living.

INTERNATIONAL

Looters Smash Shops Around Milan Cathedral as Italy's Cost-of-Living Protests Turn Violent; Most of the 200 Detained Are Minors

Police use water cannon and tear gas against stone-throwing youths dressed in black in what local media call guerrilla warfare; Turin and Bologna were hit on Saturday
By the International Desk

Young people dressed in black smashed shop windows and looted supermarkets and other stores around the Piazza del Duomo in Milan on Sunday, the second day of violence linked to protests across Italy against the rising cost of living, Kyodo News reported from Rome.

Police, pelted with stones and fireworks, responded with water cannon and tear gas, in clashes that local media described as guerrilla warfare.

The detained

More than 200 people were detained, about 80 per cent of them minors, according to reports.

Turin and Bologna

On Saturday, similar destruction had caused considerable damage in Turin and Bologna, the reports said. A sporting goods shop with its glass shattered was among the scenes photographed in Milan.

A tourist heart

The square in front of Milan's Gothic cathedral is the heart of the city and one of Italy's busiest tourist sites, surrounded by luxury shops and the glass-roofed

Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II.

Echoes of France

The violence in Italy followed a similar pattern to the riots in France the same weekend, where protests over schools and prices turned into looting and arson and more than 2,300 people were detained.

Prices and anger

Energy and food prices have risen across Europe this year, pushed up by disruption to oil supplies from the Middle East, and the burden falls most heavily on young people and low earners.

INTERNATIONAL

Putin Proposed a Summit With Trump and Xi on Ukraine at November's APEC Meeting in Shenzhen, Without Zelensky, the Wall Street Journal Reports

The idea was raised in a phone call with Trump on October 9; European governments are expected to be alarmed by talks that would leave Ukraine out
By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

President Vladimir Putin of Russia has proposed a face-to-face meeting with President Donald Trump of the United States and President Xi Jinping of China to discuss the war in Ukraine, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday, citing people familiar with the matter.

Mr Putin made the proposal in a telephone call with Mr Trump on October 9, according to the report. The meeting would be held next month to coincide with the leaders' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Shenzhen, China, on November 18 and 19.

Ending the war on his terms

Mr Putin's aim is to end the fighting on terms favourable to Russia, the report said.

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine would not take part. A meeting of the three leaders about the war without Ukraine, a party to the conflict, would be unprecedented, Kyodo News noted.

Europe's worry

European governments are expected to be alarmed. They have insisted that no settlement can be reached about Ukraine without Ukraine, and fear that a deal struck over its head would reward aggression.

The context

The report came as relations between Washington and Kyiv are strained. Mr Trump decided last week not to implement a law that would have imposed tariffs on countries buying Russian energy, and has eased sanctions on Russian diesel, as he tries to bring down fuel prices before the November midterm elections.

There was no immediate comment from the White House, the Kremlin or Beijing.

The Alaska precedent

Mr Trump and Mr Putin met in Alaska in August last year, the first summit between the two leaders since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The talks produced no agreement to end the war.

For Japan

Japan, a member of APEC whose prime minister would be expected in Shenzhen, has backed Ukraine and joined Western sanctions against Russia, and a great-power bargain over Ukraine would bear on its own concerns about changes to the status quo by force in East Asia.

INTERNATIONAL

Zelensky Says Trump and Musk Were Both Involved in Restricting Ukraine's Starlink; Washington Denies It, and Rubio Says Speeds Fell 'for Some Reason'

The network is vital to Ukraine's interception of Russian drones; Treasury Secretary Bessent calls any such restriction 'very reckless,' and Zelensky speaks to Trump's envoys Witkoff and Kushner
By Laura Bennett | North America Correspondent

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine said in an interview with the American broadcaster NBC, aired on Sunday, that both President Donald Trump and Elon Musk, who runs the company that operates Starlink, were involved in restricting Ukraine's use of the satellite communications network.

Ukraine's armed forces rely on Starlink to intercept Russia's high-speed drones, and a lasting restriction could affect the situation on the battlefield.

The denials

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent denied that Mr Trump had been involved and described such restrictions as "very reckless." Mr Trump has also denied involvement and said the service was not restricted.

Mr Zelensky said the network's speeds had not fully recovered, leaving the two sides' accounts in conflict.

Rubio's account

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who is also national security adviser, told reporters on Saturday that the United States had "not been involved at all" and that "no one in the United States" had ordered Starlink's speeds to be reduced. Speeds had dropped for some reason, he said, and he understood that service had already been restored.

Mr Rubio said Ukraine's drones used the commercial Starlink service rather than Starshield, the military version operated under a contract with the U.S. armed forces, and that Ukraine wanted Starshield in order to strike deep inside Russia.

Talking to the envoys

On Sunday Mr Zelensky spoke by telephone with Steve Witkoff, Mr Trump's special envoy for peace negotiations, and with Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law. Peace could be achieved only through strength and sincere cooperation, he said afterwards.

A widening rift

The dispute comes on top of Mr Trump's decision last week not to implement a congressional sanctions law aimed at Russian energy revenue and his easing of sanctions on Russian diesel. Mr Zelensky said the relief would only give President Vladimir Putin economic gains and allow further attacks, and members of Congress accused Mr Trump of surrendering to Mr Putin.

Attacks abroad

Starlink installations have also become targets in Europe: an attempt was made to set fire to a Starlink ground station in Lithuania early on Sunday, and one in Poland was attacked in September.

INTERNATIONAL

Four Soldiers Die and 19 Are Critically Injured as a Grass Fire Sweeps Through Training Troops at a Canadian Army Base

The fire at Wainwright in Alberta began in a training area and was spread by strong winds; Prime Minister Carney calls it one of the worst peacetime tragedies for the armed forces
By Laura Bennett | North America Correspondent

Four members of the Canadian armed forces were killed and dozens injured when a fire swept through a training area at a military base in Wainwright, Alberta, on Saturday, officials said.

Prime Minister Mark Carney announced the deaths on Sunday. Danielle Smith, the premier of Alberta, said 39 people had been taken to hospital, 19 of them in critical condition.

How it spread

The fire started in a training area on the base and was carried beyond it by strong winds, according to the Department of National Defence and other officials. The soldiers, gathered from across the country, had been training on grassland.

The base

The Wainwright base in eastern Alberta has large training grounds and is used for realistic combat exercises.

'One of the worst'

Mr Carney called the fire "one of the worst tragedies" for the armed forces in peacetime and asked that flags on federal government buildings across the country be flown at half-mast.

Questions to come

Officials did not say what had started the fire. Canada has suffered a series of severe wildfire seasons in recent years, and grassland fires driven by strong winds can move faster than people can escape them.

An ally in mourning

Canada is a close partner of Japan in the Indo-Pacific, and its forces have taken part in exercises with the Self-Defense Forces in recent years.

INTERNATIONAL



Pope Leo XIV at the window above St Peter's Square. Leading the Angelus on Sunday in his first public appearance since surgery for lung cancer, he thanked his doctors and nurses and said the delicate phase of his recovery had passed. (File photo: WPM Productions)

INTERNATIONAL

Pope Leo Leads the Sunday Prayer in a Strong Voice in His First Public Appearance Since Lung Cancer Surgery

He thanks the doctors and nurses who treated him and says he feels a special kinship with the sick; his surgeon sees no medical reason to cancel next month's South American tour

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

Pope Leo XIV led the Angelus prayer from his window above St Peter's Square on Sunday, his first public appearance since leaving hospital after surgery for lung adenocarcinoma, a form of lung cancer.

The pope appeared at noon, as is customary, at a window of the Apostolic Palace overlooking the square and smiled at the crowd below. He spoke and led the prayers in a strong voice, according to Kyodo News.

Thanks

He thanked the many people who had come to the square and all those who had prayed for him, as well as the doctors and nurses at the hospital where he was treated.

He said he felt "a special sense of kinship with people facing illness."

Recovery

The "delicate" phase after the operation had passed, the pope said, and he would gradually resume his activities.

Travel plans

His surgeon said there was no medical reason to cancel the pope's planned visit to three South American countries in November, according to Vatican media.

INTERNATIONAL

Lithuania Blames Russian Sabotage for an Attempt to Burn a Starlink Station in Vilnius Used to Support Ukraine

Flammable liquid was found by the satellite antennas; the prime minister calls it part of a hybrid war, and a station in Poland was attacked in September

By the International Desk

Someone tried to set fire to a Starlink ground station in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, early on Sunday, the Lithuanian prime minister said, describing the attack as clearly part of a hybrid war waged by Russia.

In a post on Facebook the same day, the prime minister said an attempt had been made to burn satellite antennas and other equipment, and that flammable liquid had been found at the scene, according to Kyodo News.

'The target was Ukraine'

Speaking to local media, the prime minister said the attack was part of a hybrid war that includes sabotage by Russia, and that its real target was Ukraine.

Starlink, the satellite service run by Elon Musk's SpaceX, is used by Ukraine for military operations, including drone missions.

A pattern

In September a Starlink ground station in neighbouring Poland was also the target of an arson attack.

European governments have accused Russia of a campaign of sabotage, arson and cyber-attacks against countries that support Ukraine. Moscow denies the accusations.

The operation

The pope entered Rome's Gemelli hospital this month for an operation on his lung. While recovering there, he telephoned President Vladimir Putin and asked for a ceasefire so that humanitarian aid could reach Oleshky, an occupied town in Ukraine's Kherson region. He left the hospital on Saturday, and the Vatican said his recovery was going well.

The first American pope

Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost in Chicago, was elected in May last year as the first pope from the United States, succeeding Francis. Before his election he spent many years as a missionary and bishop in Peru, and he has made peace in Ukraine and the Middle East a recurring theme of his pontificate.

The faithful

The Angelus, a prayer recalling the Annunciation, is recited by the pope with pilgrims at noon on Sundays. Sunday's appearance was watched closely by Catholics around the world, including in Japan, where they are a small minority of well under 1 per cent of the population.

No arrests

No suspects or arrests were reported, and there was no comment from Russia or SpaceX.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump Says He 'Fully Supports' Netanyahu Nine Days Before Israel's Election, Citing His Handling of the War With Iran

Whether the prime minister stays in office is the central question of the October 27 vote; a sharp fall in support for Likud could open the way to a change in coalition talks

By the International Desk

President Donald Trump said on social media on Sunday that he "fully supports" Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel continuing in office, nine days before Israel's vote in a general election for the Knesset on October 27.

Mr Trump cited Mr Netanyahu's handling of the military operation against Iran, among other things, as the reason for his backing.

The stakes

Whether Mr Netanyahu remains prime minister is the main question of the election. If his right-wing Likud party loses a significant number of votes, a change of prime minister could become possible in the coalition negotiations that follow the vote.

The campaign

Campaign advertisements for Mr Netanyahu have appeared in cities including Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv.

Foreign endorsements

Open endorsements by an American president in another democracy's election are unusual, though Mr Trump has repeatedly praised Mr Netanyahu in the

past.

Why Japan is watching

The election will shape Israel's policy towards Iran, Gaza and Lebanon, and through them the security of the Middle East, from which Japan imports most of its crude oil.

INTERNATIONAL

Egypt's Defence Council Pledges 'Necessary Support' to Saudi Arabia Against Houthi Attacks, and Sisi Seeks Parliament's Approval to Send Troops

The Egyptian parliament held an emergency session on Sunday but did not vote; Middle Eastern media say Riyadh has asked for soldiers

By Rachel Kim | Asia Correspondent

Egypt's National Defence Council decided on Sunday to provide "necessary support" to Saudi Arabia, which is under attack from the Houthis, the pro-Iranian armed movement in Yemen, the Egyptian presidency announced.

President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who convened the council, intends to provide military support, including sending troops to Saudi Arabia, if parliament approves, Kyodo News reported.

Parliament

Egypt's House of Representatives held an emergency plenary session on Sunday to consider whether to authorise the president to decide on a deployment. No vote was taken, and debate is expected to continue.

Middle Eastern media, citing military experts, reported that Egypt had already received a request from Saudi Arabia to send troops.

'Unacceptable'

The council said the escalation of attacks on Saudi Arabia, a friendly country, was unacceptable.

The war in Yemen

A Saudi-led offensive against the Houthis, who control the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and much of the country's north, began earlier this month, and the Houthis have fired missiles and drones at Saudi cities, including a strike on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport that killed at least 12 people.

A widening conflict

Egyptian troops in Saudi Arabia would widen a conflict that already overlaps with the confrontation between the United States and Iran that began at the end of February. Egypt has a large stake in the security of the Red Sea, whose shipping lanes lead to its Suez Canal, a vital source of revenue.

For Japan

Japan imports much of its crude oil from Saudi Arabia, and fighting around the kingdom has already added to the pressure on supplies and prices.

INTERNATIONAL

A Russian Satellite Closed to Within About 4.8 Km of an American Imaging Satellite Thought to Support Ukraine, Axios Reports

Kosmos 2612 moved from more than 320 km away to 'bumper to bumper' distance in a day; experts call the manoeuvre worrying

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

A Russian satellite has manoeuvred to within about 4.8 kilometres of a commercial imaging satellite owned by an American company that is believed to be part of a network supporting Ukraine's military, the news site Axios reported on Saturday.

The Russian satellite, Kosmos 2612, was more than 320 kilometres from the American satellite, ICEYE-X36, on October 15. By the afternoon of October 16 it had closed to about 4.8 kilometres, according to the report. Axios said Russia might be trying to interfere with the satellite's operations.

'Bumper to bumper'

A senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington described the distance as so close that it was like cars driving bumper to bumper.

Satellite operators generally keep satellites more than about 9.7 kilometres apart, and the risk of collision rises sharply when two satellites manoeuvre at close range at the same time.

Deliberate moves

Experts said Russia appeared to have used fuel to change Kosmos 2612's altitude, orbital plane and speed in order to approach the American satellite, and

called the move worrying.

Eyes in orbit

ICEYE operates a constellation of small radar satellites that can photograph the ground through cloud and at night, and its images have been used to monitor the war in Ukraine. Russia has previously been accused of placing satellites close to Western spacecraft, raising concerns about inspection, interference or attack in orbit.

Japan's stake

Japan, which is building up the Self-Defense Forces' capabilities in space and relies on satellites for communications, navigation and surveillance, has been watching such manoeuvres closely as space becomes a domain of military competition.

INTERNATIONAL

Military Rulers in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso Lean Ever More on Russia's Africa Corps in Their War With Islamist Militants

Russian air and ground support helped Mali retake Kidal this month, and Russian troops at Niamey airport helped put down an uprising in August

By the International Desk

The military governments of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, in West Africa's Sahel region, are becoming increasingly dependent on Russia as Islamist extremist groups gain strength, Kyodo News reported.

Russia's Africa Corps, a unit under the Russian Defence Ministry and the successor to the Wagner Group mercenary company, is deployed in all three countries and provides military support against the militants.

Kidal

This month Mali's military government recaptured Kidal, a strategic town in the north, with the help of Russian ground attacks and airstrikes. Tuareg armed groups allied with JNIM, the al-Qaeda-linked Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims, had seized the town in April.

Niger

In Niger, part of the military attacked the presidential palace and the international airport in the capital, Niamey, in late August. Russian troops stationed at the airport joined the operation to suppress the uprising, which was reportedly fuelled by anger in the army over losses in fighting with extremists.

The airport in Niamey has been attacked twice this year by JNIM or another extremist group, and Russia has acknowledged helping to repel one of the attacks.

'A major role'

An expert told Kyodo that Russia was playing a major role in sustaining the three military governments. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met representatives of Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso in New York on September 24.

The shift

The three countries, which formed an alliance after military takeovers between 2020 and 2023, have expelled French forces, left the regional bloc ECOWAS and turned to Moscow for security, a shift that has reduced Western influence across a vast region.

INTERNATIONAL

An Austrian Airlines Flight From Tel Aviv to Vienna Makes an Emergency Landing in Bulgaria After a Reported Bomb Threat

Passengers were evacuated in Sofia and appear to be safe; it is the latest in a string of incidents involving flights to and from Israel

By the International Desk

An Austrian Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to Vienna made an emergency landing in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, on Sunday after apparently receiving a bomb threat, the Israeli news site Ynet reported.

Passengers were evacuated from the aircraft after it landed and appeared to be safe, Kyodo News said.

No details

The flight number, the number of passengers and crew and the time of landing were not reported.

A string of incidents

The diversion is the latest in a series of incidents involving flights to and from Israel. On September 30, the co-pilot of a flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv allegedly attacked the captain and tried to crash

INTERNATIONAL

the aircraft.

Nervous skies

Air travel in the region has been repeatedly disrupted by the conflict with Iran that began at the end of February, and airlines have suspended and resumed routes as the security situation has changed.

Security procedures

Bomb threats against aircraft, even when they prove to be hoaxes, usually force crews to land at the nearest suitable airport so that the aircraft and its passengers' baggage can be searched.

INTERNATIONAL

Around the World in Brief

By the International Desk

CHINA: The economy grew 4.5 per cent in July to September from a year earlier, up from 4.3 per cent in the previous quarter and the first acceleration in two quarters, the National Bureau of Statistics said. Growth for the first nine months was 4.6 per cent, just inside the government's target of 4.5 to 5 per cent.

UNITED STATES: The Rays beat the Guardians 3-1 in Cleveland to lead the American League Championship Series three games to two; the winner meets the Milwaukee Brewers in the World Series, which begins on Friday, American time.

UKRAINE: President Zelensky spoke with Mr Trump's envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner on Sunday and said peace could come only through strength and sincere cooperation.

VATICAN: Pope Leo XIV, recovering from lung surgery, said the delicate phase of his recovery had passed.

ISRAEL: Israelis vote on October 27 in a general election in which Prime Minister Netanyahu's future is the main issue.

FRANCE: The government will meet to discuss support for businesses damaged in Saturday's riots, in which about 1,500 shops were hit.

EGYPT: Parliament will continue debating whether to authorise troops for Saudi Arabia.

LITHUANIA: The government blamed Russia for an attempted arson attack on a Starlink ground station in Vilnius.

BULGARIA: An Austrian Airlines flight from Tel Aviv landed in Sofia after a bomb threat.

GERMANY: Airbus's defence chief said a decision on joining the fighter programme led by Japan, Britain and Italy was needed by the end of the year.

ECONOMY

Regional Banks Pour Money Into Property, Lifting Their Real Estate Loans by a Record 3 Trillion Yen in a Year

Property now accounts for 18 per cent of all bank lending, above the level of the bubble era; in central Tokyo six in ten loans come from banks based elsewhere, the Nikkei reports

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

Japan's regional banks increased their lending to real estate by about 3 trillion yen over the past year, the largest increase on record, as they chase returns in a market where prices have soared, the Nikkei reported on its front page on Monday.

Real estate now accounts for 18 per cent of the lending of all banks, including the major banks, well above the share during the bubble economy of the late 1980s, according to the report. At some regional banks nearly half of all loans go to property.

Lending across borders

In the five central wards of Tokyo, where prices have risen most sharply, about 60 per cent of property lending is what the newspaper calls cross-border lending, by banks based outside the area.

Higashi-Nippon Bank, a Tokyo-based regional lender, directs 47 per cent of its lending to the real estate industry, the Nikkei said.

Domestic banks' outstanding loans to real estate stood at about 120 trillion yen at the end of June, according to Bank of Japan data cited in the report.

Why banks are doing it

With their home regions' populations shrinking and local companies borrowing less, many regional banks have looked for growth in property loans, which are backed by land and buildings and have offered steady returns while prices rise.

The risk

If the flow of money into property reverses, the concentration could become a risk to the financial system, the newspaper said, and the financial authorities have issued warnings. The Bank of Japan said in March that its examinations of banks in the current fiscal year would focus on property lending.

Rising interest rates add to the pressure. As the Bank of Japan raises its policy rate, now 1.25 per cent, borrowers' repayment costs increase and the rental yields that justified high prices look less attractive.

Lessons from the past

The collapse of the land and stock bubble at the start of the 1990s left Japanese banks with bad loans that took more than a decade to clean up and contributed to years of economic stagnation. Regulators have been watching for any sign of a repeat as property prices in the big cities have climbed to records.

ECONOMY

Government Will Subsidise New Equipment So That Drugs for Infectious Diseases Can Be Made in Japan From Start to Finish

Support from next fiscal year aims to end dependence on imported ingredients for antibiotics and other medicines that would be needed in a pandemic; the health ministry seeks 275 billion yen for stable supply

By Ethan Cole | Economics Correspondent

The government will encourage drugmakers to manufacture medicines for infectious diseases in Japan in an integrated way, from their active ingredients to the finished product, by subsidising the installation of new equipment and the upgrading of existing plants from the next fiscal year, Monday's morning papers report.

The aim is to secure supplies of the drugs the country would need in a pandemic or other health crisis, many of which now depend on ingredients made abroad.

The budget request

In its budget request for fiscal 2027, submitted at the end of August, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare asked for about 274.9 billion yen for five projects to ensure a stable supply of medicines, with domestic production of the active pharmaceutical ingredients for antibiotics and other drugs for infectious diseases at their core, the trade newspaper Nikkan Yakugyo reported.

A separate request of 13.9 billion yen would support the construction and upgrading of manufacturing facilities to reduce the risk of supply disruptions, according to the newspaper.

Why it matters

Japan relies heavily on China and other countries for the basic ingredients of many common medicines, including some antibiotics. Supply problems in recent years have left hospitals and pharmacies short of drugs, and the pandemic exposed how quickly supplies can be cut off when demand surges around the world.

A national strategy

In March the Cabinet approved a strategy to strengthen the development and production of medical countermeasures for infectious disease crises, covering vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tests. The government has also set aside 7.1 billion yen to stockpile the ingredients of antibiotics.

The challenge

Making basic ingredients in Japan is generally more expensive than importing them, which is why production moved abroad in the first place. The subsidies are intended to make domestic manufacturing viable for companies, but keeping it going once the money stops will depend on how the drugs are priced and bought.

ECONOMY

China's Growth Picks Up to 4.5 Per Cent in the Third Quarter, Just Inside Beijing's Lowered Target

It is the first acceleration in two quarters; growth for the first nine months is 4.6 per cent, against a goal of 4.5 to 5 per cent

By Rachel Kim | Asia Correspondent

China's economy grew 4.5 per cent in the July to September quarter from a year earlier, according to preliminary figures released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Monday, an acceleration from 4.3 per cent in the April to June quarter.

It was the first time in two quarters that growth had

picked up. For the first nine months of the year, the economy grew 4.6 per cent.

The target

At the National People's Congress in March, the government set a growth target for 2026 of 4.5 to 5 per cent, lowering it from the goal of around 5 per cent it had set for the previous three years.

Both the quarterly figure and the nine-month figure fall just inside that range, Kyodo News noted.

The backdrop

China's economy has been weighed down for several years by a prolonged slump in the property market, weak consumer spending and trade tensions with the United States, and the government has relied on infrastructure spending and support for manufacturing to keep growth close to its targets.

Japan's interest

China is one of Japan's largest trading partners, and demand there matters for Japanese makers of machinery, cars, chemicals and electronic components. A steadier Chinese economy would support Japanese exports, while the competition from Chinese manufacturers, particularly in electric vehicles, remains a challenge for Japanese companies at home and abroad.

APEC

China hosts the leaders' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Shenzhen on November 18 and 19, a showcase for its economy at a time of tension with Washington over trade.

BUSINESS

Japanese Carmakers Look to India as They Face a Shortfall of 51,000 Software Engineers by 2030

The industry needs programmers for software-defined vehicles; companies are considering research bases in India, the Asahi Shimbun reports

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

Japan's car industry is turning to India for the software engineers it cannot find at home, with a shortage of about 51,000 projected by 2030, the Asahi Shimbun reported on Monday.

Companies are also considering setting up research and development bases in India, the newspaper said.

Cars made of code

The shortage is driven by the shift to software-defined vehicles, cars whose functions are controlled by software that can be updated over the air after sale, much like a smartphone. Developing them requires far more programmers than the industry has traditionally employed.

Subaru said on Sunday that it would introduce such vehicles from the late 2020s and switch its whole lineup over time, and other Japanese makers have announced similar plans.

Why India

India has one of the world's largest pools of software engineers, and global carmakers and suppliers already employ tens of thousands of them in development centres in cities such as Bengaluru, Pune and Hyderabad. Japanese carmakers, including Nissan and Honda, have already worked with Indian technology companies on vehicle software.

The competition

Chinese and American carmakers, led by Tesla and BYD, have moved faster in software, and Japanese makers have acknowledged that they need to catch up if their cars are to compete on features that buyers increasingly expect, from driver assistance to entertainment.

At home

The search abroad reflects a broader shortage of IT workers in Japan, which the government has estimated could reach hundreds of thousands by 2030 as the population ages and demand for digital skills grows across the economy.

Ties with India

Japan and India launched a digital partnership in 2018 that includes efforts to bring Indian IT engineers to Japanese companies, and the number of Indian residents in Japan has grown in recent years, many of them working in software.

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BUSINESS

Mitsubishi Heavy Will Restart Idle Shipbuilding Facilities in Tamano, Okayama, and May Build a New Supply Ship for the Defense Ministry There

Operations are planned from fiscal 2027 as demand for naval vessels grows and Japan's shipyards look to rebuild capacity

By the Business Desk

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries plans to restart dormant shipbuilding facilities in Tamano, Okayama Prefecture, in fiscal 2027, it emerged on Monday, Kyodo News reported.

The company is considering using the facilities to build a new supply ship for the Defense Ministry.

A shipbuilding town

Tamano, on the Seto Inland Sea opposite Shikoku, has been a shipbuilding centre for more than a century. Mitsubishi Heavy took over the naval and government ship business of Mitsui E&S Shipbuilding there in 2021, inheriting a yard with long experience in building vessels for the Maritime Self-Defense Force.

Rising demand

Japan's defence build-up under the security documents adopted in 2022 includes more ships for the Maritime Self-Defense Force, including supply ships that refuel and replenish warships at sea and allow them to operate far from port for longer.

A shrinking industry

Japanese shipbuilding has lost ground over the past two decades to China and South Korea, which together build most of the world's ships, and many Japanese yards have cut capacity. The government has made reviving shipbuilding a priority of its economic security policy, and the United States has sought Japanese help in rebuilding its own shipyards.

The details

Kyodo did not report the cost of the restart, the number of ships to be built or the size of the workforce, and Mitsubishi Heavy did not immediately comment.

BUSINESS

ANA Puts a Chiikawa Jet Into Service, With the Characters on the Fuselage and Special Seat Covers and Cups

The Boeing 767 made its first flight from Haneda to Nagasaki on Monday morning and will fly domestic routes; goods go on sale from Friday

By the Business Desk

All Nippon Airways began flying a Boeing 767 decorated with characters from the popular Chiikawa series on Monday, its first flight leaving Haneda for Nagasaki in the morning.

The airline showed the aircraft to the press in a hangar at Haneda on Sunday. The characters Chiikawa, Hachiware and Usagi appeared at the event, waving and swaying to promote the plane.

Inside

Seat covers and paper cups on board carry special Chiikawa designs. The aircraft will operate on routes across Japan.

"We hope passengers will enjoy a journey in the sky with Chiikawa that can only be experienced on ANA," a representative said.

Goods

From Friday, collaboration merchandise, including badges and soft toys of the characters in ANA uniforms working at airports and on board, will be sold in flight and on the airline's online store.

The characters

Chiikawa, created by the illustrator Nagano, began as a series of posts on social media and has grown into one of Japan's most popular character franchises, with an animated series, merchandise and collaborations with companies across many industries.

Special liveries

Japanese airlines have long used special liveries featuring popular characters to attract passengers, particularly families, and the aircraft often draw crowds of photographers at airports.

ECONOMY



The Tokyo Stock Exchange at Kabutocho. The Nikkei average fell more than 1,400 yen at one point on Monday morning and dropped below 64,000 for the first time in about a month, after American technology shares slid on worries about the debt behind investment in artificial intelligence. (Photo: TG2 (CC))

ECONOMY

Tokyo Stocks Give Back Friday's Rally, Falling More Than 1,400 Yen at One Point and Below 64,000 for the First Time in About a Month

Selling in U.S. technology shares on worries about the debt piling up behind huge investments in artificial intelligence spreads to highly valued Japanese stocks
By Daniel Brooks | Markets Editor

Tokyo stocks fell sharply on Monday morning, erasing the gains of Friday's rebound, as a slide in American technology shares at the end of last week spread to their Japanese counterparts.

The Nikkei Stock Average fell by more than 1,400 yen at one point shortly after the opening and dropped below 64,000 for the first time in about a month. It ended the morning session at 64,534.03, down 790.26 yen from Friday's close, and was 905.41 yen lower at 64,418.88 at 11 a.m.

The broader Topix index closed the morning down 15.66 points at 4,050.34.

The trigger

Technology shares fell in New York on Friday on concern that the heavy borrowing being used to finance enormous investment in artificial intelligence could push up debt, Kyodo News reported. The selling spread in Tokyo to related stocks, particularly those whose prices had risen to high valuations, dragging the market down.

A volatile month

The fall reversed most of Friday's gain, when the Nikkei rose 898.34 yen to 65,324.29 and ended a seven-day losing streak as investors bought back shares in companies linked to AI and semiconductors. On October 6 the index had closed above 70,000 for the first time since July 1, before the losing run began.

Shares in chipmakers and in companies that supply equipment and materials for AI have been among the market's leaders this year, which has made Tokyo

sensitive to every shift in sentiment about American technology spending.

The yen

In the currency market the yen traded in the high 157 range against the dollar on Monday morning. At 10 a.m. it stood at 157.91-92 yen, 9 sen stronger than on Friday. Against the euro it was at 177.27-28 yen, 30 sen stronger.

Some buying of the yen followed Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda's remarks at a news conference on Friday that the bank would keep raising interest rates, but dealers said there were few notable factors to trade on and that moves were small.

The government's line

In the upper house Budget Committee on Monday, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi rejected criticism that her policies were responsible for the weak yen and rising interest rates and said the government would keep bond issuance under appropriate control.

What to watch

Investors are watching the results season for American technology companies, the Federal Reserve's meeting on October 27-28 and the Bank of Japan's policy meeting on October 29-30, as well as the debate over funding the food tax cut, which begins in the lower house on Tuesday.

ECONOMY

Markets at a Glance

By the Business Desk

NIKKEI 225: Morning close 64,534.03, down 790.26; 64,418.88 at 11 a.m., down 905.41; briefly below 64,000.

TOPIX: Morning close 4,050.34, down 15.66.

FRIDAY'S CLOSE: Nikkei 65,324.29, up 898.34; Topix 4,066.00, up 66.66.

YEN: 157.91-92 per dollar at 10 a.m., 9 sen stronger than Friday; 177.27-28 per euro.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY: Dow 52,002.41, down 175.28; technology shares lower.

OIL: WTI crude \$101.41 a barrel on Friday, up \$3.44.

10-YEAR JGB: About 2.9 per cent.

BOJ POLICY RATE: 1.25 per cent; next meeting October 29-30.

CHINA: Third-quarter growth 4.5 per cent from a year earlier.

SOURCES: Kyodo News, Tokyo Stock Exchange.

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BUSINESS

Motorcyclists Can Now Choose Their Own Number Plates, With Lucky Numbers Such as 1 and 777 Decided by Lottery

Applications opened on Monday for machines over 125cc; plates cost 2,500 to 3,000 yen, about 1,000 yen more than standard ones
By the Society Desk

Owners of motorcycles can now apply for number plates bearing a number of their choice, a service long available for cars, under a scheme that opened on Monday, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism said.

Applications can be made online or at the counters of regional reservation centres, either when buying a motorcycle or to change the number on one already owned.

Popular numbers

Numbers expected to be in high demand, such as 1 and 777, will be allocated by computer lottery.

The cost

The fee varies by region from 2,500 yen to 3,000 yen per plate, about 1,000 yen more than a plate with an assigned number.

Who can apply

The scheme covers light two-wheeled vehicles with engines of more than 125cc and up to 250cc, and small two-wheeled vehicles with engines of more

than 250cc. Motorcycles for business use, rental motorcycles and motorised bicycles of 125cc or less are excluded.

A popular option for cars

Chosen numbers have been available for ordinary cars since 1999 and have become widespread, with owners picking birthdays, anniversaries and numbers considered lucky.

BUSINESS

Business in Brief

By the Business Desk

SUBARU: The carmaker will introduce software-defined vehicles from the late 2020s, using a central control unit with a chip developed with AMD, and aims to cut development time for new models by about 40 per cent.

MITSUBISHI HEAVY: Plans to restart idle shipbuilding facilities in Tamano, Okayama, in fiscal 2027.

CAPCOM: A managing director recalled the making of Resident Evil, known in Japan as Biohazard, as the series marks its 30th anniversary; the first game was released for the PlayStation in March 1996.

ANA: A Boeing 767 decorated with Chiikawa characters entered service on the Haneda-Nagasaki route.

JETRO: The trade promotion body suspended its website after unauthorised access on October 14.

REGIONAL BANKS: Real estate lending rose by a record 3 trillion yen over the past year, the Nikkei reports.

CHINA: Third-quarter growth of 4.5 per cent, up from 4.3 per cent.

DRUGS: Subsidies for equipment to make medicines for infectious diseases in Japan from start to finish, from next fiscal year.

TOYOTA: Won the manufacturers' title in the World Endurance Championship with victory in Barcelona.

MOTORCYCLES: Owners can now choose the numbers on their plates, for a fee of 2,500 to 3,000 yen, with popular numbers decided by lottery.

TECHNOLOGY

Japan's MMX Probe Is Set to Launch on Tuesday Morning on the Most Powerful H3, Bound for Mars's Moon Phobos and Back by 2031

Liftoff from Tanegashima is planned for 4:41 a.m.; the probe aims to bring home the first samples ever collected in the Martian system, and the rocket may be visible across much of Japan

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency plans to launch its Martian Moons eXploration probe, MMX, from the Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture at 4:41:03 a.m. on Tuesday, on the 10th flight of the H3 rocket.

If it succeeds, the mission would be the first to bring samples back to Earth from the Martian system, scooping material from Phobos, the larger of Mars's two moons, and returning it in 2031.

"The launch is the starting point, not the goal," said Yasuhiro Kawakatsu, the project manager. "The real work begins afterwards."

The rocket

The H3 will fly in its most powerful configuration, the 24L, with two LE-9 first-stage engines, four SRB-3 solid rocket boosters and, for the first time on an H3, a long fairing, 16.4 metres, to enclose the probe. It is the second flight of the 24 configuration, after the launch of the HTV-X1 cargo craft in 2025, and the first time an H3 will send a spacecraft into interplanetary space.

The fairing has extra thermal insulation because MMX's trajectory exposes it to more heating in the atmosphere. If the launch is delayed, the backup window runs from October 21 to November 9.

Watching from the ground

About five and a half minutes after liftoff, the climbing rocket is expected to catch the sunlight while the ground below is still dark, and under good conditions it may be visible from almost anywhere in Japan, JAXA says.

The mission

MMX, with a launch mass of 4,480 kilograms, is to arrive in the Martian system in August 2027. It will move into a quasi-satellite orbit around Phobos to

study it in detail and then land twice to collect at least 10 grams of surface material.

Before the probe lands, a small rover developed by the French space agency, CNES, and the German Aerospace Center, DLR, is to descend to Phobos to gather data that will help the main spacecraft touch down safely. NASA has provided a sampler that uses gas pressure, alongside a JAXA device that drives a tube into the ground, and the European Space Agency is also a partner.

After the sampling, MMX will observe Deimos, the smaller moon, in a flyby, leave the Martian system in November 2030 and return to Earth in July 2031, releasing a capsule to land in Australia.

The question

Scientists have long debated how Phobos and Deimos formed. If they were born from debris thrown up when a large body struck Mars, the samples would contain Martian material. If they are asteroids captured by Mars's gravity, they may hold water-bearing minerals and organic matter like those found on the asteroid Ryugu, whose samples Japan's Hayabusa2 brought home in 2020.

Phobos's surface may also hold rocks blasted off Mars by impacts, offering scientists a way to study the planet itself without landing on it.

Building on Hayabusa

The mission draws on the technology Japan developed for its Hayabusa and Hayabusa2 sample-return missions to asteroids, but it is far more complex, requiring the probe to enter orbit around Mars, land on a moon with its own gravity and climb back out.

TECHNOLOGY

What Is a Software-Defined Vehicle? A Car Whose Abilities Are Set by Code and Can Be Changed After It Is Sold

Central computers replace dozens of separate controllers, and updates arrive over the air like those for a smartphone
By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

For most of the history of the car, what a vehicle could do was fixed when it left the factory. Its engine, brakes, lights and radio were controlled by separate electronic units, each with its own software, often supplied by different companies. Changing them meant a visit to a dealer, or buying a new car.

A new architecture

A software-defined vehicle reverses that logic. A small number of powerful central computers control the car's functions, and much of what the car does is determined by software that the carmaker can rewrite. Updates can be sent wirelessly, over the air, just as phones and computers receive them.

What changes

Updates can improve driver assistance, extend the range of an electric car through better energy management, add entertainment features or fix faults without a recall visit. Carmakers can also offer new functions for a fee after sale, creating a stream of revenue that lasts the life of the vehicle.

The pioneers

Tesla was the first carmaker to make over-the-air updates a central part of its appeal, and Chinese manufacturers have followed with cars designed around large screens and frequent software releases. Established carmakers in Japan, Europe and the United States are now redesigning their vehicles in the same direction.

The challenges

The shift demands huge numbers of software engineers and a different way of working, in which a car's software is developed and tested continuously rather than frozen years before launch. It also creates new risks. A connected car must be protected from hacking, and regulators in Japan and elsewhere have introduced rules requiring carmakers to manage cyber security and software updates throughout a vehicle's life.

Subaru's plan

Subaru said on Sunday that its first next-generation software-defined vehicles would arrive in the late 2020s, built around a central control unit with a chip developed with AMD, and that it aims to cut the time it takes to develop a new model by about 40 per cent.

TECHNOLOGY



A first-generation Subaru Forester bearing STi badges, by the sea at dusk. Subaru said on Sunday that it would launch software-defined vehicles, whose functions can be improved by over-the-air updates after sale, in the late 2020s and switch its whole lineup over time. (Photo: Subaru Corporation)

TECHNOLOGY

Subaru Will Switch to Software-Defined Cars From the Late 2020s, With a Central Brain Built on a Chip Developed With AMD

Over-the-air updates will keep improving driver assistance after a car is sold, and the company aims to cut the time it takes to develop a new model by about 40 per cent

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

Subaru said on Sunday that it would launch its first next-generation software-defined vehicles in the late 2020s and gradually switch the rest of its lineup to the new design, joining the race among the world's carmakers to build cars that improve after they leave the showroom.

The company set out the plan at a briefing on its development strategy in Sano, Tochigi Prefecture.

A central brain

In a software-defined vehicle, functions that were once fixed by hardware are controlled by software that can be updated. Subaru's cars will be built around a central electronic control unit, the computer that governs the vehicle's systems, using a semiconductor developed jointly with Advanced Micro Devices, the American chipmaker.

The cars will receive updates wirelessly, over the air, so that driver assistance and vehicle control can be improved step by step after purchase, raising the value of the car over its life, the company said.

'Make the car itself better'

"We want customers to use the car for a long time, keep updating it and make the car itself better," said Eiji Shibata, a managing executive officer.

Faster development

Subaru also aims to shorten the development period for new models by about 40 per cent compared with now, relying on methods such as simulation in digital space instead of building and testing so many physical prototypes.

A demonstration

On Sunday morning the company demonstrated a driver assistance function in Sano: when its cameras detect that the driver is incapacitated, the system

brings the car to a stop automatically.

Subaru has built its reputation for safety on EyeSight, a driver assistance system based on stereo cameras mounted behind the windscreen, which it introduced in 2008 and has developed through several generations.

The race

The shift to software has become one of the main battlegrounds in the car industry. Tesla showed that updates could add features and fix problems without a visit to a dealer, and Chinese makers have moved quickly with cars that resemble smartphones on wheels. Japanese carmakers, including Toyota, which owns about a fifth of Subaru, have announced their own plans.

The people problem

Building such cars requires far more software engineers than carmakers have traditionally employed. Japan's automotive industry faces a shortfall of about 51,000 software engineers by 2030, and companies are looking to India to fill the gap, the Asahi Shimbun reported on Monday.

For drivers

For owners, the promise is a car that gains abilities over time. The challenges are security, since a car connected to the network must be protected against hacking, and cost, as carmakers look for ways to charge for new features delivered by software.

Falling slowly

The gravitational pull of Mars is gradually drawing Phobos inward. Over tens of millions of years it is expected either to break apart into a ring around the planet or to crash onto its surface.

Deimos

Deimos is smaller, about 12 kilometres across, and orbits much farther out, taking about 30 hours to go around Mars. Its surface appears smoother, its craters partly filled with dust. MMX is to observe it during a flyby after collecting its samples from Phobos.

The puzzle

Both moons resemble certain kinds of asteroid in colour, which led many scientists to suspect that they were captured by Mars's gravity. But their nearly circular orbits, close to the planet's equator, are hard to explain by capture, and some researchers believe they formed from debris thrown into orbit when a large body struck Mars.

Why samples matter

Measurements from orbit have not settled the argument. Grains of Phobos examined in laboratories on Earth, with instruments far more sensitive than any that can be flown, could, scientists hope, answer the question and reveal what the moons are made of.

TECHNOLOGY

Draft Guidelines Make Hybrid Paper-and-Digital Textbooks the Standard, With Paper at the Core, as Experts Prepare to Meet on Thursday

Fully digital books would be barred up to the fourth grade and limited to English and practical subjects above it; the effects on learning and health would be reviewed after introduction

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The education ministry's draft guidelines for the digital textbooks that gain official status in fiscal 2030 make a hybrid of paper and digital the basic model, with the printed book at its core and digital content as a supplement, Kyodo News reported on Monday.

The draft, a guideline to be issued by the education minister, will be presented to a meeting of the ministry's expert panel on Thursday, according to the report.

Three forms

Under the revised School Education Act, enacted in June, textbooks will come in three forms: paper only, digital only, and hybrid, combining paper and digital in a single textbook. Boards of education, and the heads of national and private schools, will choose which to use, and the guideline is meant to guide publishers and education boards.

Limits for younger pupils

For children up to the fourth grade of elementary school, the digital share of hybrid textbooks would be more limited than in higher grades, and fully digital textbooks would not be allowed. From the fifth grade, fully digital textbooks would be limited to English and to practical subjects such as music and art.

Review after introduction

After the new textbooks are introduced, the government would assess their effects on learning and on children's health and revise the guideline as needed.

The debate

The draft confirms the direction reported by the Yomiuri Shimbun on Sunday. Supporters of digital textbooks point to videos, audio and accessibility features such as reading aloud for children with dyslexia, while critics worry about reading comprehension, eyesight and concentration. The ministry's approach treats screens as an aid to the printed page rather than a replacement for it.

TECHNOLOGY

JETRO Takes Down Its Website After Unauthorised Access and Investigates Whether Information Leaked

The trade promotion body was attacked on October 14, suspended the site on October 17 and disclosed the incident on Monday; no date for restoring it has been set

By the Technology Desk

The Japan External Trade Organization, the government-affiliated body that helps Japanese companies export and expand abroad, said on Monday that it had suffered unauthorised access from

outside and had taken its public website offline to investigate the cause.

The access took place on October 14, and the organisation, known as JETRO, suspended the website on October 17. It is investigating whether any information was leaked, and has not said when the site will be restored.

What the site does

The website publishes economic and trade information on overseas markets and is used to recruit companies for JETRO's projects and seminars, making it a heavily used resource for exporters and for companies considering investment abroad.

Unanswered questions

JETRO did not say how the access was detected, what systems were affected or whether the personal information of companies or individuals who had registered with it was at risk.

A run of attacks

The incident is the latest in a series of cyber-attacks on Japanese organisations this month. The software company SourceNext said customer records might have leaked through misuse of an interface, and a provider of disaster-information email services reported a possible leak affecting dozens of local governments. The Internal Affairs Ministry's study group on strengthening security at telecommunications carriers holds its first meeting on Thursday.

The new law

Japan's law on active cyber defence, which took effect at the start of this month, allows the government to take steps to neutralise servers used in attacks on important infrastructure, although many organisations remain vulnerable to intrusions of this kind.

TECHNOLOGY

Japan Football Association's Official App Is Hit by Unauthorised Access, and Members' Personal Data May Be Involved

JFA Passport, which holds digital registration cards for players, coaches and referees, has had some functions suspended while the extent of the damage is investigated

By the Technology Desk

The Japan Football Association said on Sunday that a third party had gained unauthorised access to its official app, JFA Passport, on Saturday, and that personal information and other data belonging to users might be involved.

Working with the company that provides the service, the association temporarily suspended some of the app's functions and took steps to prevent further damage. It is investigating the extent of the impact.

What the app holds

JFA Passport was launched in 2022. Registered players, coaches and referees can link their registration numbers to it to create a digital membership card, and the association had been encouraging members to switch to it from paper cards. Fans can also register as members.

The app has been used to distribute videos of the national teams and information for young players.

A large membership

Football is one of the most widely played sports in Japan, from primary school teams to amateur adult leagues, and the association's registration system covers a very large number of people, many of them children whose information is entrusted to it by parents.

What users should do

The association has not said how many users are affected. In incidents of this kind, security experts generally advise users to change any password they have reused on other services and to be wary of emails or messages that appear to come from the organisation concerned.

Not alone

Several Japanese organisations have reported unauthorised access this month, including JETRO, the trade promotion body, which took its website offline after an attack on October 14.

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TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY

1862: Auguste Lumiere Is Born in Besancon; With His Brother Louis He Would Give the World the Cinematographe

The brothers' first public screening, in a Paris cafe in December 1895, is often counted as the birth of cinema; they also brought colour photography to the public
By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Auguste Lumiere was born on October 19, 1862, in Besancon, in eastern France. Together with his younger brother Louis, born two years later, he would turn the family's photographic business into one of the great names in the history of moving pictures.

Their father, Antoine, was a painter and photographer who set up a factory in Lyon making photographic plates, and the sons grew up among cameras and chemicals.

The Cinematographe

In 1895 the brothers patented the Cinematographe, a single machine that could record moving images, print them and project them onto a screen. Lighter and more practical than rival inventions, it could be carried outdoors to film everyday scenes.

On December 28, 1895, they held a paid public screening in a room of the Grand Cafe in Paris, showing a series of short films, including workers leaving their factory in Lyon. The event is often described as the birth of cinema as a public entertainment.

Around the world

The Lumieres sent camera operators around the globe to film and to show their pictures, and the Cinematographe reached Japan within two years, where it helped begin the country's long love affair with film.

Colour

The brothers' inventiveness did not stop there. In 1907 they introduced the Autochrome, a process that used dyed grains of potato starch to produce colour photographs, the first practical colour photography widely available to the public.

Later years

Auguste later devoted much of his energy to medicine and biology. He died in Lyon in 1954.

Legacy

The brothers famously doubted that cinema had a commercial future, yet the projector and the darkened room full of strangers watching a screen together remain at the heart of an industry worth billions, and of every film festival held each autumn.

TECHNOLOGY

1901: Santos-Dumont Flies His Airship Around the Eiffel Tower and Wins the Deutsch Prize, Making Him the Hero of Paris

The Brazilian pioneer completed the 11-kilometre course from Saint-Cloud and back in about half an hour, and gave much of the prize money away
By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 19, 1901, the Brazilian aviator Alberto Santos-Dumont steered his airship No. 6 from Saint-Cloud, on the western edge of Paris, around the Eiffel Tower and back, winning the Deutsch de la Meurthe prize.

The prize of 100,000 francs, offered by the oil magnate Henri Deutsch de la Meurthe, required a dirigible to make the round trip of about 11 kilometres within 30 minutes. Santos-Dumont completed the course in around half an hour, though officials argued over whether he had beaten the limit by the time the airship was secured on landing, before he was declared the winner.

A generous winner

He gave the money away, sharing it between his crew and the poor of Paris, which added to the affection in which the city held him. The young Brazilian, who flew his airships over the rooftops and sometimes landed outside cafes, was one of the celebrities of the Belle Epoque.

Heavier than air

Five years later, in 1906, he flew his 14-bis, an aeroplane, in Paris, in flights that were publicly witnessed and recognised in Europe as the first powered flights there. In Brazil he is still celebrated as the father of aviation.

A watch on the wrist

Santos-Dumont also left a mark on everyday life. Finding it awkward to pull a pocket watch from his clothes while flying, he asked his friend Louis Cartier for a watch he could wear on his wrist, and the Santos watch, made for him in 1904, is still produced today.

Then and now

The airship that circled the Eiffel Tower was a fragile envelope of hydrogen with a small petrol engine. Within a lifetime, aircraft were crossing oceans, and today drones and airships are again being tested for tasks from surveillance to cargo.

TECHNOLOGY

1910: Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar Is Born in Lahore; He Worked Out the Limit Beyond Which a Dying Star Collapses

He calculated it as a young man on the voyage to England, shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1983 and gave his name to NASA's X-ray observatory
By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, one of the great astrophysicists of the 20th century, was born on October 19, 1910, in Lahore, then part of British India and now in Pakistan.

He came from a family of scholars; his uncle, C.V. Raman, won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for his work on the scattering of light.

On the voyage

In 1930, aged 19, Chandrasekhar sailed from India to study at Cambridge. During the voyage he applied relativity to the physics of white dwarfs, the dense remnants of stars like the Sun, and concluded that there was a maximum mass, about 1.4 times that of the Sun, above which a white dwarf could not support itself against its own gravity.

The figure, now known as the Chandrasekhar limit, implied that more massive stars must collapse further, into what are now known to be neutron stars and black holes.

A public rebuke

The idea was ridiculed at first by Arthur Eddington, the most celebrated astronomer of the day, in a famous confrontation in London in 1935, and it took years to gain acceptance.

Chicago

Chandrasekhar spent most of his career at the University of Chicago, where he wrote a series of influential books on stellar structure, the dynamics of stars, radiative transfer and black holes, and edited The Astrophysical Journal for nearly two decades.

In 1983 he shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with William Fowler for his studies of the structure and evolution of stars. He died in 1995.

In orbit

NASA named its Chandra X-ray Observatory, launched in 1999, in his honour. The telescope has observed exploding stars, black holes and the hot gas between galaxies, the kinds of objects his calculations helped to explain.

TECHNOLOGY

1937: Ernest Rutherford, Who Discovered the Atomic Nucleus, Dies in Cambridge; His Model Owed a Debt to Japan's Hantaro Nagaoka

The New Zealand-born physicist won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, split the atom's heart and trained a generation; he lies in Westminster Abbey near Newton
By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Ernest Rutherford, the physicist who discovered that every atom has a tiny, dense nucleus at its centre, died in Cambridge on October 19, 1937, at the age of 66, after a delay in surgery for a hernia.

Born in 1871 near Nelson, in New Zealand, he won a scholarship to Cambridge and went on to hold chairs in Montreal and Manchester before returning to Cambridge to lead the Cavendish Laboratory.

Radioactivity

In Montreal, working with Frederick Soddy, he showed that radioactivity involves the transformation of one element into another, work for which he received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1908. He also distinguished and named alpha and beta radiation.

The nucleus

In Manchester, his assistants Hans Geiger and Ernest Marsden fired alpha particles at thin gold foil and found that a few bounced almost straight back. Rutherford concluded in 1911 that an atom's positive charge and nearly all of its mass were concentrated in a minute nucleus, with electrons around it.

A Japanese forerunner

In his 1911 paper Rutherford referred to the Saturnian model of the atom proposed in 1904 by Hantaro Nagaoka of Tokyo Imperial University, in which electrons circled a massive central body like the rings of Saturn. Nagaoka is honoured in Japan as a pioneer of modern physics.

Splitting the nucleus

In 1917 to 1919 Rutherford achieved the first artificial transformation of one element into another, turning nitrogen into oxygen by bombarding it with alpha particles, and he identified the proton.

His legacy

Many of his students and colleagues, including James Chadwick, who discovered the neutron, won Nobel prizes of their own. Rutherford is buried in Westminster Abbey near Isaac Newton, element 104 is named rutherfordium in his honour, and his face appears on New Zealand's 100-dollar note.

TECHNOLOGY

1943: Streptomycin, the First Antibiotic to Defeat Tuberculosis, Is Isolated in a Rutgers Laboratory From a Soil Microbe

Graduate student Albert Schatz found it in Selman Waksman's lab; the drug transformed the fight against a disease that Japan called a national scourge
By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 19, 1943, Albert Schatz, a 23-year-old graduate student working in the laboratory of the soil microbiologist Selman Waksman at Rutgers University in New Jersey, isolated a substance from a strain of soil bacteria, Streptomyces griseus, that killed microbes penicillin could not touch.

The substance, named streptomycin, became the first antibiotic effective against tuberculosis, the disease that had killed more people than almost any other in modern history.

A cure for consumption

Clinical trials in the United States and Britain in the following years showed that streptomycin could cure patients who would otherwise have died, although bacteria soon developed resistance when it was used alone, leading doctors to combine it with other drugs, the foundation of modern tuberculosis treatment.

A dispute over credit

Waksman, who coined the word antibiotic, received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1952. Schatz, who felt his role had been overlooked, sued in 1950 and won a settlement and recognition as a co-discoverer, a case that is still cited in debates about credit in science.

In Japan

Tuberculosis was once known in Japan as a national disease and was the country's leading cause of death in the years before and after the war. Streptomycin's arrival after the war was part of the rapid fall in tuberculosis deaths that followed.

Japanese discoveries

Japanese scientists went on to make their own contributions to the search for drugs from soil microbes. Hamao Umezawa discovered the antibiotic kanamycin in 1957, and Satoshi Omura found avermectin, produced by another Streptomyces species, work that led to drugs against parasitic diseases and earned him a share of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2015.

Today

The government plans to subsidise the domestic manufacture of antibiotics and other drugs for infectious diseases, many of which depend on ingredients made abroad, a reminder that the medicines born in laboratories such as Waksman's remain essential.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

MMX launch Tuesday, Page 10.

Bears before winter, Page 16.

Para Games open, Page 19.

Editorial: thirty typhoons, Page 22.

TECHNOLOGY

1967: Mariner 5 Flies Past Venus a Day After the Soviet Venera 4 Plunged Into Its Atmosphere, Confirming a Crushing, Scorching World

The American probe passed about 4,000 km above the clouds; together the two missions ended hopes of a temperate planet beneath them
By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 19, 1967, NASA's Mariner 5 spacecraft flew past Venus at a distance of about 4,000 kilometres, measuring the planet's atmosphere and magnetic field as it went by.

The flyby came one day after the Soviet Union's Venera 4 descended into the Venusian atmosphere on October 18, sending back data as it fell.

Two views of one planet

Mariner 5 probed the atmosphere by sending radio signals through it as the spacecraft passed behind the planet as seen from Earth. Changes in the signals revealed how the atmosphere's density and temperature changed with height.

Combined with Venera 4's direct measurements, the results showed that the atmosphere was overwhelmingly carbon dioxide and that the pressure at the surface was many tens of times that on Earth, with temperatures far too hot for liquid water.

Comparing notes

American and Soviet scientists later compared the two sets of results, an early example of cooperation in space science during the Cold War, and together they helped resolve disagreements about how high Venera 4 had been when its signals stopped.

A runaway greenhouse

Venus became the textbook example of a runaway greenhouse effect, a planet similar in size to Earth whose thick carbon dioxide atmosphere traps heat so effectively that its surface is hotter than that of Mercury.

Japan at Venus

Japan has its own place in the story. Its Akatsuki probe failed to enter orbit around Venus in 2010 but succeeded at a second attempt in December 2015, five years later, and went on to study the planet's fast-moving clouds and winds.

The next missions

Europe's EnVision orbiter, planned for launch in the 2030s, is among the missions intended to study the planet's surface and atmosphere in detail, more than half a century after Mariner 5 first sent back its measurements.

TECHNOLOGY

1973: A Federal Judge Invalidates the ENIAC Patent, Putting the Basic Invention of the Electronic Digital Computer in the Public Domain

Judge Earl Larson found the inventors had derived key ideas from John Atanasoff; the ruling, after the longest federal trial of its time, was overshadowed by Watergate
By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 19, 1973, Judge Earl R. Larson of the federal district court in Minnesota ruled in Honeywell v. Sperry Rand that the patent on the ENIAC, the pioneering electronic computer built at the University of Pennsylvania during World War II, was invalid.

Sperry Rand, which had acquired the rights from the ENIAC's builders, J. Presper Eckert and John Mauchly, had been using the patent to seek royalties from other computer makers. Honeywell challenged it.

The findings

In a ruling of more than 248 pages, the judge found the patent invalid on several grounds, including that the ENIAC had been in use and offered for sale too long before the application was filed.

Most controversially, he found that Eckert and Mauchly had derived the subject matter of the electronic digital computer from John Vincent Atanasoff, a physicist at Iowa State College who, with his student Clifford Berry, had built an electronic computing machine around 1940 to 1942 and whom Mauchly had visited in 1941.

A record trial

Testimony ran from June 1971 to March 1972, with 77 witnesses appearing in person and depositions from 80 more, and the transcript ran to 20,667 pages.

TECHNOLOGY

The court described it as the longest trial in federal court history to that time.

Lost in the news

The ruling was released on the day of the Saturday Night Massacre, when President Richard Nixon's dismissal of the Watergate special prosecutor dominated the news, and it attracted little attention.

What it meant

By placing the basic invention in the public domain, the decision removed a potential toll on the young computer industry, and it brought belated recognition to Atanasoff, although historians still debate how much the ENIAC owed to him.

TECHNOLOGY

1977: Concorde Lands at New York's Kennedy Airport for the First Time, Opening the Way to Supersonic Flights to Manhattan

The test flight followed a long legal battle over noise; scheduled services from Paris and London began a month later and ran until 2003

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 19, 1977, the Anglo-French Concorde landed at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York for the first time, on a test flight after a long legal battle over whether the supersonic airliner should be allowed to use the airport.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey had barred the aircraft, citing residents' complaints about its noise, but the courts ruled that the ban could not stand, clearing the way for the trial.

Twice the speed of sound

Concorde, developed by Britain and France and first flown in 1969, cruised at about twice the speed of sound and could cross the Atlantic in roughly three and a half hours, less than half the time of a conventional jet.

Into service

Scheduled services between New York and Paris and London began on November 22, 1977, and for more than a quarter of a century Concorde carried business travellers, celebrities and enthusiasts across the ocean in a narrow cabin with about 100 seats.

The end

Concorde's high operating costs, the limits on supersonic flight over land and the crash of an Air France Concorde near Paris in July 2000, which killed all 109 people on board and four on the ground, weighed on its future. British Airways and Air France retired it in 2003.

A second try

Supersonic passenger travel has been absent since then, though companies in the United States are developing new supersonic aircraft, NASA has been testing an experimental plane, the X-59, designed to soften the sonic boom, and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency has carried out its own research on low-boom design.

TECHNOLOGY

1982: John DeLorean, Creator of the Gull-Winged DMC-12, Is Arrested in an FBI Sting; He Was Later Acquitted

His stainless-steel sports car, built in Northern Ireland, flopped commercially but found immortality three years later as the time machine in Back to the Future

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 19, 1982, John Z. DeLorean, a former star executive of General Motors who had founded his own car company, was arrested by federal agents at a hotel in Los Angeles and charged with conspiring to traffic cocaine.

The arrest followed an undercover operation by the FBI, and came as his company, the DeLorean Motor Company, was collapsing.

The car

DeLorean had made his name at GM, where he was credited with the Pontiac GTO, one of the first muscle cars. In the 1970s he set out to build his own sports car, the DMC-12, with a stainless-steel body and gull-wing doors that opened upwards.

With large subsidies from the British government, which hoped to create jobs, the car was built at a new factory in Dunmurry, near Belfast in Northern Ireland. About 9,000 were made, but sales fell far short of expectations, and the company went into receivership in 1982.

The trial

At his trial in 1984, DeLorean's lawyers argued that he had been entrapped by government agents, and the jury acquitted him.

Back to the Future

The DMC-12 found lasting fame in 1985 as the time machine in the film Back to the Future, which made the car one of the most recognisable in the world and a prized collector's item.

Lessons for carmakers

The story of DeLorean is often cited as a warning about the difficulty of starting a car company from scratch, a challenge that newer entrants, from Tesla to Chinese electric-vehicle makers, have faced in their own ways, as established makers such as Subaru remake their cars around software.

TECHNOLOGY

1985: The First Blockbuster Video Store Opens in Dallas, Starting a Rental Empire That Streaming Would Later Sweep Away

At its peak the chain had about 9,000 stores; in Japan, Tsutaya had opened its first shop two years earlier

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The first Blockbuster Video store opened in Dallas, Texas, on October 19, 1985, offering thousands of videotapes for rent in a bright, well-organised shop that set it apart from the small independent rental outlets of the time.

Its founder, David Cook, used computer systems to track the stock, and the chain grew rapidly through the late 1980s and the 1990s, becoming a fixture of Friday nights in America and beyond.

At its peak

At its height in the mid-2000s, Blockbuster operated about 9,000 stores around the world and employed tens of thousands of people.

The fall

The arrival of DVDs by post, and then of streaming over the internet, undermined the business. Blockbuster famously declined an opportunity to buy Netflix in its early years, and it filed for bankruptcy in 2010. A single franchised store, in Bend, Oregon, survives as a tourist attraction.

Japan's rental shops

Japan developed its own rental culture. Tsutaya, founded by Muneaki Masuda and now run by Culture Convenience Club, opened its first shop in Hirakata, Osaka Prefecture, in 1983 and grew into a nationwide chain renting videos, CDs and later DVDs. As in the United States, the rise of streaming has led to the closure of many rental shops, and the business has shifted towards books, cafes and other services.

The lesson

Blockbuster's story is studied in business schools as an example of a dominant company that failed to adapt to a new technology, and it is often invoked whenever an industry faces disruption.

The format war

Blockbuster's early years coincided with the triumph of the VHS videotape format, developed by Victor Company of Japan, over Sony's Betamax, a contest that shaped the home video business on which rental chains were built.

TECHNOLOGY

1987: Black Monday: The Dow Falls 22.6 Per Cent in a Day as Computerised Trading Accelerates the Selling, and Tokyo Plunges the Next Morning

The Nikkei's fall of 3,836 yen on October 20 remained its biggest one-day drop in points until August 2024; markets introduced circuit breakers in response

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On Monday, October 19, 1987, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 508 points, or 22.6 per cent, the largest one-day percentage drop in its history, in a crash that swept stock markets around the world.

The selling began in Asia and Europe and gathered pace in New York, where computer programs designed to protect portfolios by selling futures as prices fell, a strategy known as portfolio insurance, helped turn a decline into a rout.

Tokyo the next day

When trading opened in Tokyo on Tuesday, October 20, the Nikkei Stock Average fell 3,836.48 yen, or

14.9 per cent. It remained the index's largest one-day fall in points until August 5, 2024, when it dropped 4,451 yen.

Japan's market recovered quickly, however, and went on to the peaks of the bubble economy, reaching its bubble-era high at the end of 1989.

Why it happened

Investigations, including the Brady Commission set up by President Ronald Reagan, pointed to overvalued markets, rising interest rates and a falling dollar, magnified by program trading and by the failure of markets to absorb a flood of sell orders.

The response

The crash led exchanges to introduce circuit breakers that pause trading after very large falls, and central banks, led by the Federal Reserve under Alan Greenspan, pledged to provide liquidity to keep the financial system working.

Then and now

The Dow recovered its losses within two years. Today algorithmic trading accounts for much of the activity in global markets, and sharp falls such as Monday's in Tokyo, driven by worries about technology stocks, are a reminder of how quickly selling can spread from one market to another.

Monday in Tokyo

Monday's fall in Tokyo, of more than 1,400 yen at one point, came 39 years to the day after Black Monday. In percentage terms it was a fraction of the 1987 crash, but it began, as that one did, with selling in New York the previous trading day.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology and Science on October 19

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

- 1862: Auguste Lumiere, co-inventor of the Cinematographe, is born in Besancon.
- 1901: Alberto Santos-Dumont flies his airship around the Eiffel Tower to win the Deutsch prize.
- 1910: Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, the astrophysicist, is born in Lahore.
- 1937: Ernest Rutherford, discoverer of the atomic nucleus, dies in Cambridge.
- 1943: Streptomycin is isolated at Rutgers University.
- 1967: Mariner 5 flies past Venus.
- 1973: The ENIAC patent is ruled invalid.
- 1977: Concorde lands at New York's Kennedy airport for the first time.
- 1982: John DeLorean is arrested in Los Angeles; he is later acquitted.
- 1985: The first Blockbuster Video store opens in Dallas.
- 1987: Black Monday: the Dow falls 22.6 per cent.
- 2026: The Supreme Court's schedule for electronic warrants is reported, and Subaru sets out its plan for software-defined cars.

SOCIETY

When the Sky Turns Black: What to Do as Thunderstorms, Gusts and Downpours Threaten Through Tuesday

The weather agency's nowcasts show where lightning and tornadoes are likely; a sudden cold wind and darkening sky are the warning signs

By the Weather Desk

With the Japan Meteorological Agency warning that the atmosphere will be very unstable over eastern and western Japan through Tuesday, the advice it gives for sudden thunderstorms is worth recalling.

The warning signs

The agency lists the signs that a developing cumulonimbus cloud is approaching: dark clouds moving in and the sky suddenly growing darker, thunder or flashes of lightning, a cold gust of wind, and large raindrops or hail beginning to fall.

Where to shelter

When those signs appear, people should move inside a sturdy building, a car or a train. Open ground, beaches, golf courses and mountain ridges are dangerous in lightning, and sheltering under a tree is risky; the agency advises keeping well away from tall trees and their branches.

Tornadoes

When conditions favour tornadoes, the agency issues tornado alert information for a prefecture or region, valid for about an hour. People should move to a sturdy building, keep away from windows and, if possible, go to a room without windows on a lower floor.

Rain

Sudden downpours can flood underpasses and low-lying roads within minutes and raise small rivers and drains very quickly. Drivers should avoid flooded underpasses, and people should stay away from rivers and canals while the rain is heavy and for some time after.

Tools

On its website the agency publishes nowcasts showing where lightning and tornadoes are likely and where heavy rain is falling, updated at short intervals, along with advisories and warnings for each municipality.

Today

The map's outlook gives heavy rain at times in Kanazawa and Osaka, and the agency's warning covers both eastern and western Japan through Tuesday.

Hail

Developing cumulonimbus clouds can drop hail even in autumn, damaging cars, crops and greenhouses, and people caught outdoors should take shelter at once.

After the rain

Rivers can keep rising after the rain stops as water flows down from upstream, and slopes soaked by heavy rain can give way later, so the danger does not end the moment the sky clears.

SOCIETY

Yasakazu Asano, Who Lost His Wife and Sister in the Amagasaki Derailment and Pushed JR West to Investigate With the Bereaved, Dies at 84

He helped lead the 4.25 Network of victims' families and won a joint study of the accident's causes; his second daughter was seriously injured

By the Society Desk

Yasakazu Asano, a bereaved relative of victims of the 2005 derailment on JR West's Fukuchiyama Line in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture, died of heart failure at a medical facility in Toyonaka, Osaka Prefecture, on October 13, Kyodo News reported. He was 84. His funeral has already been held.

The derailment in April 2005 killed 106 passengers and the train's driver. Mr Asano's wife, Yoko, then 62, and his younger sister, Chizuko Sakamoto, then 55, were among those killed, and his second daughter was seriously injured.

Facing the accident

Mr Asano, who was from Hyogo Prefecture, continued to confront the accident together with other bereaved families. He served as one of the organisers of the 4.25 Network, a group of victims' relatives named after the date of the crash.

He worked to establish a study group in which JR West and the bereaved families examined the causes of the accident together, an unusual arrangement in which a railway company and the families of those its train had killed sat at the same table.

The accident

On April 25, 2005, a rapid train on the Fukuchiyama Line, known as the JR Takarazuka Line, took a curve at far above the speed limit, left the rails and crashed into an apartment building. Investigators found that the driver had been running late and pointed to JR West's punitive retraining of drivers who made mistakes, as well as the lack of an automatic train stop system on the curve.

A legacy for safety

The disaster led to changes in rail safety across Japan, including the installation of speed-control systems on curves, and bereaved families such as Mr Asano's have kept pressing for its lessons to be remembered.

Twenty-one years on

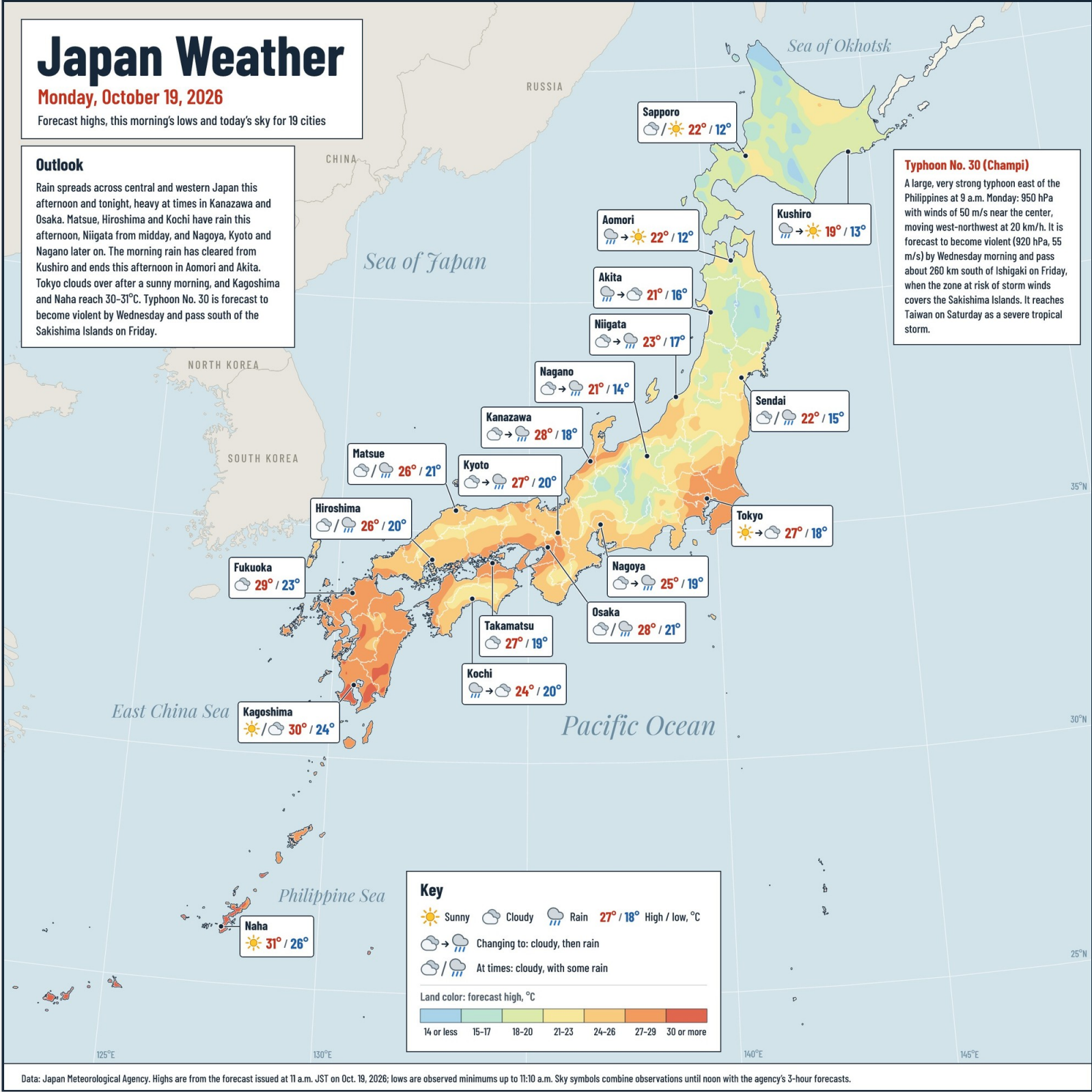
Others whose lives were changed that day continue to tell their stories. Aiko Okazaki, who was injured in the derailment and went on to compete in para archery, had her first child this spring, Kyodo News reported on Sunday.

WEATHER & SOCIETY



27°C

Low 18°C this morning · Sunny, then cloudy · Rain across central and western Japan · Champi forecast to turn violent



TODAY'S HIGHS AND LOWS — 19 CITIES				
Forecast highs and this morning's lows from today's weather map, °C, north to south. An arrow: the sky changes. A stroke: at times.				
 Sapporo	12°		22°	
 Kushiro	13°		19°	
 Aomori	12°		22°	
 Akita		16°	21°	
 Sendai		15°	22°	
 Niigata		17°	23°	
 Nagano		14°	21°	
 Kanazawa			28°	
 Tokyo		18°	27°	
 Nagoya		19°	25°	
 Kyoto		20°	27°	
 Osaka		21°	28°	
 Matsue		21°	26°	
 Hiroshima		20°	26°	
 Takamatsu		19°	27°	
 Kochi		20°	24°	
 Fukuoka		23°	29°	
 Kagoshima		24°	30°	
 Naha		26°	31°	

TODAY'S WEATHER

A front settling over the country brings the weekend's fine spell to an end across central and western Japan. The map's outlook says rain spreads across central and western Japan this afternoon and tonight, heavy at times in Kanazawa and Osaka. Matsue, Hiroshima and Kochi have rain this afternoon, according to the outlook, Niigata from midday, and Nagoya, Kyoto and Nagano later on. The morning rain has cleared from Kushiuro and ends this afternoon in Aomori and Akita. Tokyo clouds over after a sunny morning, and Kagoshima and Naha reach 30 to 31 degrees. Naha is the only one of the 19 cities on the map that is sunny all day.

HOW TODAY COMPARES

This morning was milder than Sunday's almost everywhere, as cloud and moist air replaced the clear skies that let Sunday morning turn cold. Kushiuro and Niigata were 9 degrees warmer than a day earlier, Akita, Nagano and Matsue 7 degrees warmer, and Sapporo and Aomori 6 degrees warmer. Kagoshima's low rose by a degree and Naha's was unchanged. By day, Sapporo and Kushiuro are 4 and 5 degrees warmer than on Sunday and Tokyo 3 degrees warmer, while Nagano is 4 degrees cooler and Niigata 3 degrees cooler under the advancing cloud.

THUNDER AND DOWNPOURS

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned that the atmosphere would be very unstable over eastern and western Japan through Tuesday, with lightning, tornadoes and other violent gusts, and sudden heavy rain possible. Move indoors if developing cumulonimbus clouds approach.

REGIONAL FORECASTS

Hokkaido: Sapporo cloudy with some sun, 22/12; Kushiuro rain, then sunny, 19/13, the lowest high on the map. Tohoku: Aomori rain, then sunny, 22/12; Akita rain, then cloudy, 21/16; Sendai cloudy with some rain, 22/15. Niigata and the Sea of Japan coast: Niigata cloudy, then rain, 23/17; Kanazawa cloudy, then rain, 28/18, with heavy rain at times later. Inland: Nagano cloudy, then rain, 21/14. Kanto: Tokyo sunny, then cloudy, 27/18. Tokai: Nagoya cloudy, then rain, 25/19. Kansai: Kyoto cloudy, then rain, 27/20; Osaka cloudy with some rain, 28/21, with heavy rain at times. Chugoku: Matsue cloudy with some rain, 26/21; Hiroshima cloudy with some rain, 26/20. Shikoku: Takamatsu cloudy, 27/19; Kochi

rain, then cloudy, 24/20. Kyushu: Fukuoka cloudy, 29/23; Kagoshima sunny with some cloud, 30/24. Okinawa: Naha sunny, 31/26, the warmest city on the map.

THE LAND COLOURS

The colours on the map show the forecast highs. The warmest shade, 30 degrees or more, appears in southern Kyushu and in Okinawa; 27 to 29 degrees covers the Kanto plain, much of Kyushu and parts of the coast facing the Sea of Japan; and the cooler greens and blues of 20 degrees or less lie over the mountains of central Japan, inland Tohoku and much of Hokkaido, coolest in the far north.

THE TYPHOON

Typhoon No. 30, Champi, was a large, very strong typhoon east of the Philippines at 9 a.m. today, at 950 hPa with winds of 50 metres a second, moving west-north-west at 20 km/h. It is forecast to become violent, at 920 hPa, by Wednesday morning, and to be about 580 km south-west of Naha by 9 a.m. Friday, when Ishigaki, Miyakojima and Yonaguni are inside the area that could have storm-force winds. By 9 a.m. Saturday it is expected to be over Taiwan as a severe tropical storm. Full details are on the typhoon pages.

SEA AND COAST

Champi does not affect the main islands today, but Weathernews expects gusts of about 30 metres a second in the Sakishima Islands from Wednesday and very rough seas, with strong north-easterly winds and high waves on the main island of Okinawa. Travellers to Okinawa in the second half of the week should check with airlines and ferry operators. Emergencies at sea: coast guard, 118.

WEATHER ABROAD

The United States map on the Weather Abroad page shows sunshine over most of the East and the nation's midsection, with 65F in New York and 67F in Chicago, and Phoenix the warmest mainland city at 89F. Clouds hang over San Francisco and Seattle, Miami turns windy, and rain in Anchorage may mix with snow at night.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Tokyo: sunrise 5:50 a.m., sunset 5:02 p.m.; Osaka: sunrise 6:06 a.m., sunset 5:20 p.m.; Sapporo: sunrise 5:51 a.m., sunset 4:47 p.m.; Fukuoka: sunrise 6:25 a.m., sunset 5:41 p.m.; Naha: sunrise 6:30 a.m.,

sunset 5:59 p.m.; all times calculated for today and rounded to the minute.

ABOUT THE MAP

The map cites the Japan Meteorological Agency: the highs are from the forecast issued at 11 a.m. today, and the lows are observed minimums up to 11:10 a.m. Its sky symbols combine observations until noon with the agency's three-hourly forecasts. A single symbol means one sky all day, as in Naha, sunny, and in Fukuoka and Takamatsu, cloudy. Two symbols joined by an arrow mean the sky changes during the day, as in Tokyo, sunny then cloudy, and Kanazawa, cloudy then rain. Two symbols divided by a stroke mean one sky with the other at times, as in Osaka, cloudy with some rain.

SOCIETY

Rain Spreads Across Central and Western Japan as a Front Settles In, While Kagoshima and Naha Reach 30 Degrees and More

Mornings were milder than on Sunday everywhere except Naha, by nine degrees in Kushiuro and Niigata; forecasters warn of thunder, gusts and sudden downpours through Tuesday

By the Weather Desk

The fine autumn weather of the weekend gave way to rain across much of central and western Japan on Monday as a front settled over the country, according to the weather map supplied for this edition.

The map's outlook says rain spreads across central and western Japan in the afternoon and at night, heavy at times in Kanazawa and Osaka, while the morning rain has cleared from Kushiuro and ends in the afternoon in Aomori and Akita.

City by city

Kanazawa, Niigata, Nagano, Nagoya and Kyoto start cloudy and turn to rain. Matsue, Hiroshima, Osaka and Sendai are cloudy with rain at times. Tokyo is sunny in the morning and clouds over later, with a high of 27 degrees.

Naha is the only city on the map that is sunny all day.

Warm air

Warm, moist air flowing north ahead of the rain kept temperatures high. Naha reaches 31 degrees and Kagoshima 30, while Kushiuro, at 19 degrees, has the lowest high on the map.

Milder mornings

Kushiuro and Niigata were 9 degrees warmer this morning than a day earlier, and Akita, Nagano and Matsue 7 degrees warmer. Only Naha, at 26 degrees, matched Sunday's low.

An unstable atmosphere

The agency warned that the atmosphere would be very unstable over eastern and western Japan through Tuesday, as a front stalls over the country with warm, moist air flowing into it, and urged people to move indoors if developing cumulonimbus clouds approach.

In the capital

In Tokyo the morning sun gives way to cloud, with a low of 18 degrees and a high of 27, and the agency's warning of an unstable atmosphere covers eastern Japan, including the Kanto region, through Tuesday.

In the tropics

Far to the south, Typhoon No. 30, Champi, a large and very strong typhoon east of the Philippines, is forecast to become violent by Wednesday and to pass south of the Sakishima Islands on Friday. Details are on the typhoon pages.

SOCIETY

Today's Weather in Numbers

By the Weather Desk

WARMEST: Naha, 31C, sunny all day; Kagoshima 30C.

COOLEST HIGH: Kushiuro, 19C, rain giving way to sun.

COLDEST MORNING: Sapporo and Aomori, 12C.

WARMEST MORNING: Naha, 26C.

BIGGEST RISE IN THE LOW SINCE SUNDAY: Kushiuro and Niigata, up 9 degrees.

RAIN: Heavy at times in Kanazawa and Osaka, according to the map's outlook.

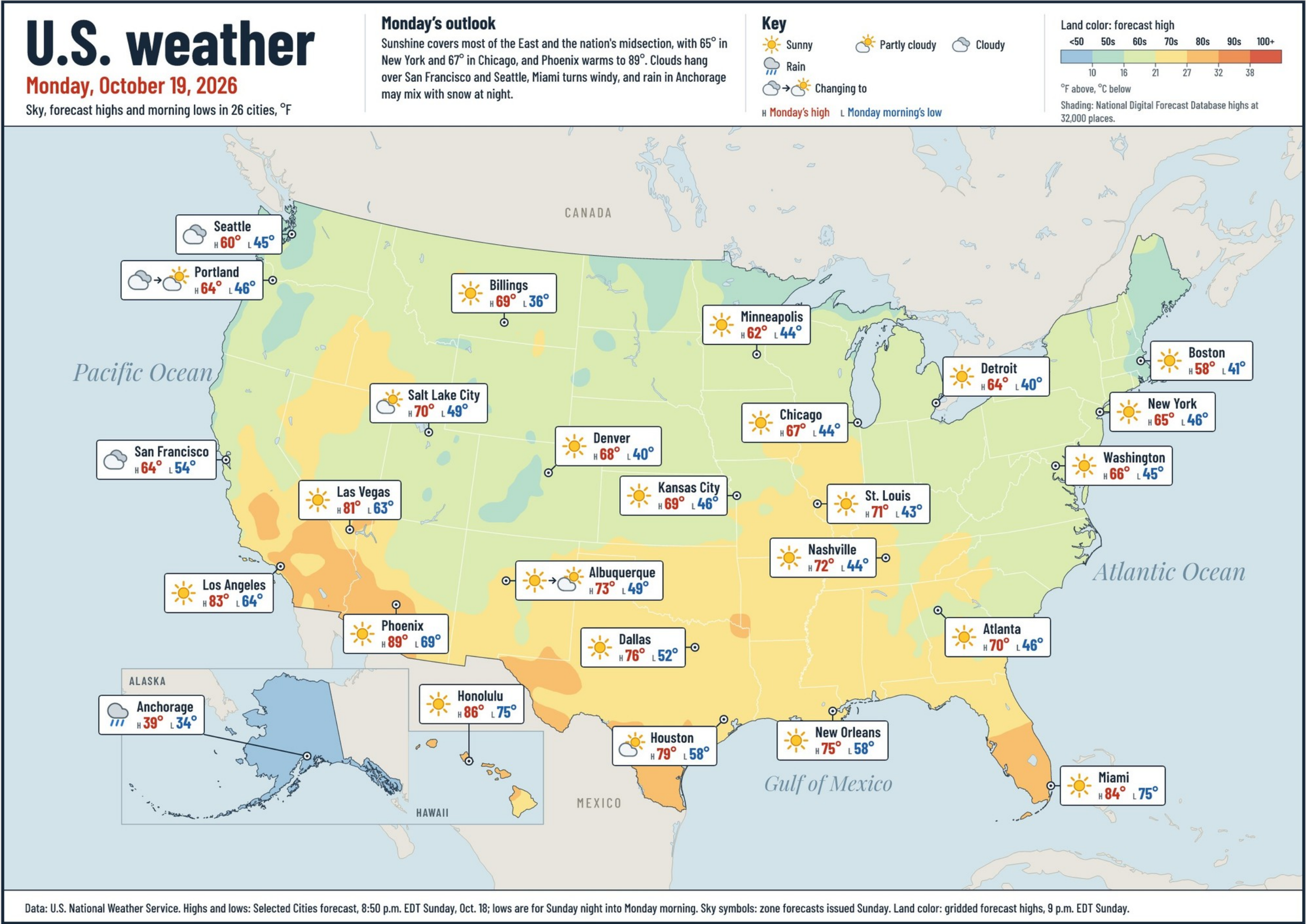
TOKYO: 27C, sunny then cloudy; low 18C.

WIDEST RANGE: 10 degrees between dawn and afternoon, in Sapporo, Aomori and Kanazawa.

SUNNY ALL DAY: Naha only.

TYPHOON: Champi, 950 hPa at 9 a.m., forecast to reach 920 hPa by Wednesday.

WEATHER ABROAD



United States weather for Monday, October 19, 2026; the sky, forecast highs and morning lows in degrees Fahrenheit for 26 cities, in the map supplied for this edition. (Data: U.S. National Weather Service Selected Cities forecast issued at 8:50 p.m. EDT on Sunday, with lows for Sunday night into Monday; zone forecasts issued on Sunday; gridded forecast highs at 9 p.m. EDT on Sunday)

SOCIETY

Sunshine for Most of the United States, With 89F in Phoenix, Clouds Over San Francisco and Seattle and Rain in Anchorage That May Turn to Snow

New York reaches 65F and Chicago 67F after cool mornings; Miami turns windy, and Billings drops to 36F

By the Weather Desk

Most of the United States enjoys a sunny Monday, according to the American weather map supplied for this edition, which uses forecasts from the National Weather Service.

The map's outlook says sunshine covers most of the East and the nation's midsection, with 65 degrees Fahrenheit in New York and 67 in Chicago, while Phoenix warms to 89. Clouds hang over San Francisco and Seattle, Miami turns windy, and rain in Anchorage may mix with snow at night.

Coast to coast

Of the 26 cities on the map, 19 are sunny all day, from Boston, New York and Washington in the East to Las Vegas and Los Angeles in the West. Seattle

and San Francisco are cloudy, Portland turns from cloudy to partly cloudy, Albuquerque from sunny to partly cloudy, and Salt Lake City and Houston are partly cloudy. Anchorage, the only city with rain, is also the coldest, with a high of 39 and a low of 34.

Hot and cool

Phoenix is the warmest city in the lower 48 states at 89 degrees, followed by Miami at 84, Los Angeles at 83 and Las Vegas at 81. Honolulu reaches 86, and it and Miami have the mildest nights on the map, with lows of 75.

In the north, Billings in Montana starts at 36 degrees, Detroit at 40 and Boston at 41, and Boston's high of 58 is the lowest in the lower 48 states. Denver

reaches 68 after a low of 40.

The colours

The shading on the map, from the agency's gridded forecast highs, shows the 80s across the deserts of southern California and Arizona, in southern Texas and in Florida, the 70s across much of the South and the southern Plains, the 60s across much of the Midwest, the Northeast and the interior West, and the 50s in northern New England, around the upper Great Lakes and in patches of the West, with Alaska below 50.

Compared with Sunday

New York is nine degrees warmer than on Sunday's map, at 65, while Los Angeles is three degrees cooler at 83 and Denver seven degrees cooler at 68.

For travellers

Japan is 13 hours ahead of New York and 16 hours ahead of Los Angeles. Converted, Phoenix's 89F is about 32C, New York's 65F about 18C and Anchorage's 39F about 4C.

SOCIETY

The U.S. Map at a Glance

By the Weather Desk

- HOTTEST: Phoenix, 89F (about 32C), sunny.
- COOLEST: Anchorage, 39F, rain that may mix with snow at night.
- COLDEST MORNING IN THE LOWER 48: Billings, 36F.
- MILDEST NIGHTS: Honolulu and Miami, 75F.
- CLOUDY: Seattle 60/45, San Francisco 64/54.
- EAST COAST: Boston 58/41, New York 65/46, Washington 66/45, Atlanta 70/46, Miami 84/75, all sunny.
- MIDWEST: Chicago 67/44, Detroit 64/40, Minneapolis 62/44, Kansas City 69/46, St. Louis 71/43, all sunny.
- WEST: Los Angeles 83/64, Las Vegas 81/63, Denver 68/40, Salt Lake City 70/49, Portland 64/46.
- SOUTH: Dallas 76/52, Houston 79/58, New Orleans 75/58, Nashville 72/44, Albuquerque 73/49.
- SOURCE: U.S. National Weather Service, Selected Cities forecast issued at 8:50 p.m. EDT on Sunday.

SOCIETY

The U.S. Map in Celsius

By the Weather Desk

- SEATTLE 60/45F, 16/7C; PORTLAND 64/46F, 18/8C.
- BILLINGS 69/36F, 21/2C; MINNEAPOLIS 62/44F, 17/7C.
- BOSTON 58/41F, 14/5C; DETROIT 64/40F, 18/4C.
- NEW YORK 65/46F, 18/8C; CHICAGO 67/44F, 19/7C.
- SALT LAKE CITY 70/49F, 21/9C; DENVER 68/40F, 20/4C.
- SAN FRANCISCO 64/54F, 18/12C; WASHINGTON 66/45F, 19/7C.
- KANSAS CITY 69/46F, 21/8C; ST. LOUIS 71/43F, 22/6C.
- LAS VEGAS 81/63F, 27/17C; NASHVILLE 72/44F, 22/7C.
- ALBUQUERQUE 73/49F, 23/9C; LOS ANGELES 83/64F, 28/18C.
- PHOENIX 89/69F, 32/21C; DALLAS 76/52F, 24/11C.

- ATLANTA 70/46F, 21/8C; ANCHORAGE 39/34F, 4/1C.
- HONOLULU 86/75F, 30/24C; HOUSTON 79/58F, 26/14C.
- NEW ORLEANS 75/58F, 24/14C; MIAMI 84/75F, 29/24C.

HOW: Subtract 32 from the Fahrenheit figure and multiply by five-ninths; results rounded to the nearest degree.

SOCIETY

Police Arrest a 50-Year-Old Man on Suspicion of Murder After a Man Is Stabbed to Death on a Street in Fussa

The suspect was taken into custody in neighbouring Akishima after being questioned by the Metropolitan Police

By the Society Desk

The Metropolitan Police Department arrested a 50-year-old man on Sunday on suspicion of murder after a man was stabbed on a road in Fussa, in western Tokyo, and died.

Police had been questioning the suspect before the arrest, which was made in the neighbouring city of Akishima.

Few details

The names and ages of the victim and the suspect's address and occupation were not immediately released, and the police did not say whether the suspect had admitted the allegation or whether the two men knew each other.

The area

Fussa, a city of about 55,000 people on the Tama River, is home to the U.S. Air Force's Yokota Air Base, which straddles it and several neighbouring municipalities.

Investigation

The police are investigating the circumstances of the stabbing and the motive.

The neighbouring city

Akishima, where the suspect was taken into custody, borders Fussa to the south-east, and both are commuter towns in the Tama area of western Tokyo served by the JR Ome Line.

Presumption of innocence

The suspect has not been charged, and a person who is arrested is presumed innocent until convicted.

SOCIETY



A sign warning of bears, in Japanese and English, in a file image. A 59-year-old hunter helping to cull deer was clawed by a bear in the mountains of Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture, on Sunday, as bears search for food before hibernation. (File photo: WPM Productions)

SOCIETY

Bears Grow Bolder Before Hibernation, and a Hunter Helping to Cull Deer Is Clawed in the Mountains of Chichibu

Sightings from April to August were the highest in five years; 68 people have been killed or injured this year, and an expert warns mushroom pickers and anglers not to go alone

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

A 59-year-old member of a local hunters' association was attacked by an Asian black bear in the mountains of Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture, on Sunday morning, as bears across Japan search for food before their winter hibernation.

The man was helping to capture deer under a contract from the prefecture when he was attacked at about 10 a.m. in the forest of the Otaki district. About 10 people were in the mountains for the work. He used a radio to call for help, and colleagues drove him to hospital. He suffered scratches all over his body, but prefectural officials said his life was not in danger.

The autumn danger

Autumn is the season when bears become most active, eating as much as they can before hibernation, and sightings are rising in towns and cities as well as in the mountains where people go to see the autumn leaves and pick mushrooms.

Preliminary figures from the Environment Ministry show 19,789 sightings of Asian black bears in Honshu and Shikoku from April to August, the highest for that period in five years. In August alone there were 2,391, down from 4,069 a year earlier.

Casualties

As of September, bears, including the brown bears of Hokkaido, had killed or injured 68 people this year, six of whom died. Most of the deaths in the spring occurred while people were gathering wild mountain

vegetables.

A good year for beech nuts

Beech trees produced a bumper crop of nuts in many parts of Tohoku this year, which may reduce the number of bears coming down into villages to look for food. But experts warn that bears that have learned that human settlements offer food may come back regardless.

How to stay safe

Shusuke Koike, a professor at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology who studies bears, said people need not be overly afraid on busy hiking trails, but that picking mushrooms or fishing in mountain streams alone carries a higher risk.

He recommends making noise with a bell or a radio, wearing a helmet and carrying bear repellent spray.

Last year's toll

Bear attacks reached record levels last year, when bears repeatedly entered residential areas in Tohoku and the government allowed police and municipalities to shoot bears in towns under emergency rules, and many local governments are on alert for a repeat this autumn.

A recurring concern

Crashes involving elderly drivers have become a focus of road safety policy as Japan's population ages. Drivers aged 75 and older must take a cognitive test when renewing their licences, and those with certain traffic violations must also pass a driving test, while the government and carmakers have promoted vehicles with automatic emergency braking and systems that prevent sudden acceleration when the wrong pedal is pressed.

The bus

The number of passengers on the sightseeing bus and its destination were not immediately reported. Fujisawa, on the coast south-west of Yokohama, is the gateway to Enoshima, one of the most popular day-trip destinations from Tokyo.

SOCIETY

A Woman Dies on the Shin-Tomei Expressway After Getting Out of a Car That Hit a Deer and Was Then Struck by a Truck

The 22-year-old passenger was standing near the car in Shinshiro, Aichi, late on Saturday night; the truck driver was arrested

By the Society Desk

A 22-year-old woman died on the Shin-Tomei Expressway in Shinshiro, Aichi Prefecture, late on Saturday night after the car in which she had been travelling hit a deer and was then struck from behind by a large truck, police said.

The crash happened at about 11:50 p.m. on the Tokyo-bound carriageway near the entrance to a tunnel.

What happened

The car, driven by a 28-year-old office worker from Shimizu Ward in Shizuoka City, hit a deer and stopped. The driver and the woman, an office worker from Aoi Ward in Shizuoka City who was his passenger, got out. The truck then struck the stationary car, and the woman, who was standing nearby, was caught up in the collision. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Arrest

Aichi prefectural police arrested the truck driver, a 46-year-old office worker from Sakura, Chiba Prefecture, at the scene on Sunday on suspicion of causing injury through negligent driving, and said they would investigate the case as negligent driving causing death.

The danger after a breakdown

Expressway operators and the police advise drivers whose cars stop on an expressway to switch on hazard lights, set out a warning triangle or flare if it is safe to do so, get out on the side away from traffic and move behind the guardrail rather than standing near the vehicle, then call for help.

Wild animals on the roads

Collisions with deer and other wild animals have increased on roads in mountainous areas as deer populations have grown, and the Shin-Tomei passes through hilly country in eastern Aichi.

SOCIETY

Two Motorcyclists From Fukuoka Prefecture Die in a Head-On Collision on a Curve in Karatsu, Saga

The riders, aged 38 and 63, were taken to hospital after Sunday morning's crash on National Route 323

By the Society Desk

Two men died after their motorcycles collided head-on on a curve on National Route 323 in the Nanayama Takigawa area of Karatsu, Saga Prefecture, at about 10:35 a.m. on Sunday, police said.

The road has one lane in each direction. Both riders were taken to hospital, where they were pronounced dead.

The victims

One was a 38-year-old company employee from Kasuga, Fukuoka Prefecture, who died of haemorrhagic shock. The other, a 63-year-old company employee from Kurume, Fukuoka Prefecture, died of multiple injuries.

Investigation

The Karatsu police are investigating the cause of the crash.

A riding season

Autumn is a popular season for motorcycle touring, and mountain roads with sweeping curves attract riders at weekends. Police in many prefectures urge riders to keep their speed down on bends and to wear chest protectors, as injuries to the chest and head are the main causes of death in motorcycle crashes.

From Fukuoka

Both men lived in Fukuoka Prefecture, which borders Saga: Kasuga lies just south of Fukuoka City, and Kurume is in the south of the prefecture.

Riders account for a large share of those killed on Japan's roads, and police say a crash is far more likely to be fatal for a motorcyclist than for the occupants of a car.

SOCIETY

Former Son-in-Law Is Re-Arrested on Suspicion of Murdering a 52-Year-Old Woman in Ota, Gunma, After Warnings Were Given to Police

The 30-year-old had told his ex-wife he would kill her mother and brother, she told Tochigi police before the attack; he admits the charge

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Gunma prefectural police on Sunday re-arrested a 30-year-old man on suspicion of murdering a 52-year-old woman at her home in Ota, Gunma Prefecture, in September. The man, an exterior wall worker from the Isesan-machi area of Sano, Tochigi Prefecture, is the former husband of the woman's eldest daughter.

"There is no mistake," he was quoted by police as

saying, admitting the charge.

The attack

At about noon on September 25, the woman's 28-year-old daughter and 26-year-old son returned home to find the man inside. The son was slashed on the head, and the woman was found collapsed inside the house.

The man fled, and the police issued a public appeal for information. He was arrested on September 27 on suspicion of attempting to murder the son.

A warning beforehand

Before the attack, the eldest daughter had consulted Tochigi prefectural police, telling them that her former husband had said he would kill her mother and her brother and then himself.

The investigation

Gunma police are investigating the man's motive and the circumstances leading up to the attack.

Across a border

Sano, where the man lived, lies just across the prefectural border from Ota, which is why the eldest daughter's consultation was with the Tochigi police while the investigation is being conducted by the Gunma police.

SOCIETY

A 19-Year-Old Admits Murdering a Nursery Worker on Tokunoshima When He Was 17, as the Defence Asks for Juvenile Protection

Prosecutors seek criminal punishment in the lay judge trial at the Kagoshima District Court over the stabbing of Fusako Kikuchi in November 2024

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

A 19-year-old man admitted at the start of his trial at the Kagoshima District Court on Monday that he murdered Fusako Kikuchi, a 55-year-old nursery worker, at her home on the island of Tokunoshima in November 2024, when he was a 17-year-old high school student.

"There is no mistake," he said when asked about the charges, which include murder.

The indictment

According to the indictment, between about 4:40 p.m. and 5:20 p.m. on November 20, 2024, the defendant entered Ms Kikuchi's home in the town of Isen through an unlocked floor-level window and, when she returned, stabbed her repeatedly in the chest and elsewhere with a kitchen knife.

Punishment or protection

The defence argued that protective measures under the Juvenile Act would be appropriate and asked that he be sent to a juvenile training school. Prosecutors argued that he should receive a criminal sentence.

The trial is being heard by lay judges, citizens who sit alongside professional judges in serious criminal cases.

The law on juveniles

Under the Juvenile Act, 18- and 19-year-olds are treated as "specified juveniles" since a revision in 2022, and serious cases such as murder committed at 16 or older are in principle sent from the family court to prosecutors to be tried as adults. A criminal court can, however, return a case to the family court if it finds protective measures more appropriate.

The island

Tokunoshima, in the Amami Islands of Kagoshima Prefecture, is a close-knit island of about 22,000 people, where Ms Kikuchi worked caring for young children.

SOCIETY

Evacuees From Namie's Tsushima District Will Appeal to the Supreme Court After a High Court Cleared the State of Liability

The Sendai High Court ordered only Tokyo Electric to pay damages and rejected the demand to restore the area, overturning a 2021 ruling that found the government responsible

By the Society Desk

Residents of the Tsushima district of Namie, Fukushima Prefecture, who were forced from their homes by the 2011 accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, said on Sunday that they would appeal to the Supreme Court after a high court ruled that the state was not liable for the disaster.

The plaintiffs and their lawyers announced the decision at a news conference in Nihonmatsu,

SOCIETY

Fukushima Prefecture.

The ruling

On Friday the Sendai High Court rejected the plaintiffs' claim that the government had failed to prepare adequately for a severe nuclear accident, finding that there was no high degree of probability that the accident could have been avoided even if measures had been taken. It ordered only Tokyo Electric Power Company, the plant's operator, to pay compensation.

The court also rejected the residents' demand that the area be restored to its original condition.

Overturned

In July 2021 the Koriyama branch of the Fukushima District Court had found the state liable along with Tokyo Electric. The high court overturned that part of the ruling.

The Supreme Court's precedent

In June 2022 the Supreme Court ruled in four other class actions by evacuees that the state was not liable, finding that the tsunami was far larger than the one assumed in a government assessment and that the accident would probably have happened even if the government had ordered countermeasures. Lower courts have largely followed that ruling since.

A district still waiting

Tsushima, in the mountains of western Namie, was heavily contaminated by radioactive fallout, and much of it was designated a difficult-to-return zone. Its residents have campaigned for the restoration of their community as well as compensation.

SOCIETY

Ten Thousand Join Ishikawa's Disaster Drill in Komatsu, Where Rescuers Searched Without Being Told How Many People Were Trapped

The scenario combined a linear rain band with an earthquake of intensity 6-upper; water supply drills drew on lessons from the Kumamoto earthquake in July

By the Society Desk

Ishikawa Prefecture held a comprehensive disaster drill with the city of Komatsu on Sunday, with about 70 organisations, including the prefectural police and fire services, and some 10,000 people, residents among them, taking part.

The prefecture was struck by the Noto Peninsula earthquake on New Year's Day in 2024 and by torrential rain in the Okunoto region later the same year.

The scenario

The drill imagined an earthquake with a maximum intensity of 6-upper on the Japanese scale striking while a linear rain band, a line of thunderstorms that can dump heavy rain on one area for hours, was over the region, triggering landslides and cutting off some communities.

Searching blind

Police and firefighters practised rescuing people from landslides and collapsed buildings. Rescuers were not told in advance where the people to be rescued were or how many there were, so that the drill would be as close as possible to a real disaster.

Shelters and water

Participants also practised receiving evacuees at shelters and supplying water, drawing on the experience of the water outages caused by the earthquake that struck Kumamoto Prefecture in July.

Why it matters

The Noto earthquake showed how difficult it is to reach isolated communities when roads are cut, and how long water and other services can take to restore. Drills that combine more than one hazard reflect the growing recognition that disasters can strike together.

The Noto experience

After the Noto earthquake, many communities on the peninsula were cut off for days as roads collapsed, and water service in some areas took months to restore, which is why the drill concentrated on reaching isolated areas and supplying water.

The host city

Komatsu, in the south of the prefecture, is home to Komatsu Airport, which shares its runway with an Air Self-Defense Force base.

SOCIETY

A Colleague Tells the Story of the 2,134 Days Between the Disappearance of Lawyer Tsutsumi Sakamoto's Family and the Discovery of Their Bodies

Shuichi Kojima's book recounts the nationwide campaign to find the family murdered by Aum Shinrikyo in 1989; 'I want people to know the reality of the rescue movement'

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

A lawyer who worked alongside Tsutsumi Sakamoto has published a book recounting the campaign to find the Yokohama lawyer, his wife and their baby son after they vanished in 1989, and the long struggle that followed until their bodies were found nearly six years later.

The book, by Shuichi Kojima, 70, is titled "Ikite Kaere!" ("Come Back Alive!") and subtitled "the 2,134 days to the 'reunion' in the Sakamoto family case."

The case

Mr Sakamoto, then 33, his wife, Satoko, 29, and their son, Tatsuhiko, aged 1, were murdered at their home in Yokohama in November 1989 by members of the Aum Shinrikyo cult. Mr Sakamoto had been representing parents who wanted to recover children who had joined the cult.

Their bodies were buried in the mountains of Niigata, Toyama and Nagano prefectures and were not found until September 1995, after the sarin attack on the Tokyo subway that March led to the arrest of the cult's leaders.

A movement

The book traces the rescue campaign from the family's disappearance to the discovery of their remains, describing how it spread across the country through signature drives calling for a stronger police investigation and petitions to local assemblies, as well as the memorial activities that continue today.

"I want people to know the reality of the rescue movement," Mr Kojima said.

The man

He also wanted to portray his colleague as a real person, he said: someone who went to the scene without hesitation, never gave up on difficult facts and handled consultations about the cult sincerely. "He was the kind of man who would go anywhere lightly and keep hold of hard facts without giving up."

Memory

More than 30 years after the murders, keeping the events from fading from memory has become a serious challenge, as a generation grows up with no recollection of Aum's crimes.

SOCIETY

Nagasaki Unveils a Monument to Dr. Tatsuichiro Akizuki, the Atomic Bomb Survivor Who Treated Victims and Collected Their Testimony

Paid for by citizens' donations, it stands near the Atomic Bomb Museum; Masao Tomonaga urges young people to build a world without nuclear weapons

By the Society Desk

A monument honouring Tatsuichiro Akizuki, a doctor who survived the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and devoted the rest of his life to caring for survivors and to the peace movement, was unveiled near the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum on Sunday afternoon.

Paid for with donations from citizens, it was unveiled before an audience that included atomic bomb survivors and high school students, who applauded as the cloth covering it was removed.

The doctor

Dr. Akizuki, a Nagasaki native, was working at a hospital in the city when the bomb exploded on August 9, 1945, and went on to treat the injured. After the war he collected the testimony of survivors and worked for peace. He died in 2005 at the age of 89.

A colleague's tribute

Masao Tomonaga, 83, a doctor and survivor who knew him, said many people had been shaped by Dr. Akizuki's guidance. "I want to work together so that young people around the world can build a world without nuclear weapons," he said.

Testimony

Dr. Akizuki's account of the bombing and its aftermath is one of the best-known records of Nagasaki's ordeal and has been translated into other languages.

The survivors

The number of atomic bomb survivors, known as hibakusha, has fallen below 100,000, and their average age is over 85, which has made efforts to preserve their testimony and that of the doctors who treated them increasingly urgent. Nihon Hidankyo, the national confederation of survivors' groups, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2024.

SOCIETY

Kobe Citizens Remember 13 Korean Labourers Who Died Building a Railway Into the Mountains Before the War

The monument, a bronze figure swinging a pickaxe, was put up by a citizens' group 30 years ago next month

By the Society Desk

About 30 people gathered in front of a memorial in Hyogo Ward, Kobe, on Sunday afternoon to remember 13 Korean labourers who died before World War II, mainly in a collapse at a railway construction site.

Those attending placed flowers before the monument, a bronze statue of a man swinging a pickaxe, and observed a moment of silence.

The railway

The labourers were working on the lines of what is now Kobe Electric Railway, which runs from central Kobe into the mountains to the hot spring town of Arima. Many Korean workers were employed on the construction of the Arima Line, a citizens' group has found.

The group identified the 13 victims through research that included old newspaper reports, and their deaths date from 1927 to 1936.

Thirty years

The group erected the monument in 1996, and November marks the 30th anniversary of its installation. Its representative, 75, said the aim was to pass on the truth of past history without letting it be forgotten.

History

During Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945, many Koreans came to Japan to work, often in construction, mining and other dangerous jobs, and local groups across Japan have worked to record their stories.

The line today

Kobe Electric Railway's Arima Line now carries commuters and visitors to Arima Onsen, one of Japan's oldest hot spring resorts, through the tunnels and cuttings that the workers dug.

SOCIETY

Shoji Maekawa, Acquitted at Retrial, Visits 99-Year-Old Ayako Haraguchi as She Waits on Her Fifth Retrial Request in the Osaki Case

Supporters say the visit encouraged her; she has always denied killing her brother-in-law in 1979

By the Society Desk

Shoji Maekawa, 61, who was acquitted at a retrial over the 1986 murder of a junior high school student in Fukui, visited Ayako Haraguchi, 99, at a care facility in Kagoshima Prefecture on Sunday to encourage her as she seeks a retrial in the Osaki case.

Supporters and some members of her defence team joined the meeting, her support group said.

The case

In 1979 the body of a man was found in the town of Osaki in Kagoshima Prefecture. Ms Haraguchi, his sister-in-law, was convicted of murder and other charges and served her prison term, but she has always maintained her innocence. Her fifth request for a retrial is under review.

Encouragement

A supporter who was present said Mr Maekawa had never given up over many years and had won his acquittal, and that he believed the visit had encouraged Ms Haraguchi.

Retrial reform

Cases such as hers have fuelled calls to reform the rules on retrials, which critics say take far too long and give prosecutors too much room to delay. The acquittal at retrial of Iwao Hakamada in 2024 added to the pressure for change, and both lawmakers and the Justice Ministry's advisory Legislative Council have been considering revisions to the rules on retrials.

Earlier rulings

Courts have ordered a retrial in the case three times, in 2002, 2017 and 2018, but each decision was overturned by a higher court, the last by the Supreme Court in 2019.

Time

At 99, Ms Haraguchi is one of the oldest people in Japan seeking a retrial, and her supporters say a decision cannot come soon enough.

SOCIETY

Ashinaga Will Give 50,000 Yen to Children Who Have Lost a Parent as They Start Junior High, to Help With Uniforms and Bags

About 400 children will receive the new payment in January; a survey found three in four families worried about the cost of uniforms and gym clothes

By the Society Desk

Ashinaga, the Tokyo-based foundation that supports children who have lost a parent or whose parent has a disability, has created a new payment for children before they enter junior high school, it said on Monday.

About 400 children who meet the conditions will each receive 50,000 yen in late January next year, to help with costs such as school uniforms.

Reaching children earlier

The foundation's support has mainly gone to high school and university students. The new payment is intended to reach children who need help earlier and to widen their future options.

What families worry about

In August the foundation surveyed the parents of high school students receiving its scholarships. Of the 353 households with a younger child in elementary school, 76 per cent said they were worried about the cost of uniforms and gym clothes for junior high, and more than half about saving for school trips and club activities. Respondents could choose more than one answer.

In their words

The father of a sixth-grade boy said he was worried about the cost of a uniform and bag, noting that his eldest son's had cost more than 50,000 yen. The mother of a second-year junior high school girl said it was painful that her daughter had chosen a club because it cost little. Another mother said she could afford only one uniform although two sets of gym clothes were needed.

The cost of school

In the education ministry's 2023 survey of the cost of schooling, the average cost of uniforms for first-year students at public junior high schools was about 59,000 yen, and school bags and other items for commuting about 20,600 yen.

The foundation

Ashinaga, whose name means long legs, after the novel Daddy-Long-Legs, has supported tens of thousands of children through scholarships funded largely by donations, including its well-known street fundraising campaigns.

SOCIETY

Society in Brief

By the Society Desk

WARRANTS: Electronic arrest warrants will begin in drug cases in Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama and Chiba within the fiscal year and spread nationwide to all cases by July next year, the Yomiuri Shimbun reports.

TEXTBOOKS: Draft guidelines make hybrid paper-and-digital textbooks the standard; experts meet on Thursday.

MOTORCYCLES: Owners can apply for number plates of their choice from Monday.

BEARS: A hunter helping to cull deer was clawed by a bear in Chichibu, Saitama.

CRASHES: Fourteen people were taken to hospital

SOCIETY

after a car hit several vehicles and a bus in Fujisawa; a woman died on the Shin-Tomei after her car hit a deer and was struck by a truck.

COURTS: A 19-year-old admitted murdering a nursery worker on Tokunoshima; evacuees from Namie will appeal to the Supreme Court.

MEMORIALS: Nagasaki unveiled a monument to Dr. Tatsuichiro Akizuki; Kobe citizens remembered 13 Korean railway workers.

DRILL: About 10,000 people took part in Ishikawa's disaster drill in Komatsu.

ROYALS: Princess Aiko visited Kurayoshi's storehouse district; Princess Kako attended a conference on hearing loss in Kyoto.

BOOKS: A colleague of the lawyer Tsutsumi Sakamoto, murdered by Aum Shinrikyo in 1989, published an account of the campaign to find the family.

SPORTS

Unbeaten Monroe Walk Wins the Shuka Sho by a Neck, Completing a Perfect Five From Five and Giving Tosaki His Second Win in the Race

The favourite came from fifth place in the straight at Kyoto to take the final leg of the fillies' Triple Tiara in 1:56.1 and the 110-million-yen prize

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Monroe Walk, the favourite, won the 31st Shuka Sho, the final leg of the Triple Tiara for three-year-old fillies, at Kyoto Racecourse on Sunday, staying unbeaten in five starts.

Ridden by Keita Tosaki, the filly ran fifth in the early stages of the 2,000-metre turf race and took the lead in the home straight, holding on by a neck from the seventh favourite. Dream Core, the second favourite, was a length and a quarter further back in third in a field of 17.

The winning time was 1 minute 56.1 seconds.

A first Grade 1

It was Monroe Walk's first victory in a Grade 1 race and her second in a graded stakes race, and it was worth 110 million yen to her connections.

Tosaki won the Shuka Sho for the second time. For the trainer, Hiroyuki Uemura, it was a first victory in the race.

The breeding

Monroe Walk is by Kizuna, the Derby winner of 2013 who has become one of Japan's leading sires, out of a mare by the Australian stallion Sebring.

A perfect record

The filly went into the race four from four and was widely regarded as the one to beat, and she justified her favouritism in a finish that tested her to the line.

What next

An unbeaten Grade 1 winner at three opens several options for the autumn and beyond, including races against older fillies and mares such as the Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Kyoto in November.

The Triple Tiara

The Shuka Sho, run over 2,000 metres at Kyoto, completes the series for three-year-old fillies that begins with the Oka Sho in April and continues with the Yushun Himba, the Japanese Oaks, in May.

The autumn season

The autumn Grade 1 season continues with the Kikka Sho, the Japanese St Leger for three-year-olds over 3,000 metres at Kyoto, and the Tenno Sho (Autumn) at Tokyo, before the Japan Cup in November.

SPORTS

Hosono Wins the Japan Open to Complete a Rare Double, the First Left-Hander to Take the Title Since 1981

The 23-year-old, who won the Japan PGA Championship in May, finishes two shots clear at Tarao and earns invitations to the Masters and the Open

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

Yusaku Hosono won the Japan Open Golf Championship at Tarao Country Club in Shiga Prefecture on Sunday, closing with a 70 for a total of 13-under-par 267 to win by two strokes.

The 23-year-old began the final round in the lead and held off Yusuke Sakamoto, who finished second. Shugo Imahira and Lee Sang-hee of South Korea tied for third.

A double

It was Hosono's second victory in one of Japan's three national majors this year, after the Japan PGA Championship in May, and his second win on the Japan Golf Tour.

No player had won the Japan Open and the Japan PGA Championship in the same year since Shingo Katayama in 2008.

A left-hander's title

Hosono is also the first left-handed winner of the Japan Open since Yutaka Hagawa in 1981.

The rewards

The victory brought a first prize of 42 million yen and invitations to next year's Masters Tournament and the Open Championship.

The course

The course, at 7,411 yards and a par of 70, was set up as one of the toughest tests of the season. Sixty-four players, including four amateurs, made it to the final round, which was played in sunshine at 19.3 degrees, with a light south-south-easterly wind, before 3,177 spectators.

The national championship

The Japan Open, run by the Japan Golf Association, is the country's national championship and its most prestigious tournament. Its past champions include Masashi Ozaki, who won it five times, and Isao Aoki, and Hosono's name now joins theirs on the trophy.

SPORTS

Ai Suzuki Ends a Winless Season With Her 23rd Career Title at the Fujitsu Ladies, Two Shots Ahead of Suganuma

The 32-year-old closes with a 69 for 15 under; points leader Shiho Kuwaki finishes 13th and the race for the money title stays open

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

Ai Suzuki won the Fujitsu Ladies at the Tokyu Seven Hundred Club in Chiba Prefecture on Sunday for her first victory of the season and the 23rd of her career.

The 32-year-old began the final round tied for the lead and shot a 69, with four birdies and a bogey, for a total of 15-under-par 273.

Nana Suganuma finished second, two strokes behind. Ayaka Furue, Kotone Hori and Lee Mi-hyang of South Korea were among four players tied for third, a further shot back.

Back on top

Suzuki's previous win came in the final tournament of last season. She collected 27 million yen.

The points race

Shiho Kuwaki, who leads the season's points ranking, finished 13th, and Rin Yoshida was seventh.

The tournament

Fifty-nine players, including three amateurs, contested the final round on the 6,717-yard, par-72 course in sunshine at 24.1 degrees, watched by 3,444 spectators.

A champion's record

Suzuki, from Tottori Prefecture, has twice topped the money list on the Japan LPGA Tour, in 2014 and 2019, and her 23 victories place her among the most successful players of her generation.

Abroad

In Shanghai, Rio Takeda finished fourth at the Buick LPGA on the American tour at 7 under par after a closing 69. Ruoning Yin of China won at 11 under for her seventh LPGA title. Erika Hara and Yuri Yoshida tied for 10th at 2 under, Mao Saigo was 26th after a 67, and Minami Katsu 41st.

SPORTS

Japan's Men Top Team Qualifying at the World Gymnastics Championships, With Oka and Hashimoto First and Second in the All-Around

The team final in Rotterdam, early on Wednesday Japan time, offers three places at the 2028 Olympics; the women are provisionally third

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Japan's men finished first in team qualifying at the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Rotterdam, scoring 254.529 points across the six apparatus to reach the team final, where the top three teams will earn places at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The Japanese competed on Saturday, and qualifying ended on Sunday with no team surpassing them. Great Britain was second with 251.460, and China finished fourth. The top eight teams advance to the final, on Tuesday, early on Wednesday Japan time.

The team

Japan's team is made up of Daiki Hashimoto, Shinnosuke Oka, Shohei Kawakami, Ryosuke Doi and Fusuke Maeda.

The all-around

Oka, the Paris Olympic all-around champion, led the individual all-around qualifying with 85.098, and Hashimoto, the Tokyo Olympic champion, was second with 84.632.

Event finals

Japanese gymnasts qualified for every apparatus final: Doi on floor, Hashimoto on pommel horse, Oka on rings, Kawakami on vault, Oka and Hashimoto on parallel bars, and Kawakami and Oka on the horizontal bar, where they qualified first and second.

The women

In women's team qualifying, Japan was provisionally third with 161.630 after three of ten subdivisions, behind the United States on 164.529. Rina Kishi was provisionally third in the all-around with 53.499 and Aiko Sugihara eighth with 52.266. Makoto Okamura led on the balance beam with 14.266, and Sugihara, last year's floor champion, was fourth on that apparatus. The women's team final is on Wednesday, early on Thursday Japan time.

The stakes

Japan's men won team gold at the Paris Olympics, and the world championships are the first chance to secure a team place for Los Angeles, sparing the gymnasts the pressure of later qualifying events.

SPORTS

The Fillies' Triple Tiara: Only Seven Have Swept the Series, and Daring Tact Remains the Only One to Do It Unbeaten

Monroe Walk's perfect record came in the third leg alone; the Shuka Sho has completed the series since 1996

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The Shuka Sho, won on Sunday by the unbeaten Monroe Walk, is the final leg of the Triple Tiara, Japan's series for three-year-old fillies, which begins with the Oka Sho in April and continues with the Yushun Himba, the Japanese Oaks, in May.

A newer race

The Shuka Sho was first run in 1996. Before then the third leg was the Queen Elizabeth II Commemorative Cup, which was opened to older fillies and mares when the Shuka Sho was created for three-year-olds. Sunday's race was the 31st running.

The seven

Only seven fillies have won all three legs. Mejiro Ramonu completed the series in 1986, when the Queen Elizabeth II Cup was the final leg. Since the Shuka Sho was introduced, the feat has been achieved by Still in Love in 2003, Apapane in 2010, Gentildonna in 2012, Almond Eye in 2018, Daring Tact in 2020 and Liberty Island in 2023.

Unbeaten

Daring Tact remains the only filly to win the Triple Tiara without a defeat. Gentildonna and Almond Eye went on to beat the colts and older horses in the Japan Cup, Almond Eye becoming one of the most successful racehorses in Japanese history.

This year

Monroe Walk did not win the earlier legs, but by staying unbeaten in five starts and taking the final leg she has marked herself as the leading filly of her generation heading into the autumn and next season.

The jockey and trainer

For Keita Tosaki, one of the most successful jockeys in Japan, it was a second Shuka Sho. Her trainer, Hiroyuki Uemura, a former jockey, won the race for the first time.

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SPORTS

Daizen Maeda Scores His First Premier League Goal at Manchester City, Racing Behind the Defence and Finishing With His Left Foot

The newly promoted Ipswich forward equalised minutes after City went ahead, playing as a shadow striker in a five-man defence

By the Sports Desk

Daizen Maeda scored his first goal in the Premier League for Ipswich Town away to Manchester City on Saturday, equalising in the 21st minute shortly after City had taken the lead.

As a teammate held the ball near the right touchline, Maeda ran in behind the defence, received the pass, got past an England international defender and finished with his left foot inside the near post.

A defensive plan

Ipswich, back in the Premier League, set up with five defenders, and Maeda played as a shadow striker just behind the lone centre forward. Like many promoted teams, they spend much of their matches defending, and against City they had little of the ball.

Maeda had said he wanted to keep running for the team and be ready to finish when chances came, and his goal rewarded that patience.

His strengths

Maeda, who joined Ipswich this season, is known for his speed and his ability to play in several positions across the front line.

The result

The final score was not reported in the dispatch available at press time.

Japanese in England

Maeda joins a group of Japanese players in the Premier League this season that includes Daichi Kamada at Crystal Palace and Ao Tanaka at Leeds United.

SPORTS

Where the Asian Para Games Are Held: From Nagoya's Main Stadium to a Velodrome in Shizuoka

Eighteen sports are spread across Nagoya and other Aichi cities, with cycling events beyond the prefecture's borders

By the Sports Desk

The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games, which run until Saturday, are spread across venues in Nagoya, in other cities of Aichi Prefecture and, for cycling, beyond.

In Nagoya

Paloma Mizuho Sports Park, where Sunday's opening ceremony was held, is the main venue. Elsewhere in the city, judo is held at the Aichi Budokan, wheelchair basketball at the Aichi International Arena, powerlifting at the City Trade and Industry Centre and wheelchair tennis at the Higashiyama Park Tennis Center, according to the organisers' plans.

Wheelchair fencing is at the Inae Sports Center, boccia at Nippon Gaishi Hall, swimming at the Rainbow Pool and blind football in Tsuruma Park, with archery at a temporary venue.

Across Aichi

Badminton is held in Ichinomiya, wheelchair rugby at Wing Arena Kariya, sitting volleyball in Okazaki Central Park and goalball at the Toyohashi City General Gymnasium, where Japan's teams won their opening games on Saturday. Shooting takes place at the prefectural range in Toyota, and table tennis at Sky Hall Toyota.

Beyond the prefecture

Track cycling is held at the Izu Velodrome in Shizuoka Prefecture, the venue used for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, and road cycling at the Japan Cycle Sports Center nearby.

Tickets

The organisers have encouraged spectators to attend after the Tokyo Paralympics of 2021 were held largely without crowds, and the empty seats at the opening ceremony suggest there is still room in many venues.

Qualification

The competitions in wheelchair tennis and shooting double as qualifying events for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics, giving athletes from across Asia extra reason to perform.

SPORTS



The emblem of the 5th Asian Para Games, Aichi-Nagoya 2026, which opened on Sunday evening at Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya and run until Saturday. (File image: WPM Productions)

SPORTS

The Asian Para Games Open in Nagoya, With Muraoka, Nakanishi and Miyake Lighting the Cauldron Before Some Empty Seats

About 4,000 athletes from 45 countries and regions, including North Korea, will compete for seven days; Japan's team of about 280, entering last, drew the loudest cheers

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

The fifth Asian Para Games, the first held in Japan, opened on Sunday evening with a ceremony at Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya, bringing together about 4,000 athletes from 45 countries and regions, including North Korea, for seven days of competition through October 24.

The cauldron was lit by Momoka Muraoka of Toyota Motor, a gold medallist in alpine skiing at the Winter Paralympics, together with Maya Nakanishi, who competed in para athletics, and Katsumi Miyake, a former wheelchair basketball player.

The host team

Japan has entered about 280 athletes in all 18 sports. Its flag bearers were Katsuya Hashimoto, 24, a wheelchair rugby player with Amova Asset Management, and Moe Nakagawa, 22, an athlete and graduate student at the University of Tokyo.

The organisers, who have made the creation of an inclusive society, in which people with and without disabilities are not separated, the theme of the Games, staged a performance during the ceremony, which ended at about 8:18 p.m.

A thin crowd

Empty seats were noticeable in the stands, Kyodo News reported. Cheers rose when the Japanese team entered last in the parade of athletes, but applause during the performances was sparse, and the stadium was far from full.

As of October 14 the organising committee said ticket sales for the ceremony stood at 60 per cent or more but below 80 per cent. The subdued start recalled the Asian Games held in the same region, which also struggled to draw crowds.

After Tokyo

The Games follow the Tokyo Paralympics of 2021, held largely without spectators, and last year's Tokyo Deaflympics, and are the largest multi-sport event for athletes with disabilities in the region. They feature 508 events, and the competitions in wheelchair tennis and shooting also serve as qualifying events for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics.

The roots

The Asian Para Games grew out of the Far East and South Pacific Games for the Disabled, known as FESPIC, first held in Oita Prefecture in 1975 at the initiative of the late Dr. Yutaka Nakamura, often called the father of the Paralympic movement in Japan. FESPIC was held nine times, including in Kobe in 1989, before the Games took their present form in 2010.

Early results

Competition in some sports began before the ceremony. Japan's goalball teams won their opening games on Saturday, and the men's wheelchair basketball team beat China in its first match last week. The Games' mascot is Uzumin, and their motto is "Imagine One Heart."

SPORTS

Kubo Scores His First Goal of the Season After Three Minutes and Sets Up Another as Real Sociedad Win 5-2 at Malaga

Back in the starting line-up for the first time in seven matches, he plays 71 minutes; Hiroki Machida plays the full game in Hoffenheim's win

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Takefusa Kubo scored his first goal of the season and provided an assist as Real Sociedad won 5-2 away to Malaga in Spain's La Liga on Saturday.

Starting a match for the first time in seven official games, Kubo opened the scoring in the third minute. He set up a teammate's goal in the 59th minute and was substituted in the 71st.

A timely return

The goal ended a frustrating start to the season for the Japan international, who had been in and out of the starting line-up.

In Germany

In the Bundesliga, Hiroki Machida played the full match as Hoffenheim won 2-1 away to Borussia Monchengladbach, for whom Zento Uno played until the 79th minute. Kaishu Sano played the full 90 minutes as Mainz won 1-0 away to Schalke on Saturday.

In England

In the Premier League, Daichi Kamada played until the 81st minute as Crystal Palace lost 5-0 at Brighton, and Ao Tanaka started and played until the 81st minute as Leeds United drew 1-1 at home with Manchester United.

In France

In Ligue 1, Keito Nakamura came on in the 61st minute of Lyon's 2-1 home win over Nice and was sent off nine minutes later. Takumi Minamino played until the 52nd minute as Monaco lost 1-0 away to Lorient. Ayase Ueda missed Lille's 1-1 draw with Brest through injury.

The national team

The weekend's results will interest Japan's coaching staff as they plan for the next international matches, with competition for places in attack as fierce as ever.

SPORTS

Kaiya Ota Takes Bronze in the Men's Sprint on the Final Day of the Track Cycling World Championships in Shanghai

Beaten in the semi-final, he wins the race for third; keirin champion Minami Sato finishes eighth in her bid for a third straight title

By the Sports Desk

Kaiya Ota won the bronze medal in the men's sprint at the UCI Track Cycling World Championships in Shanghai on Sunday, the final day of the championships.

Ota lost in the semi-finals but won the race for third place.

Keirin

In the women's keirin, Minami Sato, who was aiming for a third consecutive world title, finished eighth. Haruka Nakazawa was ninth, and Aki Sakai went out in the first round and the repechage.

Other events

In the men's madison, Kazushige Kuboki and Shunsuke Imamura finished 13th. Eiya Hashimoto was ninth in the men's elimination race, which is not an Olympic event, and Yumi Kajiwaraw finished 17th in the women's points race.

A sprint power

Japan has invested heavily in track sprinting over the past decade, drawing on the depth of its keirin racing, the professional sport that draws large sums in betting, and its riders have become regular medal contenders at world level.

Next

The results will shape Japan's planning for the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, where the keirin and sprint are among the country's best hopes of a cycling medal.

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SPORTS

Hanshin Manager Fujikawa Reports the End of a Pennant Season to the Owner and Vows to Build 'the Best Organisation in Japan'

Injuries to Ishii and Chikamoto and an over-reliance on Sato and Morishita hurt the Tigers in the Climax Series; the club will look to free agency, foreign players and trades

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Kyuji Fujikawa, the manager of the Hanshin Tigers, reported the end of the season to the club's owner, Masao Hata, at the head office of Hanshin Electric Railway in Osaka on Sunday, the day after his team was knocked out of the Climax Series.

The Tigers won the Central League pennant for the second year in a row, the first time in the club's history that they have won it in consecutive seasons, but were swept by the Yokohama DeNA BayStars in the Final Stage.

"We want to build the best organisation in Japan," Fujikawa said.

What went wrong

Long-term injuries to Ishii and Chikamoto weighed on the team during the season, and the Tigers had to fight the Yomiuri Giants for the pennant until the closing weeks.

In the Climax Series, Sato and Morishita, on whom the team relied heavily, were not in full condition, exposing how dependent the lineup had become on them. Fujikawa asked the club and the coaching staff to help players manage injuries and fatigue, and the owner promised to do what he could.

Strengthening the squad

Fujikawa is in the last year of a three-year contract. The club's president, Kazuo Awai, said the squad lacked depth and that the team would use free agency, foreign players and trades to fill its weak spots. The designated hitter will be used in the Central League from next season, as it is in the Pacific League.

The Japan Series

DeNA meet the SoftBank Hawks in the Japan Series, which opens at Yokohama Stadium on Saturday, a repeat of the 2024 series, which DeNA won.

SPORTS

Hokkaido Score 109 to Rout Yokohama in the B.League, and Osaka Marvelous and Tokyo Great Bears Stay Unbeaten in Volleyball

Kyoto, Mikawa and Ibaraki also win big on Sunday; in the SV League's opening weekend, two teams win both their matches

By the Sports Desk

The Levanga Hokkaido beat the Yokohama B-Corsairs 109-78 in basketball's B.League Premier on Sunday to improve to five wins and three losses. Yokohama fell to 5-4.

The Kyoto Hannaryz beat Saga 115-70 for their sixth win in eight games, the SeaHorses Mikawa beat Toyama 99-56 to go to 5-2, and Ibaraki beat Osaka 98-63 for their second win against seven defeats.

Volleyball

In volleyball's SV League, which opened its season at the weekend, Osaka Marvelous beat Okayama 3-1 on Sunday to start the women's season with two wins. Toyama won in straight sets over Akita for a second straight-sets win, and NEC Kawasaki came from behind to beat Himeji 3-1 and even their record at 1-1.

In the men's league, the Tokyo Great Bears beat the Hokkaido Yellow Stars 3-0 for their second win in two matches.

A big season

Both leagues are in the early weeks of seasons that run until spring, and both are seeking to grow audiences as Japanese basketball and volleyball ride a wave of popularity built on international success.

Basketball's rise

Japan's men's basketball team qualified for the Paris Olympics on merit through the 2023 World Cup, and crowds in the B.League have grown strongly.

Volleyball's following

Japan's men's volleyball team reached the quarter-finals at both the Tokyo and Paris Olympics and has a large following at home.

A new league

The SV League began in 2024 as the successor to the V.League, with the stated aim of becoming the strongest volleyball league in the world.

SPORTS

Machida Climb to Second in J1 With a 3-0 Win Over Fukuoka, and Osako's Two Goals Lift Kobe to Fourth

Three teams are level on 23 points at the top, with Hiroshima ahead on goal difference and FC Tokyo third

By the Sports Desk

Machida Zelvia beat Avispa Fukuoka 3-0 on Sunday to move up to second place in J1 on 23 points, at the end of the 10th round of matches.

Vissel Kobe beat Fagiano Okayama 3-0, with Yuya Osako scoring twice, to reach 22 points and fourth place. Okayama remain on 13 points.

The top of the table

Three teams are level on 23 points. Sanfrecce Hiroshima lead on goal difference, ahead of Machida and FC Tokyo.

Osako's touch

Osako, a veteran of two World Cups, has been one of the league's most reliable finishers for Kobe, the champions of 2023 and 2024.

The new calendar

The J.League moved this year to a season running from late summer to the following spring, in line with the main European leagues, and the title race is still in its early stages.

Machida's rise

Machida, who reached J1 for the first time in 2024 and finished third in their debut season, have quickly established themselves among the league's leading clubs.

Kobe's ambition

Kobe, owned by the internet company Rakuten, have spent heavily on players and sit just a point behind the three leaders.

CULTURE

Resident Evil Turns 30: Capcom's Gamble on Realistic Horror That Created a Genre, a Film Series and a Global Franchise

Released as Biohazard for the PlayStation in March 1996, the game popularised the term survival horror; a Capcom executive recalls the risk

By the Culture Desk

Resident Evil, known in Japan as Biohazard, has marked its 30th anniversary this year, and a managing director of Capcom, the Osaka-based maker, has recalled the story behind the game in an interview with Kyodo News, describing how the company backed the appeal of realistic horror despite the risk.

The original

The first game, directed by Shinji Mikami, was released for Sony's PlayStation in Japan in March 1996. Players explored a mansion in the woods outside the fictional Raccoon City, fighting zombies and other monsters with scarce ammunition while solving puzzles.

Its tension, limited resources and cinematic camera angles helped define what came to be called survival horror, and the term itself was popularised by the game.

A franchise

The series grew into one of the best-selling in the history of video games, with numerous sequels, remakes and spin-offs. A series of Hollywood films starring Milla Jovovich began in 2002, and the games have also inspired animation and stage productions.

Reinvention

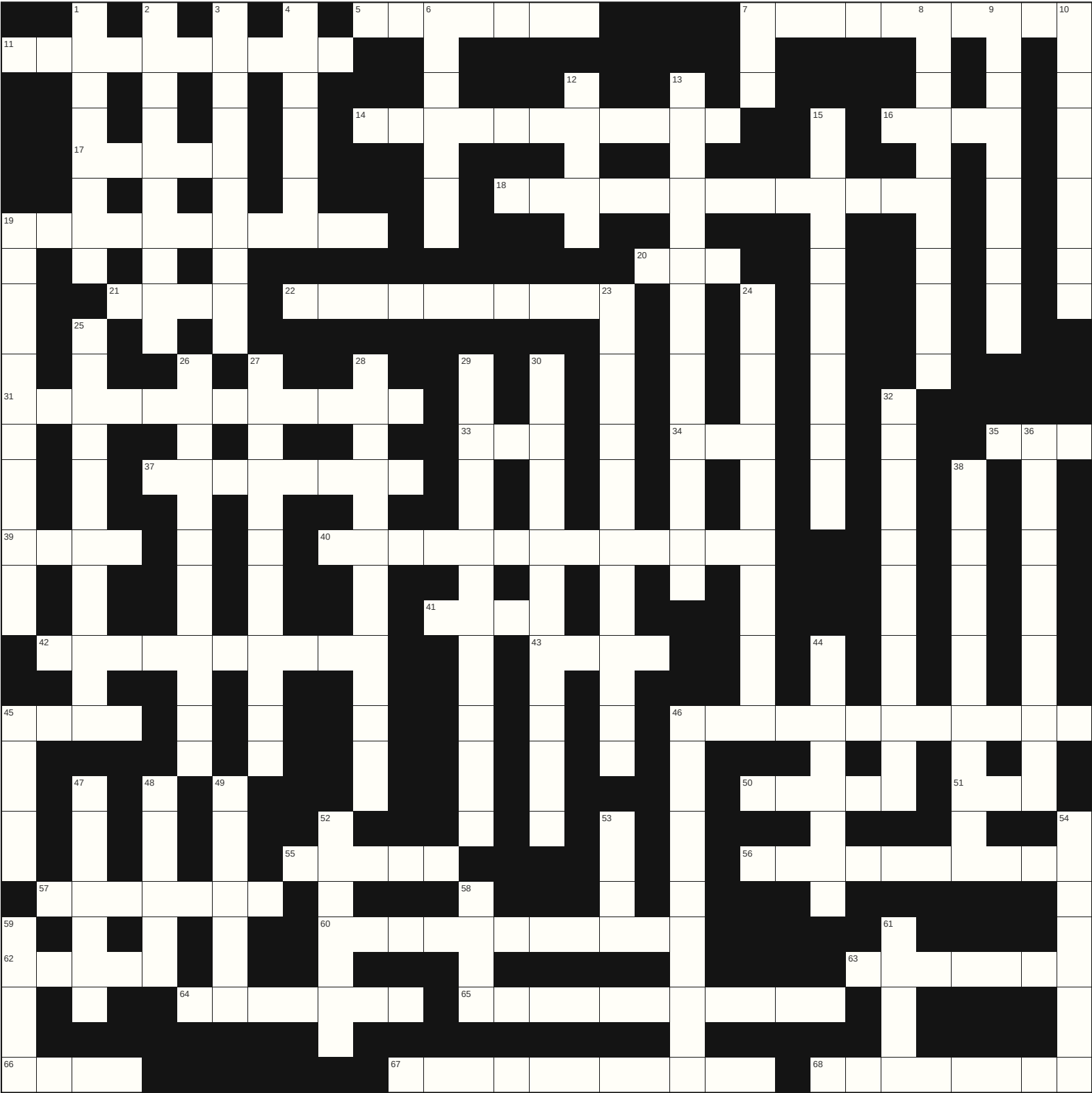
Resident Evil 4, released in 2005, changed the camera to an over-the-shoulder view that was widely imitated across the industry, and later instalments returned to a first-person perspective. Remakes of earlier games have introduced the series to new generations of players.

Japan's game power

The franchise is one of Capcom's pillars, alongside Monster Hunter and Street Fighter, and a reminder of the global reach of Japanese game companies, which the government now treats as an important export industry.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Today's Professional Puzzle — Constructed by James O'Neill — 72 Words



Solution will appear in tomorrow's edition. Puzzle difficulty: Professional.

ACROSS

5. City of the attempted Starlink arson (7)
7. Lumiere colour process (10)
11. Official who receives a case within 48 hours of arrest (10)
14. Rental chain founded in Dallas (11)
16. Animal the car hit (4)
17. Region of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso (5)
18. Bank with 47 per cent of loans in property (13)
19. Island of the nursery worker murder (11)
20. Probe due to launch on Tuesday (3)
21. Typhoon that flooded Kansai airport (4)
22. Kind of warrant to begin this fiscal year (10)
31. Its Article 33 requires a warrant for arrest (12)
33. It traded in the high 157s (3)
34. Chipmaker partnering Subaru (3)
35. Gunma city where a woman was killed (3)
37. Shrine whose autumn festival ended on Monday (8)
39. Egyptian president seeking troops for Saudi Arabia (4)
40. Lenders that raised property loans by 3 trillion yen (13)
41. Currency at 177 yen (4)
42. Issue that four in five Yokohama voters said mattered (10)
43. Fighter programme of Japan, Britain and Italy (4)
45. Body whose lists brokers will consult (4)
46. First antibiotic against tuberculosis (12)
50. It is settling over the country (5)
51. All-around qualifying leader (3)
55. Northern Philippine island near the storm-wind area (5)
56. Sector taking 18 per cent of bank lending (10)
57. Noritake ___, who joined the Kumamoto concert (7)
60. Unit of pressure in typhoon bulletins (11)
62. Country carmakers look to for software engineers (5)
63. NASA probe that flew past Venus (7)
64. How 1 and 777 will be allocated (7)
65. Drugs whose ingredients Japan wants to make itself (11)
66. City electing a mayor on October 25 (4)
67. What APIs are, for medicines (11)
68. City hosting APEC leaders (8)

DOWN

1. Port the carrier left on Monday (8)
2. What Hosono is (10)
3. Kind of vessel MHI may build for the Defense Ministry (10)
4. Region whose name residents want added to their town (7)
6. French prime minister (7)
7. Cult that killed the Sakamoto family (3)
8. What bears are fattening up for (11)
9. How updates will reach cars (10)
10. Astronomer who ridiculed his limit (9)
12. Gatekeeper of the power to arrest (5)
13. Stimulant at the centre of the first electronic warrant cases (15)
15. Body that drew up the warrant timetable (12)
19. Disease once called national in Japan (12)
23. Device to pause trading after a crash (14)
24. Astrophysicist born in Lahore in 1910 (13)
25. German newspaper that interviewed him (12)
26. Kyoto's Festival of the Ages (12)
27. Clouds to flee from, the agency warns (12)
28. Capability the Type 25 missile provides (13)
29. Payment method added to the checklist (14)
30. The Lumieres' invention (14)
32. Aviator who circled the Eiffel Tower (12)
36. Launch site for MMX (11)
38. Naha facility at issue in the campaign (12)
44. It fell to 49.1 per cent in Kyodo's poll (8)
45. Typhoon that blacked out Chiba (5)
46. Airbus Defence chief quoted by Handelsblatt (11)
47. LDP acting secretary-general who appeared on NHK (7)
48. Village of the fire festival (6)
49. City with the lowest high (7)
52. Son-in-law Zelensky called (7)
53. Forum meeting in Shenzhen in November (4)
54. Carmaker arrested in 1982 (8)
58. Northern Yokohama ward where turnout rose sharply (4)
59. Italian city where looters struck the Duomo area (5)
61. Fukushima town whose evacuees will appeal (5)

SPORTS

The Weekend's Results

By the Sports Desk

HORSE RACING: Shuka Sho, Kyoto, 2,000 m: 1, Monroe Walk (Keita Tosaki), 1:56.1; 3, Dream Core.

GOLF: Japan Open: Yusaku Hosono 267 (-13); Yusuke Sakamoto 269. Fujitsu Ladies: Ai Suzuki 273 (-15); Nana Suganuma 275. Buick LPGA: Ruoning Yin -11; Rio Takeda 4th, -7.

GYMNASTICS: World championships, men's team qualifying: 1, Japan 254.529; 2, Great Britain 251.460. All-around: 1, Shinnosuke Oka 85.098; 2, Daiki Hashimoto 84.632.

TRACK CYCLING: World championships, men's sprint: 3, Kaiya Ota.

BADMINTON: Denmark Open women's final: An Se-young bt Akane Yamaguchi 2-1.

FOOTBALL: J1: Machida 3, Fukuoka 0; Kobe 3, Okayama 0. La Liga: Malaga 2, Real Sociedad 5 (Kubo 1 goal, 1 assist).

BASEBALL: ALCS Game 5: Rays 3, Guardians 1 (Rays lead 3-2). Big Six: Meiji 7, Keio 3; Rikkyo 8, Waseda 6.

MOTOR RACING: WEC Barcelona: 1, Toyota No. 8; 2, Toyota No. 7.

ATHLETICS: Tokyo Legacy Half: Alexander Mutiso 59:51; Agnes Jebet Ngetich 1:04:23.

BASKETBALL: Hokkaido 109, Yokohama 78; Kyoto 115, Saga 70.

SPORTS

Kazuki Kameda's World Title Fight Is Called Off on the Day After Champion Figueroa Misses the Weight and Is Stripped

The 35-year-old, who made weight, had been chasing a world title at a third weight in Las Vegas; he is promised priority for a fight for the vacant belt

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Kazuki Kameda's challenge for the WBA featherweight title in Las Vegas on Saturday was cancelled on the day of the fight after the champion, Brandon Figueroa of the United States, failed to make the weight and was stripped of his title.

The organisers announced the cancellation on fight day, saying Figueroa had missed the limit at the weigh-in the previous day and was also unwell.

Ready and waiting

Kameda, 35, of the TMK gym, a former two-division world champion, made the weight. Victory would have made him a world champion at a third weight.

"It's incredibly frustrating," he said. "But it's not over. There's another chance, so I have to move on to the next fight."

The vacant title

The WBA featherweight title is now vacant. Kameda has been promised priority if the WBA or other bodies hold a fight to decide a new champion.

The family

Kameda is the youngest of three boxing brothers. The eldest, Koki, won world titles at three weights, and the second, Daiki, became a world champion at two, making the Kameda family one of the best-known in Japanese boxing.

A common problem

Fights in which a champion misses the weight have become a recurring problem in boxing, and the rules generally strip the champion of the title while allowing the fight to go ahead with only the challenger able to win the belt. In this case Figueroa's illness meant there was no fight at all.

SPORTS

The Rays Beat the Guardians 3-1 to Stand One Win From Their First World Series in Six Years

Tampa Bay take a 3-2 lead in the American League Championship Series after winning Saturday's rain-delayed Game 4 7-3; the Brewers wait

By Laura Bennett | North America Correspondent

The Tampa Bay Rays beat the Cleveland Guardians 3-1 in Cleveland on Sunday, American time, to take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven American League Championship Series and move within one win of their first World Series since 2020.

Jonathan Aranda drove in a run with a hit in the second inning as the Rays won a tight game.

Game 4

A day earlier, the Rays had levelled the series in Game 4, which had been postponed by bad weather, winning 7-3. With the score tied 1-1 in the sixth inning, Junior Caminero hit a go-ahead double.

The World Series

The winner will face the Milwaukee Brewers, the National League champions, in the World Series, which begins on Friday, October 23, American time,

Saturday in Japan.

Japanese interest

No Japanese players featured in the series' latest games. The World Series, which last year drew huge audiences in Japan when the Los Angeles Dodgers and their Japanese stars won the title, will this year feature two clubs from smaller markets.

Cleveland's task

The Guardians must now win twice in a row to reach their first World Series since 2016, when they lost to the Chicago Cubs in seven games.

The Rays' history

Tampa Bay have reached the World Series twice, in 2008 and 2020, and lost both times.

SPORTS

Keio Must Wait for the Big Six Title After Meiji Score Four in the Seventh, as Rikkyo Keep Their Hopes Alive

A win in the second game of the doubleheader would have given Keio a second straight championship

By the Sports Desk

Keio University's bid to clinch a second consecutive Tokyo Big Six Baseball League title was put on hold on Sunday when it lost 7-3 to Meiji University at Jingu Stadium.

Keio had tied the second game of a doubleheader in the sixth week of the autumn season, but gave up four runs in the seventh inning. The teams split the day's two games.

The standings

A Keio victory would have secured the title. The decision is now postponed to Monday or later.

Keio leads with 3 points. Rikkyo beat Waseda 8-6 for its second straight win and has 2 points.

The league

The Tokyo Big Six, founded in 1925 and played at Jingu, is Japan's oldest university baseball league, and its spring and autumn titles are among the most prized in amateur baseball.

The format

Teams in the league play each other in series of up to three games; the first to win two games takes the series and a point.

The members

The league is made up of Keio, Waseda, Meiji, Hosei, Rikkyo and the University of Tokyo.

Rikkyo's hopes

Rikkyo's two straight wins keep alive its chance of catching Keio if the leaders stumble.

SPORTS

Kenyans Set Course Records at the Tokyo Legacy Half Marathon, and Tomoki Suzuki Wins the Wheelchair Race for the Fifth Straight Year

Alexander Mutiso runs 59:51 and Agnes Jebet Ngetich 1:04:23; Ichita Tameike is the leading Japanese man in fifth

By the Sports Desk

Kenyan runners set course records in both the men's and women's races at the Tokyo Legacy Half Marathon on Sunday, which started and finished at the National Stadium.

Alexander Mutiso won the men's race in 59 minutes 51 seconds, and Agnes Jebet Ngetich won the women's race in 1 hour 4 minutes 23 seconds.

The Japanese

Ichita Tameike of SG Holdings was the top Japanese man, fifth in 1:00:13. Akira Aizawa of Asahi Kasei, who ran the 10,000 metres at the Tokyo Olympics, was sixth in 1:00:26. Ryoka Kanetomo of Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance was the leading Japanese woman, third in 1:10:17.

Wheelchairs

Tomoki Suzuki of Toyota Motor won the men's wheelchair race in 42:28 for his fifth consecutive title. Wakako Tsuchida, 52, won the women's wheelchair race in 52:59.

A legacy race

The race was created to make use of the stadium and the course built for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, and it attracts both elite athletes and thousands of recreational runners.

A record holder

Ngetich, the women's winner, became the first woman to run 10 kilometres on the road in under 29 minutes, in Valencia in January 2024.

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SPORTS

SPORTS

Tokyo Wins Both the Emperor's Cup and the Empress's Cup at the National Sports Festival in Aomori

It is the capital's first overall title in two years; Koki Yugami wins the discus and Ko Ochiai reaches the 800 metres final

By the Sports Desk

Tokyo clinched the overall men's and women's title at the National Sports Festival in Aomori Prefecture on Sunday, the ninth day of the games, winning the Emperor's Cup for the 19th time and the first time in two years. It also secured the women's overall title, the Empress's Cup.

Athletics

At the athletics stadium in Aomori City, Koki Yugami of Shiga, the Japanese record holder in the discus, won with a throw of 60.12 metres.

Ko Ochiai of Shiga, a student at Komazawa University and the 800 metres gold medallist at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, reached Monday's final in 1 minute 48.18 seconds.

The festival

The National Sports Festival, known until 2023 as the National Athletic Meet, rotates among the prefectures each year and is the country's largest domestic multi-sport event, with prefectures competing for points across dozens of sports.

Tokyo's strength

Tokyo, with the largest population and many corporate and university teams, has dominated the overall standings over the years, though host prefectures traditionally invest heavily to do well on home ground.

A second festival

The National Sports Festival for People with Disabilities follows the main festival in the same host prefecture, continuing the competition for athletes with disabilities.

Aomori's turn

Aomori last hosted the festival in 1977.

SPORTS

Toyota Secures the World Endurance Championship Manufacturers' Title With a One-Two in Barcelona

Ryo Hirakawa's No. 8 car wins round seven, with Kamui Kobayashi's No. 7 second

By the Sports Desk

Toyota clinched the manufacturers' title in the FIA World Endurance Championship with a one-two finish in the seventh round of the season in Barcelona on Sunday.

The No. 8 car, with Ryo Hirakawa among its drivers, won the race, and the No. 7 car, whose crew includes Kamui Kobayashi, finished second.

Dominance

Toyota has been the leading force in the championship's top class for most of the past decade, winning the 24 Hours of Le Mans five years in a row from 2018 to 2022, and the title is another reward for the Japanese carmaker's long investment in endurance racing.

The drivers

Hirakawa joined Toyota's World Endurance team after success in Japan's Super Formula and Super GT series. Kobayashi, a former Formula One driver, combines racing with running the team.

A home crowd's pride

The title will be celebrated by fans in Japan, where the championship's round at Fuji Speedway draws large crowds each year.

A crowded class

The top Hypercar class has drawn manufacturers including Ferrari, Porsche, Cadillac, BMW and Alpine in recent seasons, making the title harder to win.

The team

Toyota's endurance team races under the Toyota Gazoo Racing banner and is based in Cologne, Germany.

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SPORTS

Akane Yamaguchi Is Runner-Up at the Denmark Open, Losing the Final to World No. 1 An Se-young in Three Games

The third seed takes a game off the South Korean in Odense

By the Sports Desk

Akane Yamaguchi finished second in the women's singles at the Denmark Open badminton tournament in Odense on Sunday, losing the final to An Se-young of South Korea by two games to one.

Yamaguchi, of Saishunkan Pharmaceutical and seeded third, took a game off the top seed but could not complete the upset.

A great rivalry

An, the Paris Olympic champion, has dominated women's badminton in recent seasons, and Yamaguchi, a former world champion and former world No. 1, has been one of the few players able to trouble her.

The tour

The Denmark Open is one of the most prestigious tournaments on the Badminton World Federation's tour, and the result keeps Yamaguchi among the leading contenders as the season heads towards its finals in December.

Kumamoto's star

Yamaguchi plays for Saishunkan, the Kumamoto-based team, and has been a fixture of Japan's women's team for more than a decade.

A strong tradition

Japanese women have enjoyed great success in singles, and Yamaguchi's predecessors include Nozomi Okuhara, the world champion in 2017.

The road to the finals

The tour moves on to further events in Europe and Asia before the season-ending finals.

SPORTS

Sports in Brief

By the Sports Desk

BMX: Sae Hatakeyama, the Asian Games champion, won her third national title and her second in a row at the Japanese BMX racing championships at the Sanriku BMX Stadium in Ofunato, Iwate. The men's race produced a first-time national champion.

OPEN WATER: Kazushi Imafuku won his first national title in the men's 5 km at the Japan Open Water Swimming Championships off Tateyama, Chiba, in 54:37.3. Airi Ebina won the women's race in 56:22.6. Mio Narita, last year's world silver medallist in the pool's 400 metres individual medley, was 15th.

SKIING: The Ski Association of Japan re-elected Masahiko Harada, 58, the former Olympic ski jumper, as its president for a second two-year term.

BOXING: The WBA featherweight title is vacant after Brandon Figueroa missed the weight; Kazuki Kameda is promised priority for the next title fight.

PARA GAMES: Competition continues in Aichi and Nagoya through Saturday.

BASEBALL: Professional baseball's draft is on Thursday, and the Japan Series opens in Yokohama on Saturday.

GYMNASTICS: The men's team final in Rotterdam is early on Wednesday, Japan time; the women's early on Thursday.

GOLF: Yusaku Hosono's Japan Open victory earns him invitations to the Masters and the Open Championship next year.

HORSE RACING: Monroe Walk stayed unbeaten in five starts by winning the Shuka Sho.

CYCLING: Kaiya Ota took bronze in the men's sprint at the world championships in Shanghai.

CULTURE

Kosetsu Minami Sings 'Kandagawa' for Kumamoto's Recovery, and 2,000 People Join In for 'Ue o Muite Aruko'

Planned for the tenth anniversary of the 2016 earthquakes, the concert took on a second purpose after July's quake; proceeds go to the city

By the Culture Desk

The folk singer Kosetsu Minami performed at a concert in Kumamoto City on Sunday to support the city's recovery from earthquakes, singing his

best-known song, "Kandagawa," among others.

The concert had been planned to mark the 10th anniversary of the Kumamoto earthquakes of 2016. After the earthquake that struck Kumamoto Prefecture in July this year, the organisers added support for the recovery from it to its purpose.

A fellow Kyushu man

Minami, who comes from Oita Prefecture, told reporters before the concert why he wanted to perform. "We are fellow Kyushu people," he said. "I want to sing, wishing for the recovery."

He appeared alongside Noritake Kinashi, the entertainer and artist, among others, and local junior high school students performed a dance.

Singing together

The concert ended with the performers and about 2,000 people in the audience singing "Ue o Muite Aruko," the 1961 song known abroad as "Sukiyaki."

The proceeds from ticket sales, after expenses, will be donated to Kumamoto City.

The song

"Kandagawa," released in 1973 by Minami and his group Kaguyahime, tells of a young couple living in a small rented room near the Kanda River in Tokyo and became one of the defining folk songs of its era.

The top of the scale

The July earthquake reached intensity 7, the top of the Japanese scale, in Kumamoto Prefecture, which had also recorded that level twice in the earthquakes of April 2016.

CULTURE

Kyoto's Jidai Matsuri Brings a Thousand Years of History to the Streets on Thursday, With About 2,000 People in Period Costume

The procession from the Imperial Palace to Heian Shrine dates from 1895; the Kurama Fire Festival lights up a mountain village the same night

By the Culture Desk

The Jidai Matsuri, the Festival of the Ages, one of Kyoto's three great festivals, takes place on Thursday, when a procession of about 2,000 people dressed in the costumes of successive periods of Japanese history makes its way from the Kyoto Imperial Palace to Heian Shrine.

Through the ages

The procession travels backwards in time, beginning with the era of the Meiji Restoration in the 19th century and ending with the Heian period, when Kyoto became the capital in 794. Warriors, court nobles, women of different eras and historical figures from Oda Nobunaga to Murasaki Shikibu appear in costumes and with props made with careful attention to historical detail.

Its origins

The festival began in 1895, when Heian Shrine was built to mark the 1,100th anniversary of the founding of the capital, and the procession is held on October 22, the day on which Emperor Kammu is said to have entered the new capital.

The other two

With the Aoi Matsuri in May and the Gion Matsuri in July, it is counted among the three great festivals of the old capital.

Fire in the hills

The same night, the Kurama Fire Festival, held at Yuki Shrine in the mountain village of Kurama in the north of the city, sees men carrying huge burning torches through the narrow streets.

Weather permitting

The procession is postponed to the following day if it rains. With an unstable atmosphere forecast over western Japan early in the week, visitors are advised to check the latest information before setting out.

CULTURE

Nihonbashi's Bettara-ichi Fills the Streets With Sweet Pickled Radish for Two Days, as It Has Since the Edo Period

The market around Takarada Ebisu Shrine on October 19 and 20 grew out of the merchants' festival for Ebisu, the god of commerce

By the Culture Desk

The Bettara-ichi, one of Tokyo's best-known autumn markets, is held on Monday and Tuesday in the streets around Takarada Ebisu Shrine in the

Nihonbashi district, as it is every year on October 19 and 20.

Its origins

The market began in the Edo period as a fair selling goods for Ebisu-ko, the festival held on October 20 in honour of Ebisu, the god of commerce and prosperity, which merchant households celebrated with offerings and feasts.

The pickle

Its name comes from bettara-zuke, daikon radish pickled in rice koji until it becomes sweet and sticky. The pickles were once sold unwrapped, and a popular story holds that vendors swung them on strings, calling out "bettara, bettara" to warn passers-by of the sticky coating, though the origin of the name is told in several ways.

The atmosphere

Stalls selling pickles, food and festival goods line the streets of an old merchant district that is now surrounded by office buildings, and the market draws crowds of workers, families and visitors in the evening.

Old Tokyo

Nihonbashi was the commercial heart of Edo and the starting point of the five great roads that radiated from the city, and markets such as the Bettara-ichi are among the traditions that survive from that time.

Check the weather

With an unstable atmosphere forecast in eastern Japan through Tuesday, visitors may want to carry an umbrella.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

October 19 in History

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

1781: British forces under Lord Cornwallis surrender at Yorktown, effectively ending the fighting in the American War of Independence.

1812: Napoleon's army begins its retreat from Moscow.

1813: The Battle of Leipzig ends in defeat for Napoleon.

1901: Alberto Santos-Dumont flies an airship around the Eiffel Tower.

1950: United Nations forces capture Pyongyang, and Chinese troops begin crossing into Korea.

1956: Japan and the Soviet Union sign a joint declaration in Moscow ending the state of war and restoring diplomatic relations, opening the way for Japan to join the United Nations that December.

1987: Black Monday: the Dow Jones Industrial Average falls 22.6 per cent.

2003: Mother Teresa is beatified by Pope John Paul II in Rome.

1862: Auguste Lumiere, co-inventor of the Cinematographe, is born in Besancon.

1937: Ernest Rutherford, discoverer of the atomic nucleus, dies in Cambridge.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

Today's Numbers

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

552,207: Votes for Atsumi Harasawa in Yokohama, 39.49 per cent of the total.

45.56: Turnout in Yokohama, per cent, up 3.92 points.

49.1: Per cent approval of the Takaichi cabinet in Kyodo's poll, its first time below 50.

441,139: Warrants issued by Japanese courts in fiscal 2020.

920: Hectopascals, Champi's forecast central pressure on Wednesday.

2,397: People detained in France after Saturday's riots.

4: Canadian soldiers killed in the Wainwright fire.

40: Per cent cut in development time that Subaru is aiming for.

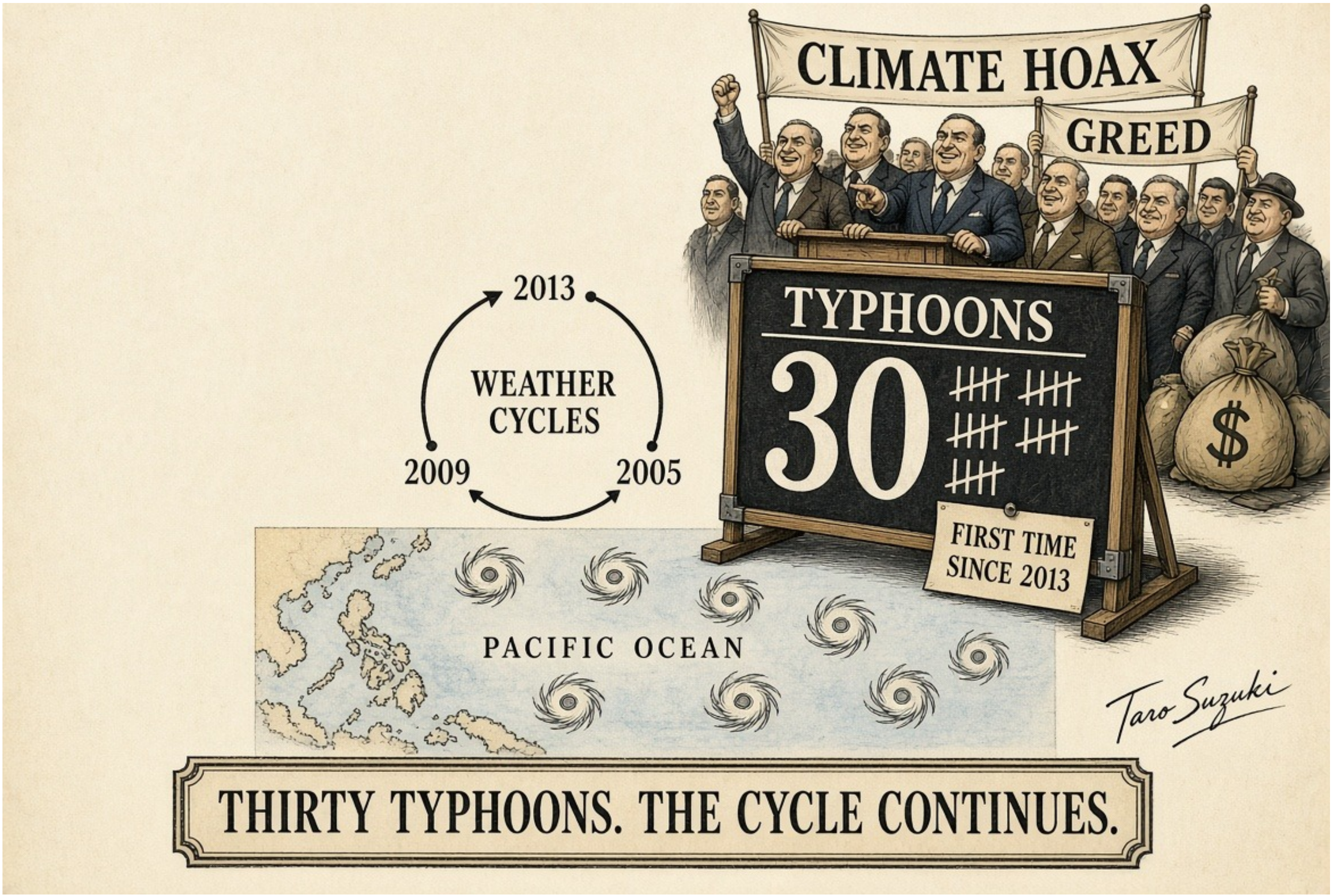
4,480: Kilograms, the launch mass of the MMX probe.

254.529: Japan's men's team score in world championship qualifying.

1:56.1: Monroe Walk's winning time in the Shuka Sho.

23: Career victories for Ai Suzuki.

EDITORIAL & OPINION



Editorial cartoon by Taro Suzuki for The Japan Morning Post.

EDITORIAL

Thirty Typhoons. The Cycle Continues. Japan Should Answer the Storms With Preparation, Not Slogans

Taro Suzuki's cartoon mocks those who wave away every storm as nature's rhythm and suspects money behind the shrug. He has a point, but the numbers on the board prove less than either side claims. What they demand is levees, warnings and power that stays on

By Samantha Ortiz | Editorial Page Editor

Taro Suzuki's cartoon on this page shows a crowd of men in dark suits and hats, grinning and pointing, packed behind a lectern. Two banners rise above them. One reads CLIMATE HOAX. The other, more bluntly, reads GREED. At their feet sit fat sacks marked with dollar signs. In front of them stands a blackboard on an easel: TYPHOONS, it says, with a large 30 and rows of tally marks, and a card pinned to its foot reading FIRST TIME SINCE 2013.

To the left, a circle of arrows labelled WEATHER CYCLES links three years, 2013, 2009 and 2005, round and round. Beneath it lies a map of the western Pacific dotted with spinning storms. The caption reads: THIRTY TYPHOONS. THE CYCLE CONTINUES.

The joke is aimed at a familiar figure: the man who greets every extreme of weather with a shrug and the reassurance that it has all happened before, and whose comfort, the cartoonist suggests, is paid for by people with something to lose if anyone takes the risk seriously. The double meaning of the caption does the rest. The cycle that continues may be the weather's, or it may be the cycle of denial.

Like most good cartoons, it is a little unfair, and it is worth taking seriously precisely because of that. The thirtieth typhoon of the year is a real event with real consequences, and this week it is heading for Japanese islands. What it tells us about the climate, and what Japan should do about it, deserves more care than either a banner or a shrug.

The season so far

Start with the facts on the blackboard. Typhoon No. 30, Champi, formed near the Marshall Islands on October 15. Thirty typhoons in a single year was last reached in 2013, and it has happened in only 16 years since the Japan Meteorological Agency's records began in 1951. This is the fourth-earliest date on which a 30th typhoon has formed, and by the end of September the year was running about seven storms ahead of the normal pace, according to Weathernews.

Champi itself is no statistical abstraction. At 9 a.m. on Monday it was a large, very strong typhoon east of the Philippines with a central pressure of 950 hectopascals and winds of 50 metres a second. The agency expects it to become violent, the highest grade on its scale, by Wednesday morning, at 920 hectopascals, and to pass south of the Sakishima Islands on Friday, with Ishigaki, Miyakojima and Yonaguni inside the area that could have storm-force winds.

What the count can tell us

It is tempting to read the number on the board as proof of a changing climate. It is not, and those who care most about the issue do themselves no favours by claiming otherwise.

The number of typhoons swings widely from year to year. The agency's normal, the average for 1991 to 2020, is about 25 a year. The record is 39, set in 1967, more than half a century ago. The fewest was 14, in 2010, below the previous low of 16 in 1998. A season of 30 is busy, but it would not have looked out of place in the 1960s, and the agency has not found a clear long-term trend in the number of typhoons that form each year.

The cartoonist's cycle diagram is therefore not wholly a joke. The western Pacific has natural rhythms. In years of El Nino, when the eastern Pacific warms, typhoons tend to form farther to the south-east and to travel longer distances over warm water, often growing stronger; in years of La Nina the pattern shifts. Longer oscillations in the ocean, lasting a decade or more, add their own swings. Anyone who claims that one busy season proves a trend, or that one quiet season disproves it, is misusing the data.

What the critics get right

And yet the men behind the banner are wrong too, and the cartoon is right to mock them. The question that matters is not how many storms form, but how strong and how wet they are, and there the evidence points in one direction.

Warmer seas give storms more energy and warmer air holds more moisture. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded in its most recent assessment that the proportion of the most intense tropical cyclones has likely increased over recent decades, and that it is projected to increase further with warming, even if the total number of storms does not. Rainfall from tropical cyclones is also expected to intensify.

Japan's own records are consistent with that picture. The agency's data show that downpours of 50 millimetres or more in an hour now occur about one and a half times as often as in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The seas around Japan have warmed faster than the global average. These are measurements, not slogans, and a sensible conservative respects measurements.

Greed on both sides

The cartoon's money bags deserve a word. There is money to be made from denying risk: in building where water will one day go, in skimping on maintenance, in avoiding the cost of preparing for storms that may not come this year. But there is also money to be made from dramatising risk: in subsidies that reward the appearance of virtue rather than the achievement of results, and in schemes that promise to control the weather by distant targets while neglecting the levee down the road.

Japan's interest lies with neither. It lies in a hard-headed assessment of what can be done, by whom and at what cost.

What Japan can control

Here a few facts should anchor the debate. Japan produces roughly 3 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. Whatever it does at home, it cannot by itself change the strength of the typhoons that will reach it in the next decade. That does not make reducing emissions pointless; it makes it a shared task in which Japan should do its part efficiently, above all by restarting safe nuclear power, which cuts emissions and imports of fuel at the same time.

The energy shocks of this year make the point. The conflict that has disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has driven up the price of oil, forced the government into subsidies for fuel and electricity and reminded everyone how exposed an

import-dependent country is. Every reactor that returns to service and every kilowatt of reliable domestic power serves both security and the climate. That is the kind of policy that does not require choosing between banners.

But the storms that Japan will face in the coming years are, to a large degree, already determined. What it can control, almost entirely, is how well it withstands them.

The record of preparation

Japan has done this before, and done it well. In September 1959 the Isewan Typhoon struck the Nagoya area and killed more than 5,000 people, the worst typhoon disaster of the postwar era. The shock produced the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act of 1961, the framework on which the country's system of disaster management still rests, and decades of investment in sea walls, river works and warning systems.

No typhoon since has killed on that scale. The giant underground discharge channel beneath Kasukabe in Saitama Prefecture, completed in 2006 to protect the low-lying land north-east of Tokyo from flooding, is one monument to that effort. The agency's forecasts, which this week give the Sakishima Islands days of notice, are another.

And the warnings of recent years

Yet recent storms have shown the gaps. In September 2018 Typhoon Jebi flooded Kansai International Airport and drove a tanker into the bridge that links it to the mainland, stranding thousands of travellers. In September 2019 Typhoon Faxai knocked down transmission towers and power poles in Chiba Prefecture, leaving hundreds of thousands of households without electricity, some for more than two weeks. A month later Typhoon Hagibis brought record rain to eastern Japan, breached river levees in about 140 places and killed about a hundred people.

Each of those disasters exposed something that money and planning could have fixed: an airport island vulnerable to storm surge, a power network that could not withstand the wind, levees and dams not built for the rainfall that came. Each prompted reviews and spending. The question is whether the spending keeps pace with the risk.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

What should be done

First, the country's flood defences need sustained investment, not bursts of money after each disaster. The government has already begun revising flood-control planning to allow for heavier rain; levees, retention basins and dams should be reassessed against the rainfall of today, not of decades past, and the government should resist the temptation to raid infrastructure budgets to fund tax cuts and subsidies.

Second, the power grid must be made more resilient. Burying cables, strengthening towers and building local backup power for hospitals, shelters and water pumps cost money, but the bill for a prefecture without electricity in a heatwave or a storm is higher, and paid in lives.

Third, land use matters. Too many homes, care facilities and schools stand in areas that hazard maps mark as liable to flooding or landslides. Local governments should be bolder in steering new building away from them, and buyers should be told clearly what the maps say.

Fourth, warnings must reach the people who need them. The elderly, who are the majority of victims in many disasters, often live alone and may not see an alert on a smartphone. Neighbourhood associations, care workers and local fire brigades remain the last link in the chain, and they need support.

Okinawa this week

The most immediate test is in the south. Champi is forecast to keep its centre out at sea, but it will be a violent storm at its peak, with gale-force winds reaching hundreds of kilometres from its centre. Weathernews expects gusts of about 30 metres a second in the Sakishima Islands from Wednesday and rough seas, and the agency's probabilities give Ishigaki a three-in-four chance of falling inside the zone of storm-force winds within five days.

The islanders know what to do; they have lived through gusts of 85.3 metres a second on Miyakojima in 1966, the second-highest ever recorded in Japan, and 81.1 on Yonaguni in 2015. Tourists who have flown in for the autumn sunshine may not. Airlines, hotels and local authorities should make sure that visitors leave in time or know where to shelter.

The cycle that matters

Torahiko Terada, the physicist and essayist, is credited with the saying that natural disasters come when people have forgotten them. That is the cycle that continues, and it is more dangerous than any pattern in the weather: disaster, then reconstruction, then the slow fading of memory until the next storm finds the defences neglected.

Taro Suzuki has drawn a crowd of men who would rather not think about the storms. The answer to them is not a crowd waving the opposite banner. It is the quiet work of engineers, forecasters, power line crews and town hall officials, and a government willing to pay for it before the waters rise rather than after.

Thirty typhoons is a number on a board. The 31st will come, and so will the 40th, in some future year. What matters is that when they do, Japan is ready.

ANALYSIS

Yokohama's Lesson for Takaichi: Voters Reward Competence and Punish Arrogance, and the Clock Is Running on Her Government

A broad local alliance carried a political novice to a landslide, Sanseito came second and the poll numbers are slipping; the prime minister must govern as if every week were an election

By William | Senior Political Analyst

Sunday's result in Yokohama was not a referendum on the national government, but it carried messages that Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi would be unwise to ignore.

The winner, Atsumi Harasawa, is a lawyer and former aircraft maintenance engineer with no political experience. She won 552,207 votes, nearly 40 per cent of the total and more than her two closest rivals combined, with the backing of local organisations of the Liberal Democrats, the Japan Innovation Party, the Democratic Party for the People and Komeito. Her message was not ideological. She promised to restore the morale of city employees, get a stalled administration moving and put the finances on a sound footing.

Behaviour matters

The former mayor, Takeharu Yamanaka, lost more than 460,000 votes compared with last year. Kyodo's

exit poll found that most voters rated his record well. They threw him out anyway, because a third-party investigation had found that he abused his authority over staff and called them human scum. Four in five voters said the harassment issue mattered.

That is a lesson about conduct, and it applies in Tokyo too. The Kyodo poll published on Sunday put support for the Takaichi cabinet at 49.1 per cent, below half for the first time, and 57.7 per cent said Kazuo Yana's departure from the farm ministry had come too late. The Yomiuri and Asahi surveys showed smaller declines, but the direction was the same. Voters will forgive a government that makes mistakes and corrects them quickly. They punish one that seems to protect its own.

The Sanseito signal

The second message came from the runner-up. Atsushi Fukuyama, a 37-year-old company president recommended by Sanseito, won 230,418 votes and beat a former mayor, and he led among voters in their thirties. Sanseito's leader campaigned in the city several times.

It is easy for the political establishment to dismiss Sanseito's supporters. It would be a mistake. Many of them are working people who feel squeezed by prices and social insurance contributions, worried about the pace of immigration and frustrated that the established parties do not seem to hear them. A conservative government should answer those concerns with policy: credible management of foreign labour, relief for working families and a firm defence of national interests. If it does not, others will claim the ground.

The week ahead

The test begins on Tuesday, when the food tax cut bill reaches the lower house floor. The government lacks a majority in the House of Councillors and must persuade at least part of the opposition. The Liberal Democrats' acting secretary-general, Koichi Hagiuda, said on Sunday that the party would correct what deserved correcting. That flexibility is welcome. But compromise must not become a bidding war, and the government must explain, with numbers, how it will pay.

The prime minister told the upper house on Monday that bond issuance would be kept under appropriate control. Markets, and voters, will want to see what that means.

The coalition of the competent

Yokohama also showed that the parties of the centre-right can win big cities when they unite behind a credible candidate untouched by scandal. The same discipline will be needed for next April's unified local elections, and for the general election that will eventually follow.

Ms Takaichi came to office promising strength at home and abroad. Strength, in the end, is measured not in slogans but in the quality of the people around a leader and the speed with which she removes those who fail. Yokohama's voters have shown how unforgiving the public can be. The prime minister has time to learn from them, but not much.

ANALYSIS

Electronic Warrants Can Make Justice Faster; the Courts Must Make Sure They Do Not Make Scrutiny Thinner

Moving 441,139 warrants a year off paper is overdue, but the Constitution makes the judge, not the network, the safeguard

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

It is hard to argue with the case for electronic warrants. Japanese police officers still drive paper requests to judges, sometimes at night and sometimes across long distances, for every arrest that is not made in the act and every search of a home. Courts issued 441,139 warrants in fiscal 2020. In a country that has moved its civil courts fully online this year, the paper trail of criminal justice looks like a relic.

The Supreme Court's schedule, reported by the Yomiuri Shimbun on Monday, is sensibly cautious: stimulant drug cases in Tokyo and three neighbouring prefectures first, within this fiscal year; Osaka, Fukuoka and others next May; everything, everywhere, from July next year.

The real safeguard

But the purpose of a warrant is not speed. Articles 33 and 35 of the Constitution put a judge between the state and the citizen precisely so that the power to arrest and search is exercised only on adequate

grounds. The danger of any system designed to process requests more quickly is that it encourages the processing of requests rather than the weighing of them.

That danger is not hypothetical. Critics of Japanese criminal justice have long pointed to how rarely warrant requests are refused and to the weeks of detention that can follow an arrest. A faster system will not make that worse by itself, but it will not make it better either unless the courts decide that it should.

What the courts should do

Three steps would help. First, every electronic request and warrant should carry an unalterable record of who asked, who decided, when and on what material, available for review if the warrant is later challenged in court. Paper makes that cumbersome; software can make it routine.

Second, the courts should publish regular statistics on the system: how many requests are made, how many are granted and how quickly, by category of crime. If approval rates rise or decision times fall to minutes, the public deserves to know.

Third, security must be designed in from the start. A network that carries arrest warrants is a target for criminals and hostile states alike, and Japan's recent run of cyber-attacks on public bodies should dispel any complacency.

A chance to do better

Digitisation is an opportunity, not merely a convenience. Done well, it can give judges more time to read requests, because less time is spent waiting for paper, and give citizens more confidence that the safeguards in the Constitution are working. Done badly, it will turn a judge's signature into a click.

The courts have until next July to get it right. They should start by assuming that the public will want to see how it works.

ANALYSIS

'Appropriate Control' of Bond Issuance Is Not a Policy Until the Government Puts a Number on It

With the 10-year yield near 2.9 per cent and the yen in the 157s, markets will judge the food tax cut by how it is paid for

By Ethan Cole | Economics Correspondent

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told the House of Councillors on Monday that the government would pay for its food tax cut through a reform of budgeting that reviews both spending and revenue, examine the overall size of spending and keep the year's issuance of government bonds, initial and supplementary budgets combined, under appropriate control.

Every phrase in that answer is sensible, and none of it is a number. That is the problem.

The cost

The bill that reaches the lower house floor on Tuesday would cut the consumption tax on food from 8 per cent to 1 per cent for two years from fiscal 2027, at a cost of several trillion yen a year, and create a new benefit for working people. The government says the benefit will be paid from the revenue the 1 per cent rate still raises. For the cut itself, the funding remains unclear, as Kyodo News and the Tokyo Shimbun both reported at the weekend.

The market

Investors are not waiting politely. The yield on the 10-year government bond has risen to around 2.9 per cent, a level unthinkable a few years ago, and the yen traded above 157 to the dollar on Monday. The prime minister rejects the idea that her policies are to blame, and it is true that global rates and the Bank of Japan's own tightening play a large part. But markets price risk, and an open-ended promise to control borrowing appropriately is a risk.

What would reassure

A credible plan would do three things. It would name a ceiling for new bond issuance in fiscal 2027, including any supplementary budget. It would identify specific spending to be cut or funds to be returned to the treasury, rather than relying on a party team's search for savings. And it would make the return to 8 per cent in fiscal 2029 as automatic as the law allows, since temporary tax cuts routinely face pressure to become permanent.

The public is ahead

Kyodo's poll found that 65.1 per cent of respondents were anxious about the effect of the tax cut on public

finances. Voters, in other words, already understand the trade-off. The government would lose nothing by being as clear as they are.

The opposition's role

The opposition parties that will decide the bill's fate in the upper house have their own proposals, cash payments from Komeito and a resident tax cut and payment from the Democratic Party for the People. None comes with a fully costed plan either. Negotiations should begin from the arithmetic, not end with it.

Appropriate control is the right goal. The government should tell the country what it looks like.

ANALYSIS

A Summit on Ukraine Without Ukraine Would Be a Trap, and Not Only for Kyiv

Putin's proposal for a three-way meeting with Trump and Xi in Shenzhen would reward aggression; Tokyo should say so before November

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

According to the Wall Street Journal, President Vladimir Putin proposed to President Donald Trump in a telephone call on October 9 that the two of them meet President Xi Jinping to discuss the war in Ukraine, timed to the APEC leaders' meeting in Shenzhen on November 18 and 19. President Volodymyr Zelensky would not be invited.

It is easy to see why the idea appeals to Mr Putin. A meeting of three great powers deciding the fate of a fourth country would confirm his view of the world, in which large nations bargain over the heads of smaller ones. It would put China, Russia's most important partner, at the table as a broker. And it would come at a moment when relations between Washington and Kyiv are at a low, after Mr Trump shelved a sanctions law on Russian energy and eased sanctions on Russian diesel.

Why it matters to Japan

For Japan, the principle at stake is not abstract. Tokyo has argued since 2022 that the invasion of Ukraine must not succeed because a change of borders by force anywhere invites the same elsewhere, including in East Asia. A settlement imposed on Ukraine by a meeting that excludes it, with China helping to write the terms, would be read in Beijing and in Pyongyang as a lesson about what force can achieve.

The venue makes the point sharper. APEC is an economic forum of which Japan is a founding member, and its leaders' meeting would become the backdrop for a deal that Japan could neither shape nor endorse.

What Tokyo should do

Japan should state publicly, before November, that it will support only a settlement that Ukraine itself accepts, and should coordinate that message with European partners, who are reported to be alarmed. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi should raise the matter directly with Mr Trump, whose administration values the alliance with Japan.

It should also keep doing what it has done well: providing financial and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, maintaining sanctions and supporting the reconstruction that any lasting peace will require.

The American interest

Mr Trump wants to end the war, and so does Japan. But a deal that rewards Mr Putin would not end the danger; it would postpone it, and tell every revisionist power that patience and force pay. The United States' allies in Asia have a strong interest in reminding Washington that its credibility here depends on its steadfastness there.

ANALYSIS

Europe's Weekend of Riots Is a Warning About Prices and About Order, and Japan Should Heed Both

Looting in France and Italy grew out of anger over the cost of living; governments must ease the pressure on households without tolerating violence

By Rachel Kim | Asia Correspondent

The pictures from Europe this weekend were startling: the city hall of Limoges burned almost to the ground, riot police firing tear gas at stone-throwing youths in the Place de la Republique, shops smashed and looted around the cathedral square in Milan.

ANALYSIS

The numbers were worse. France detained 2,397 people after Saturday's riots, its retail federation estimated that about 1,500 shops had been damaged, and 997 police officers were injured. In Milan more than 200 people were detained, about 80 per cent of them minors, after similar destruction in Turin and Bologna.

Prices behind the anger

The protests began over schools and the cost of living, and those grievances are real. Energy and food prices have risen across Europe this year as conflict in the Middle East has disrupted oil supplies, and the squeeze falls hardest on young people and low earners who have little room in their budgets.

But looting is not protest

None of that justifies burning a city hall or emptying a supermarket. President Emmanuel Macron was right to say that those who destroyed property would be made to pay. A state that cannot protect shops, public buildings and its own police loses the confidence of the very people whose hardships the protesters claimed to represent, and hands a political gift to extremists.

The election ahead

France votes for a president next April, and Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Rally leads the polls. Disorder on the streets is likely to strengthen the appeal of candidates who promise order, whatever their other policies.

Lessons for Japan

Japan is not France. Its streets remain remarkably safe and its protests orderly. But it shares the same pressures: prices that have risen faster than wages for much of the past few years, a weak yen that makes imports dearer and energy bills that depend on the same disrupted supply routes.

The government's response, a food tax cut, a new benefit for workers and energy subsidies, is aimed at those pressures. The European weekend is a reminder of why relief matters, and also of why it must be paid for responsibly: a state whose finances lose credibility has fewer tools when the next shock comes.

Order and fairness

The lasting lesson is that social peace rests on two things at once: firm enforcement of the law and a sense among ordinary people that the system is working for them. Europe has let both erode. Japan should make sure it keeps both.

ANALYSIS

The Most Important Thing About the Type 25 at Keen Sword Is That It Will Not Be Fired

Deterrence works when an adversary believes in a capability it never sees used; Japan's long-range missile is now part of that calculation

By Michael Hayes | Political Correspondent

On Sunday morning, launchers for the Ground Self-Defense Force's Type 25 surface-to-ship missile rolled out of Camp Kengun in Kumamoto City, bound for the Onohara training area in Nagasaki and Saga. On Monday, Keen Sword, the largest joint field exercise between Japan and the United States, began, with more than 50,000 personnel taking part.

The missile will not be fired. According to the Defense Ministry, the units will rehearse responses to enemy warships. That is exactly as it should be.

A capability, shown

The Type 25, produced in Japan, has a range of about 1,000 kilometres, enough to reach parts of China's coast. The government acquired it as part of the counterstrike capability set out in the national security documents of 2022, the means to strike the bases from which an attack on Japan is launched.

Deterrence depends on an adversary's belief that an attack would cost more than it could gain. A missile kept in a garrison and never exercised contributes little to that belief. A missile that is deployed to a training area, integrated with American forces and rehearsed against realistic scenarios contributes a great deal, without a shot being fired.

The partners

This year seven countries besides Japan and the United States are taking part, five of them, including France and Germany, for the first time. That breadth matters as much as any single weapon. It shows that the security of the seas around Japan is a concern shared well beyond the alliance.

The departure of the USS Theodore Roosevelt from Yokosuka on Monday, the first visit there by a carrier not based in Japan since 2022, sends a similar message about American commitment.

The critics

Critics argue that long-range missiles provoke the very arms race they are meant to deter. But the build-up in the region began long before Japan's decision, and Chinese military activity around Japan has only grown. A Japan without the means to respond would not make the region safer; it would make miscalculation more likely.

The task ahead

The government should continue to explain the purpose of the missile clearly at home and abroad, including to local communities near the bases that host it. Deterrence is strongest when it rests on public understanding. The best outcome for the Type 25 is that it spends its whole service life doing what it does at Keen Sword: being seen, being ready and never being used.

ANALYSIS

The Starlink Quarrel Shows the Danger of Fighting a War on a Network Owned by One Man

Whatever slowed Ukraine's connections, allies should not leave critical military communications at the mercy of a single company

By Laura Bennett | North America Correspondent

President Volodymyr Zelensky says that both President Donald Trump and Elon Musk were involved in restricting Ukraine's use of Starlink. Washington denies it. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called any such restriction "very reckless," and Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that speeds dropped for some unexplained reason and that no one in the United States had ordered it.

We may never know the full story. What is already clear is that Ukraine's armed forces depend, for the interception of Russian drones, on a commercial satellite network controlled by one company and, ultimately, by one man.

A new kind of dependence

Starlink has been a gift to Ukraine since 2022, restoring communications when Russian attacks destroyed ground networks. But a military that relies on a private service for front-line operations is exposed to decisions taken in a boardroom, or in a political quarrel, far from the battlefield. Mr Rubio's own distinction, between the commercial service and the military version, Starshield, shows how blurred the lines have become.

The attempted arson at a Starlink ground station in Lithuania on Sunday, which the Lithuanian prime minister attributed to Russian sabotage, adds another vulnerability. Ground infrastructure in allied countries has become a target.

The lesson for Japan

Japan should take note. After the Noto Peninsula earthquake of 2024, Starlink terminals restored communications at evacuation centres, and the Self-Defense Forces and many local governments now use the service. That is sensible for convenience and redundancy. It would be imprudent as the only option in a crisis.

Tokyo is building its own satellite capabilities and working with allies on resilient networks. That work deserves priority and funding, including a constellation of Japanese satellites for secure communications and partnerships with trusted operators in allied countries.

The broader point

In the 20th century, governments controlled the critical infrastructure of war. In the 21st, much of it, from satellites to cloud computing to artificial intelligence, is owned by private companies whose leaders have their own views and interests. Democracies need rules, contracts and alternatives that ensure those companies cannot switch off an ally's defence. The Starlink episode should be the last time that such a question is left to chance.

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Para Games open, Page 19.

ANALYSIS

Subaru's Software Bet Is the Right One, but Japan's Carmakers Will Not Win It Without the Engineers to Write the Code

A 40 per cent cut in development time and cars that improve after sale are the right goals; the industry is short of 51,000 software engineers

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

Subaru's announcement on Sunday that it will move its whole lineup to software-defined vehicles, starting in the late 2020s, was not a surprise. It was a necessity.

The car is becoming a computer on wheels. Tesla showed that a vehicle could gain features through updates sent over the air, and Chinese makers have built cars around screens and software at a speed that has stunned established manufacturers. Buyers in China, the world's largest car market, now judge cars as much by their software as by their engines.

What Subaru got right

Subaru's plan has the right ingredients. A central computer built on a chip developed with AMD replaces the dozens of separate controllers that traditional cars use. Over-the-air updates will let driver assistance and vehicle control improve over the life of the car. And the company aims to cut the time it takes to develop a new model by about 40 per cent, using digital simulation.

That last goal may matter most. Japanese carmakers have built their reputation on meticulous development, but the pace of competition now rewards speed. A model that takes four years to bring to market risks arriving obsolete.

The bottleneck

The obstacle is people. The Asahi Shimbun reported on Monday that Japan's car industry faces a shortfall of about 51,000 software engineers by 2030 and is looking to India to fill the gap. India is a natural partner, with a vast pool of talent and established development centres. But a car industry that depends on others for its core technology risks losing the very capabilities that made it great.

What should be done

Japan needs to produce more software engineers at home, through universities, vocational schools and the retraining of the industry's existing mechanical engineers, many of whom have deep knowledge of vehicles that software specialists lack. Companies should pay software talent what it is worth, which in many cases they still do not. And immigration rules for skilled engineers should be fast and predictable, so that those who come from India and elsewhere can build careers in Japan rather than serving it from afar.

The stakes

The car industry employs millions of people in Japan and accounts for a large share of exports. Its transition to software is not a technical detail; it is a question of national economic strength. Subaru has made its choice. The country needs to help it, and its rivals, find the people to see it through.

ANALYSIS

Why Japan Keeps Going to Small Worlds: MMX Is a Bet on the Kind of Science Japan Does Best

Hayabusa and Hayabusa2 made Japan the leader in sample return; Phobos is harder, and worth it

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

If all goes to plan, at 4:41 a.m. on Tuesday an H3 rocket in its most powerful configuration will lift off from Tanegashima carrying the Martian Moons eXploration probe. Nearly five years later, in July 2031, a small capsule should parachute into the Australian outback with a few grams of Phobos inside.

That is a long time and a long way for a handful of dust. It is also exactly the kind of mission at which Japan excels.

A Japanese speciality

Japan's Hayabusa brought back particles from the asteroid Itokawa in 2010 after a journey plagued by failures, and Hayabusa2 returned more than five grams from Ryugu in 2020 with remarkable precision. The Ryugu samples, containing water-bearing minerals and organic compounds, have been studied by scientists around the world and have reshaped ideas about how the ingredients of life reached Earth.

MMX builds on that experience but is far more demanding. It must enter orbit around Mars, fly in a strange quasi-satellite orbit around a moon only about 20 to 30 kilometres across, land twice, collect at least 10 grams of material and then climb back out of the Martian system.

The question

The scientific prize is an answer to a long-standing puzzle. Were Phobos and Deimos captured asteroids, or were they formed from debris thrown up when something huge struck Mars? The answer would tell us about the early history of the planet most like Earth, and Phobos's surface may hold fragments of Mars itself, blasted off by impacts, which no other mission is due to bring back soon.

Partners

MMX is also a model of international cooperation, with instruments and a rover from NASA, CNES and DLR, and the European Space Agency as a partner. That reflects Japan's standing as a reliable partner in space.

The rocket

The launch also matters for the H3. After the failure of its first flight in 2023, the rocket needs a record of reliable launches to win customers and to give Japan independent access to space. Sending a probe on its way to Mars would be a powerful demonstration.

Worth the money

Space science competes for money with many other needs. But missions like MMX train engineers, inspire students and give Japan a place at the frontier of knowledge out of all proportion to its spending. A country that wants to be respected for what it can do should keep going to small worlds.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

Quotes of the Day

By the Copy Desk

"I will work hard to build Yokohama's future." Atsumi Harasawa, Yokohama's mayor-elect.

"I expect this provision to be realised appropriately." Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, on a political funds watchdog.

"We have provided energy subsidies until now, and we will continue to do so." Koichi Hagiuda, the LDP's acting secretary-general.

"We want customers to use the car for a long time, keep updating it and make the car itself better." Eiji Shibata of Subaru.

"The launch is the starting point, not the goal." Yasuhiro Kawakatsu, MMX project manager.

"It's incredibly frustrating. But it's not over." Kazuki Kameda, after his title fight was cancelled.

"We are fellow Kyushu people. I want to sing, wishing for the recovery." Kosetsu Minami, in Kumamoto.

"This is the first step towards holding a referendum." Tsukasa Miyagawa, in Shimizu, Hokkaido.

"I may have made the eyebrows too thick." Princess Aiko, painting a Hakota doll in Kurayoshi.

"Completed its mission admirably and returned home safely." Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, on the firefighters back from Indonesia.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

Words in the News

By the Copy Desk

- DENSHI REIJO: An electronic warrant.
- KAIHA: A parliamentary group.
- TAMAGUSHI-RYO: A cash offering to a shrine.
- MASAKAKI: A sacred tree offering.
- KYOSEI SHAKAI: An inclusive society.
- MORETSU NA TAIFU: A violent typhoon, 54 m/s or more.
- SAKISHIMA SHOTO: The Miyako and Yaeyama islands.
- EKKYO YUSHI: Lending across regional borders.
- SAIBAN-IN: Lay judges.
- SDV: A software-defined vehicle.

MORE INSIDE TODAY

Arrest Warrants Will Be Requested and Issued Online From This Fiscal Year, Starting With Drug Cases in Tokyo and Three Neighbouring Prefectures — Page 1

EDITORIAL & OPINION

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Japan Morning Post corrects errors of fact as soon as they are identified:

corrections@japanmorningpost.com. The notes supplied for today's edition again call Typhoon No. 30 Champa; its international name is Champi, proposed by Laos, although the Japanese rendering of the name sounds closer to Champa. They describe it as extremely strong at 3 a.m.; the agency's grade was very strong, and by 9 a.m. it was large and very strong, with violent strength forecast from Wednesday. They expand SDV, in Subaru's plan, as superhuman vehicle and as smart dispatch vehicle; it stands for software-defined vehicle. They say the Asian Para Games conclude; they opened on Sunday and run until Saturday. The 76-38 win over China in men's wheelchair basketball cited in the notes took place on October 16 and was reported in earlier editions. They give the DeNA player who drove in two runs in the ninth inning as Daiki Mimori; he is Masaki Mimori. Their figure of a flat 57 per cent approval comes from the Yomiuri Shimbun, which recorded a fall of two points; Kyodo News put approval at 49.1 per cent. The supplied weather map places Champi about 260 km south of Ishigaki on Friday, and the typhoon map has its forecast centre line passing about 210 km south-west of Ishigaki on Friday afternoon; each is reported as the map gives it.

Not repeated today because they were reported in earlier editions, or concern earlier days: the SoftBank and DeNA Climax Series victories and the Japan Series schedule, Friday's market close and the Yomiuri 333, the rice harvest forecast, the rise in Nozomi fares, the kerosene subsidy, financial income in medical costs for older people, the cruise market, Europe's car rules, support for games and anime, the crude oil bills, the Bank of Japan governor's remarks, the Nidec report, Shoki Oda's decision, FIFA's funding, the Levain Cup, the judo world championships, the close of the Asian Games, the FIFA rankings, the sumo tour of Bangkok, the Tohto League title, Masanori Ishikawa's farewell, the false earthquake warning, the SourceNext and Arcadia leaks, the review of sensitive personal data, the abolition of the leap second, Anthropic's warning, the lawsuits against OpenAI, the Onagawa leak, the Hitachiomiya survey, the start of active cyber defence, Typhoon No. 29, the Abashiri fire, gasoline prices, the business manager visa figures and Saturday's fine weather. The technology notes date Samuel Morse's idea for the telegraph to October 19, 1832; he conceived it at sea that autumn, but the day is not established, so it is not marked. VisiCalc was released on October 17, 1979, the NES test launch was on October 18, 1985, and iTunes for Windows on October 16, 2003; the 'lineage' items are not October 19 anniversaries.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MON. 19: Keen Sword begins; upper house Budget Committee; Yasukuni autumn festival ends; motorcycle number plate applications open; Bettara-ichi in Nihonbashi. TUE. 20: Food tax cut bill in the lower house; MMX launch, 4:41 a.m.; gymnastics men's team final (early Wednesday, Japan time). WED. 21: Champi forecast to become violent; women's team final (early Thursday). THU. 22: Baseball draft; textbook guidelines before experts; telecoms cyber defence study group; Jidai Matsuri and Kurama Fire Festival. FRI. 23: Champi passes south of the Sakishima Islands. SAT. 24: Japan Series opens in Yokohama; Para Games close; Imperial House Law changes take effect; World Series begins in the U.S. SUN. 25: Fukushima governor and Naha mayoral elections; Brazil runoff. OCT. 27: Israeli election. OCT. 27-28: Federal Reserve. OCT. 29: Keen Sword ends. OCT. 29-30: Bank of Japan. NOV. 3: U.S. midterms. NOV. 18-19: APEC, Shenzhen. DEC. 12: Diet session ends.

TYPHOON AND MARINE ADVISORIES

9 a.m. Monday. No. 30, Champi: large, very strong typhoon east of the Philippines, 14.0N, 139.3E; 950 hPa; winds 50 m/s, gusts 70; west-north-west at 20 km/h. Storm-force winds 130 km all around; gale-force 560 km to the north-east and 440 km to the south-west. Forecast: 940 hPa by 9 p.m. Monday; 935 hPa by 9 a.m. Tuesday; violent, 920 hPa and 55 m/s, by 9 a.m. Wednesday and into Thursday; very strong, 935 hPa, about 580 km south-west of Naha at 9 a.m. Friday; severe tropical storm over Taiwan, 980 hPa, at 9 a.m. Saturday. Ishigaki, Miyakojima and Yonaguni inside the storm-wind area by 9 a.m. Friday. Emergencies at sea: 118.

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MARKET REFERENCE

Monday morning: Nikkei 225 64,534.03, down 790.26; Topix 4,050.34, down 15.66; the Nikkei fell more than 1,400 yen at one point and was 64,418.88 at 11 a.m. Friday: Nikkei 65,324.29, up 898.34; Topix 4,066.00, up 66.66. New York, Friday: Dow 52,002.41, down 175.28; WTI crude \$101.41, up \$3.44. Dollar 157.91-92 yen at 10 a.m. Monday; euro 177.27-28 yen. 10-year JGB about 2.9 per cent. Bank of Japan meets October 29-30.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS

Front: the Kyoto District Court, file photo, WPM Productions. Typhoon map, Japan and United States weather maps: supplied for this edition. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, Pope Leo XIV and the bear warning sign: file photos, WPM Productions. Tokyo Stock Exchange: photo by TG2 (CC). Subaru Forester: photo, Subaru Corporation. Asian Para Games emblem: file image, WPM Productions. Cartoon: Taro Suzuki. U.S. government works are public domain and credited; agency news photographs are not reproduced.

SYMBOLS, UNITS AND TIMES

Map symbols: sun, sunny; cloud, cloudy; cloud with strokes, rain; an arrow, one sky giving way to another; a slanting stroke, one sky with the other at times. Highs in red, this morning's lows in blue, in degrees Celsius; the U.S. map is in Fahrenheit. Wind in metres a second (1 m/s is 3.6 km/h). Pressure in hectopascals. Japan is 9 hours ahead of GMT, 13 ahead of New York and 16 ahead of Los Angeles; it is 7 hours ahead of Paris and Rome and 15 ahead of Alberta. Japanese names are given family name last. A person arrested or referred to prosecutors is presumed innocent until convicted.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Police 110. Fire and ambulance 119. Coast guard 118. Disaster message dial 171. Police consultation #9110. Child guidance centres 189. Consumer hotline 188. People going into the hills in bear country should not go alone, should carry a bell or radio and bear spray, and should keep away from places where bears have been seen.

OPINION AND SOURCES

The editorial is the view of the editorial page and takes its subject from the day's cartoon; Analysis articles are the judgment of their writers. Reports draw on the Monday morning papers, including the Yomiuri Shimbun, the Asahi Shimbun, the Sankei Shimbun, the Nikkei and the Tokyo Shimbun; on Kyodo News, Jiji Press and NHK; on the Yokohama City Election Commission, the Supreme Court, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, Subaru and official statements in Japan and abroad; on the Wall Street Journal, Axios, NBC, Handelsblatt, Ynet and

the Nikkan Yakugyo where cited; on the Ryukyu Shimpo for typhoon records; on the Japan Meteorological Agency and Weathernews for weather; and on the U.S. National Weather Service for the American map.

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TOMORROW'S EDITION

Tuesday: the opening of the lower house debate on the food tax cut, the launch of the MMX probe to the moons of Mars, the close of Monday's Tokyo market, the latest on Typhoon Champi as it strengthens towards violent intensity, the second day of Keen Sword and the Asian Para Games.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

Festivals and Events This Week

By the Culture Desk

BETTARA-ICHI, TOKYO (MONDAY AND TUESDAY): The pickled radish fair around Takarada Ebisu Shrine in Nihonbashi, one of the capital's autumn traditions.

ASIAN PARA GAMES, AICHI (THROUGH SATURDAY): Competition in 18 sports at venues in Nagoya and across the prefecture.

JIDAI MATSURI, KYOTO (THURSDAY): The Festival of the Ages, a procession of about 2,000 people in period costume from the Imperial Palace to Heian Shrine.

KURAMA FIRE FESTIVAL, KYOTO (THURSDAY NIGHT): Giant torches carried through the village of Kurama.

JAPAN SERIES, YOKOHAMA (FROM SATURDAY): DeNA against SoftBank, a repeat of 2024.

MMX LAUNCH, TANEGASHIMA (TUESDAY, 4:41 A.M.): The rocket may be visible across much of Japan about five minutes after liftoff.

BIG SIX BASEBALL, JINGU (FROM MONDAY): Keio can still clinch the autumn title.

PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL DRAFT, TOKYO (THURSDAY): Clubs choose the next generation of players.

WORLD SERIES, UNITED STATES (FROM FRIDAY, AMERICAN TIME): The Brewers against the winner of the Rays and the Guardians.

ELECTIONS (SUNDAY): Voters choose the

governor of Fukushima and the mayor of Naha.

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