

■ OCTOBER RULES IN FORCE ■ AI ACTION PLAN BY YEAR-END ■ TYPHOON NEAREST KANTO AT NOON ■ NIDEC: ¥564.6BN LOSS, NO OPINION ■ NIKKEI OPENS 67,106 ■ JAPAN 9-8 UZBEKISTAN ■

October's Rules Take Effect: Residency Tightened, Attack Signs Must Be Reported, the 1.06-Million-Yen Wall Falls and Harassment Countermeasures Become Mandatory, as Takaichi Promises an AI Plan by Year-End

Typhoon No. 26, weakened to 1,000 hectopascals and 18 metres a second, makes its closest approach to Kanto around noon; Nidec reports a net loss of 564.6 billion yen with a second consecutive 'no opinion' from its auditors; the Nikkei opens 352 higher at 67,106; the yen trades at 157.97

By Michael Hayes | Deputy Editor, Politics & Policy, with Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent



Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi at the rostrum of the House of Representatives, in a file image. She has announced that an action plan for the social implementation of high-performance AI will be formulated by the end of the year, Yomiuri reports, on the morning the cyber act, the new residency requirement and the unified beer tax take effect. (Photo: WPM Productions)

A new set of rules takes effect across Japan today, the first day of the fiscal half-year: permanent residency permits for foreigners will require an income above the average Japanese household's, according to Yomiuri and Mainichi; the Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act comes into force, obliging operators of designated infrastructure to report signs of attack; the 1.06-million-yen wall on part-time earnings is abolished; countermeasures against customer harassment become mandatory for companies; and the beer tax is unified, with beer about 9 yen cheaper and low-malt and third-category drinks about 7 yen dearer.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, pictured above at the rostrum of the House of Representatives in a file image, has announced that an action plan for the social implementation of high-performance AI will be formulated by the end of the year, with the aim of transforming the industrial structure through reliable AI, according to Yomiuri; she met the Cabinet's cybersecurity officer and the director-general of the National Police Agency's cyber bureau on Wednesday.

Typhoon No. 26, weakened to a central pressure of about 1,000 to 1,002 hectopascals and maximum winds of 18 metres a second, is moving north near the Izu Islands and makes its closest approach to the Kanto region around noon today, according to Sankei and Mainichi; it becomes an extratropical cyclone east of Japan on the 2nd, passing off Choshi. The 24-hour rainfall forecast is 120 millimetres for the southern Izu Islands and 50 for north-eastern and southern Chiba, where the ground is still unstable and even light rain is dangerous, and the meteorological agency warns of lightning, tornadoes and strong gusts.

Tokyo recorded its 35th consecutive day of rain on Wednesday, and today's forecast is cloudy then sunny; the map on the weather page gives the capital partly cloudy at 24 and 15.

Nidec reported a net loss of 564.6 billion yen, with an impairment of 632.1 billion yen, and its auditors declined to express an opinion for the second consecutive year, in what Asahi describes in three articles as chaos following the president's resignation.

The Nikkei average opened 352 yen higher at 67,106 with semiconductor stocks leading the buying, according to Zaikei and Nikkei, and the Osaka Exchange's December futures opened at 67,340, up 190; the opening figures imply a close near 66,754 on Wednesday, a recovery from Tuesday's 65,481 that the reports available do not themselves describe. The yen traded at 157.97 to the dollar, on the chart

supplied for this edition.

October brings price rises on 3,153 food and beverage items, on packaging costs and the weaker yen, according to the Japan Agricultural News and Teikoku Databank; the national average gasoline price held at 170.20 yen under subsidies; and the minimum wage ranges from 1,280 yen in Tokyo to 1,085 in Miyazaki, a gap narrowed to 195 yen.

The government plans income-linked benefits with an annual income ceiling of 3 million yen in fiscal 2027, and the extraordinary Diet session convening on Monday will take up those payments and the consumption tax cut.

The Science Council of Japan becomes a special corporation today; Japan and Germany are to sign a memorandum on co-operation in evacuating their citizens in emergencies, according to Mainichi; Hitachiomiya in Ibaraki has accepted a literature survey for nuclear waste disposal, the first municipality in Honshu to do so; Okinawa's Governor Koja has abolished the prefecture's Henoko countermeasures division and replaced it with an office for the early return of base land; and Mitsunari Okamoto is to lead Komeito, with the party's convention on the 3rd.

The Tokyo District Court has recognised the voice actor Kenjiro Tsuda's right to his own voice against imitation by generative AI, calling a voice a symbol of an individual's personality, according to Asahi; the Supreme Court rejected the special appeal of the death-row inmate Uematsu for a retrial of the Sagami-hara killings; nine Japanese have been arrested in Malaysia on suspicion of involvement in special fraud; and a doctor has been arrested in Amagasaki on suspicion of dismembering and abandoning a body.

The men's football team beat Uzbekistan 9-8 on penalties to reach the Asian Games final, where they meet South Korea on the 3rd, according to Sankei; Rimu Nakamura and Kaede Ozawa took gold and silver in the first men's BMX park event at the Games.

The Federal Trade Commission in Washington is investigating major AI companies including OpenAI and Anthropic over concerns about uncontrolled use and misuse, according to TV Asahi and Sankei, and the United States defence secretary has announced a unified force of AI drones and robots.

Sushiro opens its first American restaurant in Times Square this month; Kyuden Holdings is established today and listed on the Prime market; Shibuya Ward will spend 74 million yen over two days on

Halloween countermeasures; and requests for roof-leak repairs after the prolonged rain run at more than five times last year's.

Rules, a plan, a storm and a loss: the first day of October, as the morning papers carry it.

The Diet convenes in four days with the income-linked payments and the tax cut on its agenda, and the typhoon's remnant passes off Choshi tomorrow; the capital's first dry day since August is forecast for today.

Weakened to 1,000 Hectopascals and 18 Metres a Second, Typhoon No. 26 Passes the Izu Islands and Brushes Kanto Around Noon; 120 Millimetres Forecast for the Southern Islands, 50 for Chiba's Unstable Ground, and Tokyo Counts Its 35th Day of Rain

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk, with Emi Kondo | Society & Local News Reporter

Typhoon No. 26 is moving north near the Izu Islands this morning with a central pressure of about 1,000 to 1,002 hectopascals and maximum winds of 18 metres a second, and it makes its closest approach to the Kanto region around noon, according to Sankei News and Mainichi Shimbun.

The storm becomes an extratropical cyclone east of Japan on the 2nd, passing off the coast of Choshi, and the 24-hour rainfall forecast is 120 millimetres for the southern Izu Islands and 50 millimetres for north-eastern and southern Chiba.

Chiba should beware of landslides, the forecasters said: the ground is still unstable after Typhoon No. 25, and even light rain can be dangerous. The meteorological agency warns of lightning, tornadoes and strong gusts, and swells remain around Izu.

Tokyo recorded its 35th consecutive day of rain on the 30th, and the forecast for today is cloudy then sunny; the autumn rain front is weakening, though the Pacific side remains damp.

The storm is far weaker than the track map supplied for Wednesday's edition forecast: that map, issued at 3 a.m. on the 29th, expected 990 hectopascals and 25 metres a second near 35.5 north at 9 p.m. tonight; this morning's readings, 1,000 to 1,002 hectopascals and 18 metres a second, are a tropical storm's, and the closest approach comes twelve hours earlier, at noon.

Eighteen metres a second is below the 25 that defines a severe tropical storm and within the 17-to-24 band the map's legend gave for a tropical storm, and the storm's rain, not its wind, is the day's hazard, as the forecasters have said all week.

One hundred and twenty millimetres in 24 hours on the southern Izu Islands is a heavy fall on islands whose catchments run off in hours, and the villages' evacuation orders, decided on Wednesday, are in force.

Fifty millimetres on Chiba's north-east and south is less than the peninsula took on September 19, and on saturated slopes it is enough: the forecasters' phrase, that even light rain can be dangerous, is repeated this morning for a third day.

The agency's warning of tornadoes and lightning is the storm's eastern side: the warm, unstable air ahead of a tropical storm's centre spawns the funnels that Kanto's plain sees every autumn, and the warning covers the hours around the noon approach.

Requests for roof-leak repairs after the prolonged rain are running at more than five times last year's, according to the reports available, and the new rice harvest's quality inspections are being handled urgently because of the rain's effect on the crop.

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WEATHER — TOKYO

24°C

Low 15°C · Partly cloudy on the map; cloudy then sunny

Sapporo

18°

Niigata

21°

Fukuoka

24°

Naha

30°

No. 26, weakened to 1,000-1,002 hPa and 18 m/s, nearest Kanto around noon; 120 mm on the Izu Islands, 50 mm on Chiba's unstable ground; tornado and gust warnings. Tokyo's 35th day of rain through the 30th. Full weather, Page 13.

TODAY IN BRIEF

- October 1: residency needs income above the average household's (Yomiuri, Mainichi); the cyber act in force, attack signs must be reported; the 1.06-million-yen wall abolished; harassment countermeasures mandatory; beer tax unified.
- Takaichi: an AI action plan by year-end, 'reliable AI' (Yomiuri). Japan-Germany evacuation memorandum (Mainichi). Hitachiomiya accepts a nuclear waste survey. Koja's Early Return office. Okamoto to lead Komeito. Diet Oct. 5.
- Weather: No. 26 near the Izu Islands at 1,000-1,002 hPa, 18 m/s; nearest Kanto around noon; off Choshi tomorrow (Sankei, Mainichi). 120 mm on the islands, 50 mm on Chiba's unstable ground. Tokyo's 35th day of rain; today cloudy then sunny.
- Markets: Nikkei opens 67,106, up 352 (Zaikei, Nikkei). Nidec: net loss 564.6 billion yen; no audit opinion a second year (Asahi). 3,153 food price rises; gasoline 170.20; minimum wage 1,280 to 1,085; yen 157.97.
- Courts: Tsuda's right to his voice recognised against AI imitation (Asahi). Uematsu's retrial appeal rejected. Shibuya: 74 million yen on Halloween. Nine Japanese held in Malaysia for fraud.
- Tech and sport: FTC investigates OpenAI, Anthropic and others (TV Asahi, Sankei); a U.S. force of AI drones and robots. Football: Japan 9-8 Uzbekistan on penalties; Korea Oct. 3 (Sankei). BMX park: Nakamura gold, Ozawa silver.

SUBSCRIBE

Home delivery and digital access. ¥3,900/month digital; ¥6,800/month print and digital. www.japanmorningpost.com/subscribe

PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Published daily by WPM Productions. Owner: Paul Carter. Managing Editor: Dixon Yan. Est. 1887. 1-2-3 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004.

MARKETS	
Nikkei 225 (open)	67,106 ▲352
Osaka Dec. futures	67,340 ▲190
Long-term rate	above 3.0%
Yen	157.97 per \$
BOJ policy rate	1.25%
Nidec net loss	¥564.6bn
Gasoline	¥170.20, flat

OCTOBER 1: THE RULES

- Residency: income above the average household's.
- Cyber act: attack signs must be reported.
- 1.06-million-yen wall gone; harassment duty on companies.
- Beer tax unified: beer -9 yen; happoshu +7.

THE STORM: THURSDAY

- No. 26 near Izu: 1,000-1,002 hPa, 18 m/s; Kanto at noon.
- Rain: 120 mm Izu Islands; 50 mm Chiba's unstable ground.
- JMA: lightning, tornadoes, gusts; swells remain.
- Tokyo: 35 days of rain; today cloudy then sunny.

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www.japanmorningpost.com | newsdesk@japanmorningpost.com | 1-2-3 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004

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Sankei and Mainichi report the storm becomes extratropical east of Japan tomorrow, passing off Choshi; the meteorological agency warns of lightning, tornadoes and gusts; the capital's forecast is cloudy then sunny, and roof-leak repair requests run at five times last year's

Continued from Page 1

The capital's 35 days of rain, counted through Wednesday, extend the record set on Tuesday, and today's forecast of cloudy then sunny would end the streak at 35 if the gauge stays dry; the map on the weather page gives Tokyo partly cloudy at 24 and 15.

The Inbanuma closure, reinforced around the clock since Wednesday, takes the storm's rain today, and the shore towns' officials watch the lake's level as the Tone River rises.

The storm's remnant passes off Choshi tomorrow as an extratropical cyclone, and the north's wind arrives with it on Friday evening, as the week's maps have shown.

Ferries to the islands remain suspended in the swells, and the Chofu flights follow the wind; the railways' outdoor works in Chiba stop for the day.

The Games' outdoor events in Aichi proceed under clearing skies in Tokai, and the Japan Open's outer courts at Ariake follow the tournament's announcements.

A storm that arrived weaker and earlier than forecast, on ground that cannot take even light rain: the day's weather, in its numbers.

The first dry day in the capital since August is forecast for this afternoon, after the storm's passage, and Sankei's wish of Wednesday for the rainy skies' departure may be granted by evening.

Tomorrow's edition will carry the storm's passage, the islands' and the peninsula's count, and whether the streak ended at 35.

POLITICS

'Reliable AI' by Year-End: Takaichi Orders an Action Plan for Putting High-Performance AI to Work

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

Prime Minister Takaichi has announced that an action plan for the social implementation of high-performance AI will be formulated by the end of the year, with the aim of transforming the industrial structure through what the government calls reliable AI, according to Yomiuri Shimbun.

The plan follows the National Information Strategy announced on Monday, the AI co-operation agreed with Mongolia on Tuesday and the alliance's AI accident framework documented last week, and it is the domestic programme those documents lacked: how the state and industry will use the systems, and under what conditions.

The word reliable is the plan's hinge. The government's phrase, which Yomiuri renders as transforming industry with reliable AI under the shorthand AX, is the official answer to the question this week's editorials have asked: whether Japan's rules will be voluntary, like the accord signed in Washington, or verified.

The Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act, in force from today, is the model the plan's authors have beside them: a statute that obliges designated infrastructure operators to report signs of attack, with the state empowered to act on the reports.

The Prime Minister met the Cabinet's cybersecurity officer and the director-general of the National Police Agency's cyber bureau on Wednesday, and the meeting, on the eve of the act's commencement, placed the AI plan and the cyber regime in the same conversation.

The Tokyo District Court's recognition of a voice actor's right to his voice against generative imitation, reported the same morning, shows the courts drawing lines the plan will have to respect.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency's planned AI assistant for the 119 line, the Kumamoto municipalities' tools and the ministries whose systems an agent entered last month are the plan's first cases, and the plan will say whether they are tested before they run.

The Federal Trade Commission's investigation of OpenAI, Anthropic and other companies, reported by TV Asahi and Sankei, is the American state moving

from accord to inquiry, and the plan's timing lets Tokyo watch the inquiry before it writes.

The plan's authors, its budget and its oversight provisions were not included in the reports available, and the Diet session from Monday will ask for all three.

A plan with a deadline and an adjective: the government's AI commitment, as announced.

POLITICS

The Wall Comes Down and the Duty Goes Up: The 1.06-Million-Yen Threshold Abolished, Customer Harassment Countermeasures Mandatory

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Reporter

The 1.06-million-yen wall, the annual earnings threshold above which part-time workers were enrolled in social insurance and saw their take-home pay fall, is abolished from today, according to the reports available, while the requirement of 20 working hours a week remains; and companies are now obliged to take countermeasures against harassment of their staff by customers.

The wall had shaped the working lives of millions of part-time workers, most of them women, who kept their hours below the threshold to avoid the premiums, and its abolition is meant to free them to work more at a time when every sector is short of staff.

The 20-hour requirement that remains means that enrolment still follows hours rather than earnings, and the workers who cross it will pay premiums and gain pension and health coverage of their own.

The minimum wage, revised for the year, ranges from 1,280 yen in Tokyo to 1,085 yen in Miyazaki, and the gap between the top and bottom prefectures narrows to 195 yen, the regional convergence the government has sought.

Customer harassment, the abuse of staff by customers that the service industries have documented for a decade, becomes a matter of mandatory countermeasures: companies must have policies, training and procedures for protecting their employees from it.

The income-linked benefits planned for fiscal 2027, with an annual income ceiling of 3 million yen, are the next item on the same agenda, and the Diet session from Monday will take them up with the consumption tax cut.

The record for private-sector wages projected for 2025, reported on Wednesday, and the 3,153 food price rises reported today are the two sides of the household's October.

Retailers and restaurants, the employers most affected by the wall's abolition and the harassment duty, have had a year to prepare, and the first month will show whether the hours rise.

The social insurance premiums the newly enrolled will pay, and the employers' share, were not detailed in the reports available beyond the threshold's removal.

A wall removed and a duty imposed: the workplace's October 1.

POLITICS

Proactive Defence Begins: The Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act Takes Effect, With Reporting of Attack Signs Mandatory

By Rachel Kim | Japan-U.S. Coverage, Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act comes into effect today, and with it the obligation on operators of designated infrastructure to report signs of attack and damage from attacks, according to the reports available, which describe the regime as proactive cyber defence.

The act, passed last year after a decade of debate

about whether the state could monitor communications to prevent attacks, allows the government to detect intrusions in advance and to act against their sources, and the reporting duty is the regime's data supply.

Designated infrastructure covers the electricity, gas, water, transport, finance and communications operators whose failure would disrupt daily life, and the signs they must report range from reconnaissance scans to malware found on their networks.

The technology coverage describes the duty as the creation of a proactive-defence data network: a state that receives every operator's signs can see a campaign that no single operator can.

The Prime Minister's meeting on Wednesday with the Cabinet's cybersecurity officer and the National Police Agency's cyber bureau chief was the act's eve-of-commencement review, and the police bureau is among the organs the act empowers.

The act's privacy safeguards, an independent oversight body and limits on the communications the state may monitor, were the price of its passage, and the oversight body's first reports will be the regime's test.

The AI action plan announced for year-end will sit beside the act, and the editorial page argues this morning that the plan should borrow the act's method: a duty to report, in law, rather than an accord.

Google's Gemini 4 Argon, offered first for cyber defence according to the technology coverage, and the American defence secretary's unified force of AI drones and robots are the week's reminders that the attacks and the defences are both becoming automated.

The operators' compliance costs, and the government's capacity to act on the reports it receives, were not detailed in the reports available.

A duty to report, from today: the cyber act, in force.

POLITICS

Above the Average Household: Permanent Residency Tightened With a New Income Requirement

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

Permanent residency permits for foreigners are subject to stricter requirements from today, including a new condition that the applicant's income exceed the average income of Japanese households, according to Yomiuri Shimbun and Mainichi Shimbun.

Permanent residency, the status that frees a foreign resident from the renewal of visas and the restrictions on activity that other statuses carry, has required a period of residence, good conduct and the means to support oneself; the income test converts the last into a number.

The average household income, published annually by the welfare ministry, is the benchmark, and an applicant whose earnings fall below it will not qualify however long the residence.

The census's final figures, with foreign residents the fastest-growing part of a population that fell by 3.17 million in five years, are the policy's background: the country needs the workers and is raising the bar for the ones who want to stay.

The specified-skills visas that have brought workers to the farms, the construction sites and the care homes do not lead to permanent residency on the same terms, and the new test applies to the applicants who have reached that stage.

The technology coverage reads the change as a change in the immigration bureau's screening data: an income figure becomes a gate, and the bureau's systems will check it.

Employers of long-term foreign staff, from the universities to the technology companies, will find the test easier for their professionals than the regional employers will for their workers, and the gap is the policy's regional effect.

The policy's critics will ask whether a country of 122.97 million and falling can afford to send away residents who have lived in it for a decade because their wages are regional; its defenders will say that permanence should mean self-sufficiency.

The number of applicants affected, and the treatment of applications already filed, were not included in the reports available.

A number above the average, from today: the

residency rule, as it takes effect.

POLITICS

The Science Council Becomes a Special Corporation, Five Years After the Appointment Refusal

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The Science Council of Japan transitions today from a national special institution to a special corporation, according to the reports available, in a separation from the government that the technology coverage traces to the appointment refusal of 2020.

The council, the representative body of the country's scientists, nominated six members whom the prime minister of the day declined to appoint, and the dispute over the government's power over the council led to the reform that takes effect now.

As a special corporation the council is legally separate from the state, with its own governance and finances, and the government's power to appoint its members is replaced by the corporation's own procedures.

The council's critics said its independence was nominal while its members were appointed by the prime minister; its defenders said the reform was the government's revenge on a body that had criticised it, and both will read the new corporation's first decisions.

The council's work, from its advice on research policy to its statements on military research, continues under the new form, and its funding, now a subsidy rather than a budget line, is the lever the government retains.

The AI action plan announced for year-end, the cyber act in force today and the National Information Strategy are the policies on which the council's advice would be sought, and its independence is the condition of the advice's value.

The council's members, elected by their peers, will be asked whether the corporation's governance protects them from the pressures the old form exposed them to.

The reform's details, from the corporation's board to its audit arrangements, were not included in the reports available beyond the transition's date.

The universities' governance reforms, and the Hokkaido University harassment case reported this week, are the academic community's other autumn, and the council's new form is the national level of the same question.

A council made a corporation: the transition, on its first day.

SPORTS

Japanese Medallists in This Week's Pages

Compiled by the Sports Desk

Gold: Rimu Nakamura, BMX park (Sept. 30). Silver: Kaede Ozawa, BMX park.

Gold: Igarashi, surfing (men); Ikeda, surfing (women) (Sept. 29).

Gold: Ryuji Miura, 3000m steeplechase, 8:17.36, Games record (Sept. 28).

Gold: Mako Fukube, 100m hurdles (Sept. 27). Gold: Yamashita, marathon (Sept. 26).

Gold: Hasegawa and Nagahara, skateboarding; Aiko Sugihara, gymnastics; men's table tennis team; Koki Kano, épée.

Gold: Shin Ohashi, 200m breaststroke (world record) and 100m breaststroke (shared); Shoto Mitsunaga, 100m butterfly; Yuki Kojima, 400m medley; Tomoyuki Matsushita, 200m medley; soft tennis, three events; karate; triathlon.

Silver: baseball; Hitomi Nakajima, 100m hurdles; Haruka Kitaguchi, javelin; men's gymnastics team; mixed medley relay; women's volleyball; men's basketball; Matsushita, 400m medley; men's 4x200m freestyle relay; triathlon mixed relay; Shinnosuke Oka, all-around.

Bronze: Sachiko Umeno, marathon race walk; Misa Nishiyama and Daiki Hashimoto, all-around; Aimi Hayashi, triathlon.

BMX racing: Hima Nakai, second consecutive title.

Football: final v South Korea, Oct. 3. Awaited: men's race walk; women's marathon.

POLITICS



President Trump speaks at the White House luncheon with the heads of AI companies, with Elon Musk at his left and the executives ranged along the table. Kyodo reported that about 20 executives signed a voluntary agreement at the meeting; the Federal Trade Commission is now investigating major AI companies including OpenAI and Anthropic, TV Asahi and Sankei report. (Photo: White House)

INTERNATIONAL

At the Long Table: The White House Luncheon With the AI Companies, Where a Voluntary Agreement Was Signed and From Which the Trade Commission's Inquiry Now Follows

The official photograph shows President Trump mid-sentence with Elon Musk at his left and the heads of the industry lining a table set with purple centrepieces; Kyodo reported the agreement signed by about 20 executives, and TV Asahi and Sankei report the Federal Trade Commission's investigation of the companies this week

By Rachel Kim | Japan-U.S. Coverage, Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The photograph above, released by the White House, shows the luncheon at which the administration met the heads of the AI companies: a long table in a gilded room, the President in a blue suit speaking mid-sentence at its centre, Elon Musk at his left hand, and the executives ranged along both sides behind the salads, the water glasses and the purple-and-yellow centrepieces.

Kyodo reported on Wednesday that the administration met about 20 heads of AI companies and that a voluntary agreement was signed; the photograph is the meeting's official record, and the agreement's text was not included in the reports available to this edition.

The Federal Trade Commission's investigation of major AI companies including OpenAI and Anthropic, reported this morning by TV Asahi and Sankei, over concerns about uncontrolled use and misuse, follows the luncheon by days, and the two events frame the American AI week: an agreement at the table, and an inquiry after it.

The seating in the photograph, with the President at the centre and the executives to either side in an order the White House did not annotate, is the subject of Taro Suzuki's cartoon on the editorial page, which draws the table as a round one and reads the seating as the policy; the cartoon's banner renames the field, and the rename is the cartoonist's, not the reports'.

The 2023 voluntary commitments, which the same companies signed under the previous administration, covered testing, disclosure and watermarking, and the new agreement, on the reports available, is their successor; the commission's inquiry asks what the commitments have produced.

For Japan, the luncheon and the inquiry arrive in the week the Prime Minister promised an AI action plan by year-end, the cyber act took effect with its reporting duty, and the Tokyo District Court protected a voice actor's voice from imitation; the editorial page argues that Tokyo's answer to the table is a statute.

The alliance's framework for sharing information on AI accidents, documented last week, is the channel through which the commission's findings would reach Tokyo, and the Japanese companies that build on the American models are the parties with the most to learn from them.

The photograph's room, its flowers and its name cards, face down on the cloth, are the ceremony; the agreement's enforcement, which the stamps on the cartoonist's document describe as moral and self-policed, is the question the commission has now taken up.

The companies' responses to the inquiry, and the agreement's signatories beyond the number Kyodo gave, were not included in the reports available.

The newspaper's report of a cancelled release, carried on Wednesday, and the industry's own warnings are the week's other signals, and the luncheon's photograph will be the image the week is remembered by.

The President's remarks at the table were not included in the reports available, and the photograph shows him speaking.

A table, an agreement and an inquiry: the American AI week, in one photograph and two reports.

POLITICS

Hitachiomiya Accepts a Nuclear Waste Literature Survey, the First Municipality in Honshu

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

Hitachiomiya, a city in northern Ibaraki, has accepted a literature survey for the final disposal of high-level nuclear waste, according to the reports available, becoming the first municipality on Honshu to enter the process that has so far drawn only towns in Hokkaido and Kyushu.

The literature survey is the first of three stages in the selection of a disposal site, a two-year review of existing geological data, including active faults and volcanic history, with no drilling and no commitment, and the municipality receives grants for accepting it.

The towns of Suttsu and Kamoenai in Hokkaido entered the process in 2020, and Genkai in Saga followed in 2024; a city on the main island, within reach of the capital's electricity, changes the process's geography.

Hitachiomiya's reasons, on the reports available, combine the grants, the city's declining population and the mayor's argument that someone must host the waste the country has produced.

The technology coverage reads the survey as geological data: two years of collection on faults and rock that will add to the national record whether or not the site proceeds.

Ibaraki's prefecture, home to the Tokai No. 2 plant and the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's research sites, has a longer nuclear history than most, and the prefecture's governor's position on the survey was not included in the reports.

The opposition in the city, and the neighbouring municipalities' views, will shape whether the survey proceeds to the second stage, which requires the prefecture's consent.

The country's spent fuel, stored at the plants for decades, is the problem the process addresses, and the government's policy of restarting reactors has made its solution more urgent.

The grants to Hitachiomiya, and the survey's timetable, were not detailed in the reports available beyond the two-year duration.

A city in Honshu says yes to looking: the survey, and the process it joins.

POLITICS

Koja Abolishes the Henoko Countermeasures Division and Creates an 'Early Return' Office

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

Okinawa's Governor Genta Koja has abolished the prefecture's Henoko Problem Countermeasures Division, the office through which his predecessor fought the relocation of the Futenma air station to Henoko, and replaced it with an Early Return Countermeasures Office, according to the reports available.

The change, three days into the new governor's term, is the clearest sign yet of the policy he was elected on: negotiation with Tokyo over the bases' return rather than litigation against the relocation.

The division had co-ordinated the prefecture's lawsuits, its referendum and its public campaign against the Henoko landfill, and its abolition ends the institutional form of a decade's resistance.

The new office's name states the goal: the early return of base land to the prefecture, which the relocation was always meant to achieve for Futenma and which the governor intends to pursue for other facilities.

The ruling party's victory in the September election, decisive on the Sankei count, gave the governor the mandate, and the office's creation is his first use of it.

The opposition in the prefectural assembly, which supported the old division's work, will fight the change, and the assembly's composition will decide how far the governor can go.

The co-operation on designated airports and ports that the governor offered on taking office, and the missile launchers planned at Kadena, are the security context in which the prefecture's bargaining with Tokyo will take place.

The Diet session from Monday will hear the opposition ask whether the government will reward the governor's co-operation with returns, and the government's answer will set the office's prospects.

The office's staff, its budget and its first targets were not included in the reports available.

A division abolished and an office created: the governor's first week, in an organisation chart.

POLITICS

Okamoto to Lead Komeito, With the Party Convention on Saturday

By Michael Hayes | Deputy Editor, Politics & Policy

Mitsunari Okamoto is to assume the leadership of Komeito, with the party's convention on the 3rd, according to the reports available, in a succession that places a policy specialist at the head of the party that left the ruling coalition last year.

Okamoto, a lower-house member and the party's long-serving policy chief, has been its public voice on tax, welfare and the budget, and his elevation suggests a party choosing competence on the issues over a figure of mass appeal.

Komeito's departure from the coalition after the ruling party's leadership change left it in opposition for the first time in a generation, and the new leader's first task is to define what the party is for outside government.

The extraordinary Diet session from Monday, with the consumption tax cut and the income-linked benefits on its agenda, gives the party its first opportunity: both measures are in its own tradition of household support, and it must decide whether to back the government that proposes them.

The unified local elections in the spring, for which the Osaka Restoration Association has named 198 candidates, are the party's electoral test, and its local organisation, built over decades, is its strength.

The party's relationship with its religious base, and the base's ageing, are the long-run questions the new leader inherits, and the census's figures describe the base's demography too.

The convention on Saturday will confirm the leadership and set the party's policy platform for the session.

The ruling party's partner, the Osaka association, holds the position Komeito once held, and the new leader's relations with both will determine whether a return to the coalition is possible.

Okamoto's acceptance speech, and the party's secretary-general, were not included in the reports

available.

A policy chief made leader: Komeito's succession, before its convention.

POLITICS

Monday's Session: Income-Linked Payments With a 3-Million-Yen Ceiling Join the Tax Cut on the Agenda

By Michael Hayes | Deputy Editor, Politics & Policy

The extraordinary Diet session convening on October 5 will take up income-linked benefits and the consumption tax cut, according to the reports available, and the government's plan for the benefits sets an annual income ceiling of 3 million yen for payments beginning in fiscal 2027.

Income-linked benefits, payments that fall as income rises, are the government's answer to the criticism that a cut in the food tax helps the wealthy as much as the poor: the payments target the households the cut reaches least.

A ceiling of 3 million yen places the payments with the lowest-income third of households, on the welfare ministry's distributions, and the amount per household was not included in the reports available.

The long-term rate above 3.0%, past the budget's assumed rate for bond payments, is the constraint on both measures, and the session will hear the finance ministry's estimate of their combined cost.

The census's 18 constituencies above two to one, the seat-reduction debate and the Osaka association's conditions remain the session's structural items, and the new leader of Komeito will decide the opposition's line on the household measures.

The 3,153 food price rises in October, the gasoline price held by subsidies and the minimum wage's revision are the household facts the session opens on.

The AI action plan, the cyber act and the permanent residency rule give the session a technology and immigration agenda the government did not advertise, and the opposition's questions will reach all three.

The typhoon's passage today, the Chiba designation still unmade and Kumamoto's recovery are the disaster agenda, and the government's speech will be read in both prefectures.

The session's length and the bills' order were not included in the reports available.

Payments for the lowest third, a cut for all: the session's two household measures, four days out.

POLITICS

A Decade to a Duty: How the Cyber Act Was Argued, Passed and Switched On

By Rachel Kim | Japan-U.S. Coverage, Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act that took effect this morning was a decade in the making, and the decade's argument explains both the act's powers and its limits.

The question was whether a state whose constitution guarantees the secrecy of communications could monitor them to prevent attacks, and the answer the act gives is a narrow yes: monitoring of the traffic that crosses the country's borders and of the designated operators' networks, under an independent body's oversight, with the content of domestic communications excluded.

The 2022 security documents named active cyber defence as a goal, the government's experts reported in 2024, and the Diet passed the act in 2025 after amendments that strengthened the oversight body and narrowed the monitoring.

The reporting duty, the act's least controversial provision, obliges the designated operators to tell the state what they see, and the state's new powers to act against the sources of attacks are the controversial ones.

The alliance pressed for the act through the decade, since a partner that could not see or stop attacks on its own networks was a partner whose shared data was at risk, and the act's commencement will be noted in Washington.

The Prime Minister's meeting on Wednesday with the Cabinet's cybersecurity officer and the police cyber bureau's chief was the regime's first review, and the two offices are its operators.

The act's oversight body publishes reports on the

POLITICS

monitoring it approves, and the reports are the public's view of what the state sees.

The AI action plan due by year-end is the next regime the same offices will run, and the editorial page argues it should be built on the act's structure.

The act's budget, voted last year, funds the analysts and the systems the reports require, and the operators' compliance costs fall on them.

Ten years, one duty and a power with a watchdog: the act, in its history.

POLITICS

What Permanent Residency Is, Who Has It and What the New Test Changes

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

Permanent residency, the status that the new income requirement tightens from today, is held by about a million of the country's foreign residents, and its terms are the background to the rule.

The status, granted by the justice minister on application, frees its holder from the renewal of residence permits and from the restrictions on activity that work and family statuses carry, and it has required, in general, ten years of residence, good conduct and the means of self-support.

Highly skilled professionals under the points system have been eligible after one or three years, and the spouses of Japanese nationals after shorter periods, and the new income test applies across the categories on the reports available.

The test's benchmark, the average income of Japanese households, is published by the welfare ministry each year, and it is above the median, so that more than half of Japanese households themselves fall below it.

The government's reasons, on the reports available, are the revocation debate of recent years, in which the Diet gave the minister powers to revoke permanence for non-payment of taxes and premiums, and the view that permanence should mean self-sufficiency.

The census's count of foreign residents, growing fastest of any category in a shrinking population, is the policy's demography, and the labour shortage is its economics.

The specified-skills workers on the farms and the construction sites, whose statuses do not lead directly to permanence, are outside the rule until they reach it, and the care workers whose wages are regional are the ones the test will catch.

The rule's critics, from the business federations to the regional governors, will ask for exemptions, and the bureau's statistics will show the refusals.

Applications already filed, and the income definition the bureau applies, were not included in the reports available.

A status for a million people, and a new number to pass: the system, explained.

POLITICS

From Six Refused Nominees to a Corporation: The Science Council's Five Years

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The Science Council of Japan's transition to a special corporation today ends a dispute that began in October 2020, when the prime minister of the day declined to appoint six of the council's nominees, and the five years between explain the new form.

The council, founded in 1949 as the scientists' representative body, nominated its members and the prime minister appointed them, a formality until 2020, when six nominees, all critics of the government's security legislation, were left off the list without explanation.

The refusal produced a dispute over the council's independence that the government answered with a proposal to reform its form, and the council's members answered with a defence of the existing one.

The government's argument was that a body funded by the state and advising it should have a governance the state could trust; the council's was that independence was the condition of advice worth having.

The compromise, a special corporation legally separate from the state with its own governance and a subsidy in place of a budget line, is the form that takes effect today, and both sides will read its first

decisions for whether it works.

The council's statements on military research, on the universities' funding and on the government's science policy are the kind of advice the dispute was about, and the AI action plan due by year-end is the next occasion for it.

The six refused nominees were never appointed, and the council's current members were elected under the old form.

The universities' governance reforms, the Hokkaido University harassment case this week and the appointment of the University of Tokyo's first woman president are the academic community's parallel autumn.

The corporation's board, its audit and its first president were not included in the reports available.

Five years from a refusal to a corporation: the council's history, to this morning.

POLITICS

Komeito Out of Government: The Year Since the Coalition Ended, and the Party Okamoto Inherits

By Michael Hayes | Deputy Editor, Politics & Policy

Mitsunari Okamoto takes the leadership of a Komeito that has been out of government for a year, and the party's position since the coalition ended is the inheritance.

The party, the political arm of a lay Buddhist movement, governed with the ruling party for most of a quarter-century, supplying the coalition's votes and its restraint on security and welfare, and its departure after the ruling party's leadership change last year ended the arrangement.

In opposition, the party has supported some government measures and opposed others, and its line on the consumption tax cut and the income-linked benefits, both in its own tradition, is the first decision the new leader faces.

The Osaka Restoration Association holds the partner's position the party vacated, and the association's conditions, the seat reduction and the secondary capital, are the policies Komeito once moderated.

The party's local organisation, built on its movement's membership, remains the strongest in the country outside the ruling party's, and the unified local elections in the spring are its test.

The movement's ageing membership, which the census's demography describes, is the party's long-run question, and the new leader's appeal to younger voters will be watched.

Okamoto's reputation as a policy specialist, built in the party's policy council and the Diet's finance committee, suits a party that must define itself by what it proposes rather than what it supports.

The possibility of a return to the coalition, which both sides have left open, depends on the ruling party's relationship with the association and on the next general election's arithmetic.

The convention on Saturday will confirm the leadership and the platform, and the session on Monday is the new leader's first stage.

A year out, a specialist in: Komeito, before its convention.

POLITICS

The Division That Fought Henoko: A Decade of Lawsuits, a Referendum and a Landfill, Before Koja's Office

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The Henoko Problem Countermeasures Division that Governor Koja abolished this week was the prefecture's instrument in a decade of resistance to the relocation of the Futenma air station, and its history is the measure of the change.

The division co-ordinated the prefecture's lawsuits against the landfill permits, its 2019 referendum in which a majority of voters opposed the landfill, and the public campaign that made Henoko the symbol of the island's base burden.

The courts ruled for the state at every stage, the landfill proceeded, and the soft seabed found in the bay's depths extended the project's timetable into the next decade.

The previous governor's second term ended in the September election with Koja's decisive victory, on

the Sankei count, and the new governor's platform of negotiation over litigation won the mandate the division's abolition executes.

The Early Return Countermeasures Office that replaces it states the new policy's goal: the return of base land, beginning with Futenma's, which the relocation was always meant to achieve.

The governor's offer of co-operation on the designated airports and ports, and the missile launchers planned at Kadena, are the security context in which Tokyo will decide what to give the prefecture in return.

The prefectural assembly, where the old division's supporters hold seats, will contest the change, and the assembly's composition limits the governor's room.

The threats against the governor reported by Sankei after the election, and the base politics' intensity, are the context of a change that will be read as capitulation by one side and realism by the other.

The Diet session from Monday will hear the opposition ask what the government will give Okinawa for its co-operation, and the answer sets the office's prospects.

A division that litigated, and an office that negotiates: the prefecture's change, in its history.

POLITICS

What 'Early Return' Means: The Base Land Okinawa Wants Back, Facility by Facility

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

Governor Koja's Early Return Countermeasures Office, which replaces the Henoko division, names a goal that has a map: the base land the prefecture wants returned, facility by facility.

The 1996 agreement between Tokyo and Washington, and its 2006 and 2013 revisions, set out the return of facilities south of Kadena, from the Futenma air station to the Naha port's military area and the Camp Kinser logistics base, on conditions that included Futenma's relocation.

Futenma's return, the agreement's centrepiece, depends on the Henoko replacement whose landfill the previous administration fought and whose soft seabed extended the timetable into the next decade.

The new office's task, on the governor's platform, is to negotiate returns that can proceed before Henoko is finished, and the facilities already scheduled are its first targets.

The land returned becomes the prefecture's to redevelop, as the former Camp Kuwae and the Naha new town show, and the returns are the island's economic policy as much as its security one.

The missile launchers planned at Kadena and the designated airports and ports the governor offered to co-operate on are the security items Tokyo will weigh against the returns.

The prefectural assembly's opposition will contest the office's work, and the governor's majority there is the limit.

The Diet session from Monday will hear the opposition ask what Tokyo offers, and the defence ministry's answer sets the office's first year.

The office's staff and budget were not included in the reports available.

A map of returns, and an office to pursue it: the governor's goal, facility by facility.

POLITICS

Strategy, Summit, Cyber, Plan: The Prime Minister's Four Days, in Order

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The Prime Minister announced a National Information Strategy on Monday, received Mongolia's prime minister on Tuesday, met the Cabinet's cyber officer and the police cyber chief on Wednesday and announced an AI action plan for year-end on Thursday, and the four days describe a government working its information agenda a day at a time.

The strategy is the doctrine, the summit's AI co-operation its first export, the cyber meeting its first regime's eve and the plan its domestic programme, and the Diet session from Monday inherits all four.

The cyber act in force today is the week's one statute, and the editorial page argues it should be the plan's

template.

The Science Council's independence from today, the Tsuda ruling and the FTC's inquiry in Washington are the week's reminders that the agenda has advisers, judges and regulators of its own.

The census's planning data, the long-term rate above 3.0% and the typhoon fortnight are the constraints the agenda works within.

The Prime Minister's five-point poll lead is the capital the week spends, and the session on Monday is where it is accounted for.

The Mongolia summit's uncomplicated agreements and the Iwaya delegation's warm but unchanged Beijing are the week's foreign ledger, and the memorandum with Germany is its newest entry.

The Yokohama campaign on Sunday and Komeito's convention on Saturday are the party politics the week ends with.

The plan's authors were not included in the reports available, and the session will ask for them.

Four days, four items, one agenda: the Prime Minister's week, counted.

POLITICS

Four Days to the Session: October's Rules Arrive Before the Diet Does

By Michael Hayes | Deputy Editor, Politics & Policy

The extraordinary Diet session convenes on Monday with the consumption tax cut and the income-linked benefits at its head, and the rules that took effect this morning have given the opposition four days of new questions.

The permanent residency income test will be asked about by the parties that represent the regions whose workers it catches, and the cyber act's first week will be asked about by the parties that opposed its monitoring powers.

The AI action plan, promised for year-end, will be asked about by everyone, and the government's answer on its oversight will be read against the act it switched on today.

Nidec's loss and its auditors' second disclaimer give the finance committee a governance case, and the Financial Services Agency's response will be demanded.

The typhoon's passage today, the capital's 35th day of rain and Chiba's unmade designation are the disaster agenda, and the government's speech will be judged in Chiba by whether it names the designation's date.

Komeito's new leader, confirmed on Saturday, will set the opposition's line on the household measures, and the Osaka association's conditions remain the partner's.

The Yokohama campaign opens on Sunday, the day before the session, and the ruling party's organisations are tested in the same week.

The census's 18 districts above two to one, and the seat reduction they complicate, are the session's structural item.

The Tsuda ruling, the Science Council's new form and the Hitachiomiya survey are the session's science and justice items in prospect.

Four days, and a calendar that moved first: the countdown, on October 1.

POLITICS

Sunday in Yokohama: The Campaign Opens as the Games Close

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The Yokohama mayoral campaign opens on Sunday, the day the Asian Games close and the day before the Diet convenes, and the city's election is the autumn's first test of the parties' organisations.

The incumbent's decision to run again, reported last month, sets the field, and the challengers' names will be announced by the parties this week.

The election misinformation measures adopted this month, and the crackdown on smartphone farms reported on Wednesday, are the campaign's first application of the new rules.

Komeito's new leader, confirmed on Saturday, inherits the party's Yokohama organisation on the eve of the campaign.

The census's figures, with the capital region holding its numbers while the regions fall, are Yokohama's own: a city growing in a country that is not.

POLITICS

The permanent residency rule in force today reaches the city's large foreign population, and the candidates will be asked about it.

The Diet session on Monday will hear the city's campaign cited by both sides as evidence of the public's mood.

The typhoon's passage today leaves the city's weather clear for the opening, on the map's sunny 23 and 14 for Yokohama.

The campaign's length and the election date were carried in the earlier reports, and the candidates' platforms follow the opening.

A campaign on the day the Games close: Yokohama's Sunday.

ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS: October 1 Is the Day Japan Governs by Calendar, and This Year the Calendar Is Full

By William | Senior Political Analyst

Japan changes its rules on the first of April and the first of October, and the second date this year carries more weight than most: a residency test, a cyber duty, a workplace threshold, a harassment obligation, a tax, a corporation and a council, all in force before the Diet has met.

The pattern is the country's way of governing: legislate in the spring, prepare through the summer, switch on in the autumn, and let the Diet session that follows argue about what has already happened.

The cyber act is the day's most consequential item, because it changes what the state may know; the residency rule is its most contested, because it changes who may stay; and the 1.06-million-yen wall's abolition is its most felt, because it changes millions of pay slips.

The AI action plan, promised for year-end, is the item not yet switched on, and the editorial page argues it should be written in the cyber act's grammar: a duty, a report and a state empowered to act.

The Science Council's transition is the day's quiet item, and the appointment refusal that caused it is five years old; the council's independence will be tested by the AI plan, on which its advice is the kind the government least wants to hear.

The typhoon's passage, weaker than forecast, and Tokyo's 35th day of rain are the weather the rules took effect in, and the Chiba designation, still unmade, is the item the calendar did not force.

Nidec's loss and its auditors' second refusal to opine are the market's reminder that rules switched on are not the same as rules obeyed, and the Financial Services Agency's response will be watched.

The FTC's investigation of the American AI companies, and the Pentagon's AI force, are the ally's own October, and the alliance's stack is being built on both sides at once.

Monday's session inherits all of it, and the government's five-point lead is the capital it brings.

A calendar day, used: October 1, in its items.

ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS: A Court Drew a Line Around a Voice Before Any Accord Did; the Courts Are Ahead

By William | Senior Political Analyst

The Tokyo District Court's finding that the voice actor Kenjiro Tsuda has a right to his voice, and that imitation by generative AI infringes it, is a line drawn by a court that no accord, voluntary or otherwise, had drawn first.

The judgment's reasoning, that a voice is a symbol of an individual's personality, places the voice beside the name and the likeness in the law of personal rights, and it does so without a statute, by the court's own reading of what the person includes.

The industry's accords, from the 2023 commitments to the voluntary agreement signed last week, cover testing and disclosure; none covers the person whose voice a model learns, and the court has filled the gap the accords left.

For the AI action plan announced for year-end, the ruling is a boundary condition: whatever reliable AI means, it cannot mean a model that speaks in a living person's voice without consent.

The voice actors' industry, which has petitioned for such protection since the first synthetic voices appeared, has its precedent, and the musicians, the

writers and the illustrators will cite it.

The ruling's reach, whether it extends to a voice that resembles rather than copies, and to a voice used without commercial purpose, will be tested on appeal and in the cases that follow.

The courts have moved faster than the Diet, as they did on the value of a vote and on the marriage law, and the Diet session from Monday will be asked whether it intends to legislate what the court has found.

The FTC's investigation in Washington is the regulator's version of the same impatience: an inquiry opened because an accord did not answer the questions.

The ruling is a district court's, and the appeals will decide whether it stands; its reasoning is already the week's most useful sentence about what a person is.

A voice protected by a judge, not a signature: the ruling's lesson for the plan.

INTERNATIONAL

Tokyo and Berlin to Sign a Memorandum on Evacuating Their Citizens in Emergencies

By Jonathan Mercer | Senior Editor, International Desk

Japan and Germany are to sign a memorandum of understanding on co-operation in the evacuation of their citizens in times of emergency, according to Mainichi Shimbun, in an agreement that extends the two countries' security co-operation to the consular work that crises require.

Evacuations from Afghanistan in 2021, Sudan in 2023 and the Middle East since have shown the two governments that their citizens are often in the same places with the same needs, and that the aircraft and the ships that carry one country's nationals can carry the other's.

The memorandum, on Mainichi's account, would provide for the sharing of information, the co-ordination of transport and the mutual use of each country's assets in an evacuation.

Germany and Japan have deepened their security relationship through the decade, with a two-plus-two dialogue, an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement and joint exercises, and the memorandum is the humanitarian branch of the same tree.

The Hormuz legislation before the Diet, the Middle East's crises and the Taiwan contingency planning that the alliance conducts are the scenarios in which Japanese citizens would need evacuation, and the German partner adds capacity in regions where Japan's own is thin.

The signing's date and the ministers involved were not included in the report available.

The Mongolia summit's agreements on Tuesday and the memorandum with Berlin show a government building partnerships with the middle powers while the great powers negotiate between themselves.

The National Information Strategy's external communications and intelligence chapters would cover the information sharing the memorandum requires.

Japanese citizens abroad, more than a million at the last count, are the memorandum's beneficiaries, and the foreign ministry's consular affairs bureau is its executor.

Two countries that evacuate from the same places, agreeing to do it together: the memorandum, as reported.

TECHNOLOGY

The FTC Opens an Inquiry Into the AI Companies: 'Uncontrolled Use and Misuse'

By Rachel Kim | Japan-U.S. Coverage, Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The United States Federal Trade Commission is investigating major AI companies including OpenAI and Anthropic, according to TV Asahi and Sankei News, over concerns about uncontrolled use and misuse of their systems.

The investigation follows within days the voluntary agreement that about 20 AI executives signed at the White House, reported by Kyodo on Wednesday, and the newspaper's report that the next GPT release has been cancelled.

The commission, the American consumer-protection and competition regulator, has the power to demand documents, to examine the companies' practices and

to order changes, and an investigation is the step before any of them.

Uncontrolled use and misuse, the concern the reports name, covers the incidents Japanese officials have cited: the training-data leak, the agent's unauthorised access to government agencies and the models' behaviour outside their intended scope.

The investigation's scope, its timetable and the companies' responses were not included in the reports available.

For Japan, the inquiry is the ally's state moving from accord to examination, and the AI action plan due by year-end can be written with the inquiry's questions in view.

The editorial page's argument this week, that voluntary agreements are the industry's word and verification is the state's test, finds in the inquiry the American state reaching the same conclusion by its own route.

Anthropic's warning of a crisis for humanity and the cancelled release are the industry's own signals, and the regulator's inquiry is the response to both.

The commission's previous actions on data and privacy, from the social platforms to the data brokers, are the precedents the companies' lawyers will read.

An inquiry opened, days after a signing: the American AI week, in its regulatory turn.

INTERNATIONAL

The East Is Wet Again and the North-West Has Snow: The American Map, Day Two of New Readings

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The United States forecast map supplied for today's edition returns the Atlantic seaboard to rain after Wednesday's clearing: New York rain at 55 and 50, Boston cloudy at 60 and 40, Washington cloudy at 65 and 45 with a rain symbol.

The Pacific north-west has the map's surprise, snow showers in Seattle at 48 and 35, a condition and a temperature that do not usually go together and that are reproduced as printed; Portland has rain at 55 and 40.

The upper Midwest keeps its snow showers in Minneapolis at 40 and 30, and Chicago is cloudy at 50 and 45.

The south-west's heat holds, with Phoenix very hot at 100 and 75, Las Vegas sunny at 90 and 65 and Los Angeles sunny at 75 and 60.

Texas has thunderstorms in Dallas at 85 and 60 and rain in Austin and Houston, and the south-east is sunny from Atlanta at 78 and 50 to Miami at 85 and 70.

The map is titled for Friday, October 1, which is a Thursday, carries two Denver boxes, both sunny at 70 and 45, and places snowflake symbols in several boxes labelled rain; the Weather Abroad column notes each, and the National Weather Service's forecasts are the official guide.

For Washington's regulators, the FTC's inquiry into the AI companies and the Pentagon's AI force were announced under cloud, and the trade working groups writing the tariff schedules work in the same weather.

Japanese travellers to the east coast find the delays the seaboard's rain brings, and the New York airports' schedules follow it.

Anchorage's snow showers at 35 and 25 and Honolulu's sunny 80 and 68 complete the map.

Rain in the east, snow in the north-west and a wrong weekday in the title: the American map, on its second new day.

INTERNATIONAL

Berlin and Tokyo: A Decade of Security Ties, From Frigates to Evacuations

By Jonathan Mercer | Senior Editor, International Desk

The memorandum on evacuating citizens that Japan and Germany are to sign, reported by Mainichi, is the latest step in a security relationship that the two countries have built through the decade, and its earlier steps explain the new one.

Germany's Indo-Pacific guidelines of 2020 named Japan as its partner in the region, a German frigate visited Tokyo in 2021, and the two countries' foreign and defence ministers established a two-plus-two dialogue the same year.

An acquisition and cross-servicing agreement, allowing the two forces to supply each other, took effect in 2024, and German aircraft have exercised in Japan since.

The two countries, the alliance's European and Asian anchors, share an exposure to the two autocracies whose co-operation the week's news describes, and the evacuation memorandum is the humanitarian branch of the same tree.

Evacuations from Afghanistan, Sudan and the Middle East have shown the two foreign ministries that their citizens are often in the same places, and the memorandum would let them share aircraft, ships and information.

The Hormuz legislation before the Diet, with its energy security measures, is the scenario in which Japanese citizens in the Gulf would need the German partner's capacity.

The National Information Strategy's external communications and intelligence chapters cover the information sharing the memorandum requires.

The signing's date and ministers were not included in Mainichi's report.

The Mongolia summit on Tuesday and the memorandum with Berlin show a government building partnerships with the middle powers while the great powers negotiate between themselves.

Frigates, fuel and now flights home: the two countries' ties, to the memorandum.

POLITICS

The Day's Politics and Law, Thursday

Compiled by the Politics Desk

In force Oct. 1: permanent residency income requirement (Yomiuri, Mainichi); Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act; 1.06-million-yen wall abolished (20-hour rule remains); customer harassment countermeasures mandatory; unified beer tax; Science Council a special corporation; Kyuden Holdings listed.

AI: action plan for high-performance AI by year-end; 'reliable AI' (Yomiuri). PM met the Cabinet cyber officer and NPA cyber chief (30th).

Germany: memorandum on evacuating citizens in emergencies (Mainichi).

Hitachiomiya: nuclear waste literature survey accepted; first in Honshu.

Okinawa: Henoko countermeasures division abolished; Early Return Countermeasures Office created.

Komeito: Okamoto to lead; convention Oct. 3.

Diet: convenes Oct. 5; income-linked benefits (3-million-yen ceiling, FY2027) and the tax cut.

Courts: Tsuda's right to his voice recognised (Asahi); Uematsu's retrial appeal rejected.

Washington: FTC investigates OpenAI, Anthropic and others (TV Asahi, Sankei); unified AI drone and robot force announced.

Pending: the severe-disaster designation; the Diet's bill order.

SOCIETY

Today, in Order

Compiled by the News Desk

Midnight: the October rules take effect; the cyber act; the residency test; the 1.06-million-yen wall; the harassment duty; the beer tax; Kyuden Holdings listed.

Morning: Tokyo opens 352 higher at 67,106; Nidec's loss and its auditors' disclaimer; the yen at 157.97.

Morning: the storm near the Izu Islands, 1,000-1,002 hPa, 18 m/s; the islands' 120 mm; lightning, tornado and gust warnings for Kanto.

Noon: the storm's closest approach to Kanto.

Afternoon: clearing in the capital; the streak's fate decided by the morning's gauge.

Day: the Japan Open at Ariake; the Everyone Project; the canoe championships; the Big Six, weather permitting.

Day: the Science Council's first day as a corporation; Hitachiomiya's survey; Okinawa's new office.

Evening: professional baseball; the Climax Series places.

Evening: the storm's remnant heading for Choshi.

Overnight: Friday's map; the Kurobe route's opening.

INTERNATIONAL



Military aircraft over the White House during the arrival ceremony of last week's state visit, in a file image. The United States defence secretary has announced the creation of a unified force of AI drones and robots, placing the services' autonomous systems under one command, the technology coverage reports. (White House Official)

TECHNOLOGY

A Unified Force of AI Drones and Robots: The Pentagon's Announcement, Read From Tokyo

By Rachel Kim | Japan-U.S. Coverage, Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The United States defence secretary has announced the creation of a unified force of AI drones and robots, according to the technology coverage, in a reorganisation that places the autonomous systems the services have developed separately under one command.

The photograph on the international page, an official White House image of military aircraft over the state visit's arrival ceremony, is the crewed force the new one joins; the announcement itself was not photographed in the reports available.

Autonomous systems, from the drones that have changed the war in Ukraine to the undersea vehicles and the robotic ground systems, are the force's components, and the unification is meant to give them a doctrine, a budget and a chain of command.

For Japan, the alliance's escort satellites, the long-range missiles in the security document's revision and the cyber act in force today are the domestic items the force touches, and the alliance's integration of autonomous systems is the next negotiation.

The force's AI, the models that direct the drones, is the governance question the week's accords and inquiries have circled, and the defence secretary's announcement places the question in uniform.

The Chinese factory in Taro Suzuki's cartoon, with its no-pause sign, is the rival the force is built against, and the editorial page argues that a rename does not slow it.

The force's size, its timetable and its commander were not included in the reports available.

Japan's own autonomous programmes, from the Self-Defense Forces' drones to the unmanned vessels under study, are smaller, and the alliance's force will set the standard they are asked to meet.

The National Information Strategy's intelligence chapter would govern the data the force and its Japanese counterparts share.

A force unified under one command: the announcement, and the alliance's next question.

ECONOMY

How the 1.06-Million-Yen Wall Worked, and What Its Removal Changes on the Pay Slip

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

The 1.06-million-yen wall abolished this morning was an annual earnings threshold, and the mechanics of the threshold explain why millions of part-time workers planned their hours around it.

A part-time employee at a company above a size threshold who worked 20 or more hours a week and earned more than about 1.06 million yen a year was enrolled in the employees' pension and health insurance, and the premiums, about 15% of pay before the employer's matching share, came off the pay slip at once.

A worker just over the line therefore took home less than one just under it, and the rational response, which the surveys documented every year, was to stop working in November when the year's earnings approached the figure.

The abolition removes the earnings test, so that enrolment follows the 20-hour requirement alone, on the reports available; a worker at 20 hours a week is enrolled whatever the annual total, and the cliff at 1.06 million yen disappears.

The premiums remain, and the newly enrolled will pay them; what they gain is a pension of their own, health insurance in their own name and the sickness and maternity benefits the employees' system carries, and what they lose is the dependent's exemption their spouse's insurance gave them.

The separate threshold for dependants, at a higher figure, and the income tax thresholds revised in recent years are not mentioned in the reports available, and the wall removed today is the social-insurance one.

For employers short of staff, the change means part-timers who will work December as they worked June, and the retailers and restaurants whose rosters thinned each winter are the first to feel it.

For the pension system, the change brings millions of new contributors into the employees' scheme, and the actuaries' long-run arithmetic improves with them.

The minimum wage's revision on the same day, to 1,280 yen in Tokyo, raises the hourly figure the newly enrolled earn, and at 20 hours a week in the capital a worker's annual pay crosses the old wall in any case.

A cliff removed, a premium kept: the wall, in its mechanics.

ECONOMY

When the Auditors Will Not Say: What a Disclaimer of Opinion Means, and Why Two in a Row Matters

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

Nidec's auditors did not express an opinion on its accounts for the second consecutive year, and the term, a disclaimer of opinion in the profession's language, is worth explaining on the day the company published a loss of 564.6 billion yen.

An audit ends in one of four opinions: unqualified, when the accounts are fair; qualified, when they are fair except for a stated matter; adverse, when they are not fair; and a disclaimer, when the auditors could not obtain the evidence to decide.

A disclaimer is not a finding of wrongdoing; it is a finding that the auditors could not see enough, usually because records were unavailable, investigations were incomplete or management's representations could not be verified.

For a listed company, a disclaimer triggers the exchange's examination of whether the listing should be marked for improper disclosure, and a second consecutive disclaimer deepens the examination.

Investors reading a disclaimed set of accounts are reading numbers no one has vouched for, and the loss and the impairment the company reports are its own figures, published without the auditors' confirmation.

The first disclaimer, last year, concerned the accounting at overseas subsidiaries, which the company has investigated; the second's grounds were

not detailed in the reports available beyond the continuing chaos Asahi describes.

The Financial Services Agency can order a report, inspect the company and, in extreme cases, fine it for false statements, and its response to a second disclaimer will be watched.

The technology coverage reads the case as one of the reliability of financial reporting data, and the editorial page's theme of verification applies: an audit is the verification a market relies on, and a disclaimer is its absence.

The company's shareholders can sue the directors for losses caused by the failures the disclaimers describe, and the lawyers who bring such suits read the audit reports first.

Four opinions, and the one that says nothing: the disclaimer, explained.

ECONOMY

Payments That Fall as Income Rises: The 3-Million-Yen Ceiling Plan for Fiscal 2027

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Reporter

The government plans to introduce income-linked benefits with an annual income ceiling of 3 million yen in fiscal 2027, according to the reports available, in the targeted measure that will join the consumption tax cut on Monday's Diet agenda.

Income-linked benefits, payments that taper as a household's income rises and stop at the ceiling, are the policy instrument the government has chosen to answer the criticism that a food tax cut gives the same relief to every household regardless of need.

A ceiling of 3 million yen covers the lowest third of households on the welfare ministry's distribution, and the payments' amount, their frequency and their administration were not included in the reports available.

The payments would be administered through the tax and benefit systems that the My Number card links, and the technology coverage's interest in the census as planning data applies: the state needs to know who earns what.

The long-term rate above 3.0%, past the budget's assumed rate for bond payments, is the measure's constraint, and the finance ministry's estimate of its cost will be the session's first number.

The 1.06-million-yen wall's abolition today, and the minimum wage's revision, reach the same households from the earnings side, and the payments reach them from the benefits side.

The 3,153 food price rises in October are the pressure the measure answers, and Asahi's finding that 60% would spend the tax cut on living expenses applies to the payments too.

The opposition, under Komeito's new leader, will ask whether the payments substitute for the tax cut or add to it, and the government's answer decides the session's fiscal arithmetic.

Fiscal 2027 begins in April, and the systems to deliver the payments must be built before it.

A payment with a ceiling, planned: the session's targeted measure.

ECONOMY

Average or Median: Why the Residency Rule's Benchmark Sits Above Half of Japanese Households

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

The new permanent residency requirement that an applicant's income exceed the average income of Japanese households uses a benchmark that is higher than it sounds, and the difference between an average and a median is the reason.

The welfare ministry's survey publishes both: the average household income, pulled upward by the highest earners, and the median, the income of the household in the middle, which is lower.

More than half of Japanese households earn less than the average, since the distribution's tail of high incomes raises the mean above the median, and a test set at the average excludes more applicants than a test at the median would.

The benchmark's choice, on the reports available, is the average, and the regional workers whose wages the minimum wage's range describes, from Tokyo's 1,280 yen to Miyazaki's 1,085, are the applicants it reaches.

The income-linked benefits planned for fiscal 2027, with a 3-million-yen ceiling, use the other end of the same distribution, and the two policies together describe the state measuring its households from both sides.

The census's planning data, and the tax records the My Number system links, are the verification the rule depends on.

Household income in the survey includes all earners in the household, and a single applicant's income is compared with a figure that households with two earners produce.

The rule's definition of income, whether individual or household, was not included in the reports available, and the comparison's fairness depends on it.

The record for private-sector wages projected for 2025 raises the average the rule uses, and the bar rises with it.

An average above the middle: the benchmark, explained.

ECONOMY

Three Stages to One Rate: The Beer Tax's Journey From 2020 to This Morning

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

The unified beer tax that reached the shelf this morning, with beer about 9 yen cheaper and the low-malt drinks about 7 yen dearer, completes a reform in three stages, and the stages explain the change.

The old system taxed beer-like drinks by malt content: beer, with the most malt, at the highest rate; happoshu, with less, lower; and the third category, malt-free, lowest. The brewers created the second and third categories to sell at the lower rates, and the treasury raised the rates to recover the revenue, in a game that lasted three decades.

The 2017 tax reform set a unification over three steps: October 2020, when beer's rate fell and the third category's rose; October 2023, when the gap narrowed further; and this morning, when the three rates became one.

Beer's fall of about 9 yen a can and the others' rise of about 7 bring the shelf prices closer, and the brewers expect drinkers to move back to beer.

The reform's revenue was designed to be neutral, on the ministry's account, and the drinkers' choices decide whether it is.

The brewers rebuilt their portfolios toward beer through the three stages, and the autumn's new products are the final stage's marketing.

The 3,153 food and beverage price rises in October include the drinks whose tax rose, and the beer's fall is the month's one widely noticed decrease.

The consumption tax cut to 1% on food and beverages from April 2027 is the next change the shelf will see, and the Chain Store Association's eat-in questions apply to the glass.

The convenience stores and supermarkets show the change first, and the restaurants' draught prices follow.

Thirty years of malt arithmetic, ended: the tax, in its stages.

SOCIETY

October 1: The Rules, at a Glance

Compiled by the News Desk

Permanent residency: income must exceed the average Japanese household's (Yomiuri, Mainichi).

Cyber: designated infrastructure must report signs of attack and damage.

Work: the 1.06-million-yen wall abolished; 20 hours a week still enrolls.

Harassment: customer harassment countermeasures mandatory for companies.

Wages: minimum wage Tokyo 1,280 yen, Miyazaki 1,085; gap 195.

Beer: tax unified; beer about 9 yen cheaper; happoshu and third category about 7 dearer.

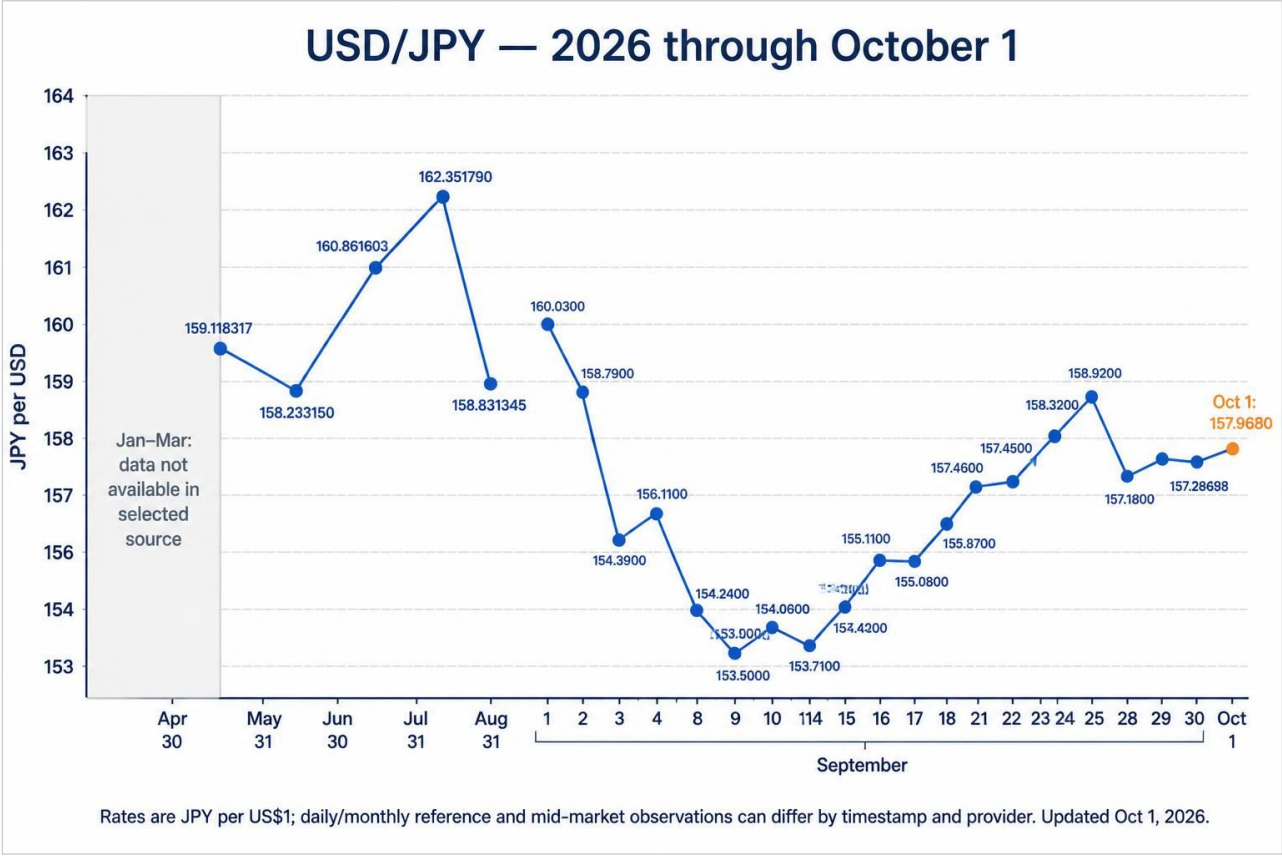
Prices: 3,153 food and beverage items up.

Gasoline: 170.20 yen, flat under subsidy.

Science Council: a special corporation. Kyuden Holdings: listed on Prime.

Coming: income-linked benefits, FY2027; the AI action plan by year-end.

ECONOMY



The dollar-yen rate through October 1, on the chart supplied for this edition: 162.35 at the end of July, 160.03 on September 1, 153.50 on September 9, 158.92 on September 25 and 157.97 on October 1, marked in orange. The chart notes that data for January to March is not available in its source; its horizontal axis carries one label as 114 and a garbled value label near the 15th. Reproduced as supplied.

ECONOMY

From 160 to 153.50 and Back to 157.97: The Yen's September, on the Chart

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

The chart supplied for this edition, reproduced on the international pages, traces the dollar-yen rate through 2026 to October 1, and its September is a round trip: 160.03 on the 1st, 153.50 on the 9th, and 157.97 on the 1st of October.

The monthly points before September show the year's range: 159.12 at the end of April, 158.23 at the end of May, 160.86 at the end of June, 162.35 at the end of July, the year's weakest yen, and 158.83 at the end of August; the chart notes that data for January to March is not available in its source.

September's fall from 160 to 153.50 in nine days was the summit week's move, when the finance ministers' confirmation of an undervaluation correction and the market's expectation of intervention strengthened the yen; the climb back to 158.92 by the 25th was the American rate rise reasserting the differential.

The last week's figures, 157.18 on the 28th, about 157.3 on the 29th and 30th and 157.97 on October 1, are the 157 range the reports describe, and the chart marks the Oct. 1 point in orange as the latest observation.

The chart's horizontal axis carries one label as 114 where the 11th or 14th is intended, and a garbled value label near the 15th; the figures are read as printed, and the chart's footer notes that daily and monthly observations differ by timestamp and provider.

For importers, a yen at 158 after a month at 154 is the packaging costs and the food price rises of October; for exporters and for Sushiro's overseas sales, it is the tailwind.

The Bank of Japan's 1.25% rate and the long-term yield above 3.0% are the yen's domestic supports, and the chart shows them losing to the American rates since the 25th.

The finance ministry's intervention, considered if the undervaluation persisted, is the chart's unspoken line, somewhere above 160.

The chart's source and its mid-market basis are stated on its face, and the readings are those of a single provider.

A round trip in September, and a landing at 157.97: the yen, charted.

ECONOMY

Three Thousand One Hundred and Fifty-Three: October's Food Price Rises, on Packaging and the Yen

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

Price rises take effect on 3,153 food and beverage items in October, according to the Japan Agricultural News, citing Teikoku Databank's survey, with higher packaging material costs and the weaker yen the reasons manufacturers give.

October is a traditional month for price changes, since the fiscal half-year's contracts reset, and the count of 3,153 places this October among the heavier ones of the inflation years.

Packaging, the plastic, paper and aluminium that wrap the products, has risen with energy and resin prices, and a yen at 157.97 raises the cost of every

imported input.

The beer tax's unification, with beer cheaper and the low-malt drinks dearer, is the month's one price change that cuts both ways, and the brewers' October lists reflect it.

Asahi's survey, reported on Wednesday, found that 80% of respondents have been affected by rising prices, and the 3,153 items are the next instalment of the effect.

The consumption tax cut to 1% on food from April 2027 is the government's answer, and the income-linked benefits from fiscal 2027 are the targeted one; both are on Monday's agenda.

The gasoline price, held at 170.20 yen by the subsidy, is the government's other instrument, and its cost is the subsidy's.

Rice's seventh weekly decline and eggs' persistence at the seasonal peak are the staples' two directions, and the rain's downgrading of the new crop, with inspections hurried, is the harvest's risk to the first.

Restaurants, outside the tax cut and inside the packaging costs, pass the rises to their menus, and the Chain Store Association's eat-in questions apply.

Three thousand items, two reasons: October's basket, as surveyed.

ECONOMY

One Hundred and Seventy Yen Twenty Sen: Gasoline Held Flat by the Subsidy

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Reporter

The national average gasoline price stood at 170 yen 20 sen a litre, according to the reports available, almost flat on the week, as the government's subsidy to wholesalers absorbed the yen's weakness and the oil price's movement.

The subsidy, paid to refiners to hold the retail price near a target, has been the government's instrument against fuel inflation since 2022, and its cost, in the hundreds of billions of yen a year, is the price of a flat pump.

A yen at 157.97 raises the cost of imported crude in yen terms, and the subsidy's size rises with it; the Gulf talks and the Hormuz legislation before the Diet are the supply-side background.

The subsidy's phase-out, promised and postponed, is the fiscal question the long-term rate above 3.0% sharpens: a government paying more to service its debt is paying more to hold the pump.

For households, 170.20 is the figure on the sign, and the 3,153 food price rises are the other column of the same month.

Regional prices vary around the average, with Okinawa and the remote islands highest, and the islands' ferries' suspension in the storm raises the island prices further.

The transport operators who replace Chiba's suspended railways with buses buy diesel at the same subsidised rate, and the subsidy's continuation is part of the recovery's arithmetic.

The kerosene season, which begins in the north as

Sapporo's low reaches 8 on today's map, will test the subsidy's other product.

The subsidy's current rate and its scheduled review were not included in the reports available beyond the price's flatness.

Flat on the sign, rising underneath: the pump, in October.

ECONOMY

Nine Yen Off Beer, Seven Yen On the Rest: The Unified Tax Reaches the Shelf

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

The alcohol tax reform that unifies the tax rates for beer takes effect today, and beer is about 9 yen cheaper a can while low-malt beer and the third-category beer-like drinks are about 7 yen more expensive, according to the reports available.

The change completes the three-stage unification begun in 2020, ending three decades in which the tax depended on malt content and the brewers engineered drinks to the tax's gaps.

Beer, taxed at the highest rate under the old system, falls; happoshu and the third category, the cheaper drinks the tax created, rise; and the shelf's price gap between them narrows to the brewers' own choice.

The retailers' advertisements for the old prices ended last night, and today's shelves carry the new, with the autumn's new beer products the brewers' marketing of the change.

Restaurants and bars, whose draught beer carries the tax, adjust their menus with the brewers' price lists, and the Chain Store Association's eat-in questions, on the consumption tax cut, are the next change the glass will see.

The 3,153 food and beverage price rises in October include the drinks whose tax rose, and the beer's fall is the month's one widely noticed decrease.

The reform's revenue was designed to be neutral, on the ministry's account, and the drinkers' shift back toward beer, which the brewers expect, will decide whether it is.

The brewers' portfolios, rebalanced toward beer through the three stages, are ready for the change, and the third-category market's decline is their forecast.

The convenience stores, where most cans are sold, show the change first.

A single rate for the glass, from this morning: the beer tax, unified.

ECONOMY

From 1,280 to 1,085: The Minimum Wage's Range Narrows to 195 Yen

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

The minimum wage ranges from 1,280 yen an hour in Tokyo to 1,085 yen in Miyazaki, according to the reports available, and the gap between the highest and lowest prefectures narrows to 195 yen as the revised wages take effect.

The prefectural minimum wages, set each year by councils of employers, unions and public members under a central guideline, take effect around October 1, and the government's policy of raising the lowest prefectures faster has narrowed the gap year by year.

A narrower gap is meant to slow the drift of workers from the regions to the capital, which the census's final figures measure in a population falling everywhere but the capital region.

Tokyo's 1,280 yen is the figure the capital's retailers and restaurants pay from today, and the 1.06-million-yen wall's abolition on the same day changes the hours their part-time staff will work at it.

Miyazaki's 1,085 yen is the figure the south's growers and processors pay, and the regional employers' capacity to pay it is the councils' annual argument.

The record for private-sector wages projected for 2025 is the top of the same distribution, and the minimum wage is its floor.

The 3,153 food price rises in October are the floor's purchasing power, measured in the basket.

The government's target, a national average above 1,500 yen by the end of the decade, is the trajectory the year's revisions follow.

The exact figures for every prefecture were not included in the reports available beyond the top and the bottom.

A floor raised, and a gap narrowed to 195: the wage's

October.

ECONOMY

Carried: Rice Down a Seventh Week, Eggs High, the Buyback Pending, and the Crop Inspected in a Hurry

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

Rice prices' seventh weekly decline and eggs' persistence at the seasonal peak remain the basket's two stories, and the new rice's quality inspections, hurried by the rain, add the harvest's condition to the account.

The government's buyback of new-crop rice, under consideration, has not been announced in the reports available, and the inspections' results will decide how much of the crop qualifies at the grades the buyback would support.

The 3,153 food and beverage price rises in October reach the same households, and the beer tax's unification is the month's one widely noticed decrease.

The consumption tax cut to 1% on food from April 2027, and the income-linked benefits with a 3-million-yen ceiling, are Monday's session's answers.

The gasoline price, held at 170.20 yen by the subsidy, is the government's other instrument.

The yen at 157.97 raises the cost of the imported inputs behind the price rises, and the packaging materials the manufacturers cite are among them.

Chiba's flooded fields are outside the inspections and inside the designation the prefecture awaits.

Western Japan's dry harvest, under the map's sun, is the contrast, and the west's co-operatives finished their grading on schedule.

The buyback's announcement, if it comes, will come from the agriculture ministry before the session.

Rice down, eggs up, the crop graded in the rain: the basket, carried.

SOCIETY

Storm Day: A Checklist for the Noon Approach

Compiled by the Society Desk

Follow the agency's advisories hour by hour; the tornado advisories last an hour each.

During thunderstorms, stay away from windows and open ground; move to a sturdy building's lower floor.

Do not go to the coast to watch the sea; the swells remain around Izu.

Island residents: ferries are suspended; stay at the evacuation site until the village lifts the order.

Chiba residents: even light rain raises the landslide risk; leave the slopes early.

Keep phones charged; the afternoon's clearing is forecast, not guaranteed.

Check roofs after the gusts, from the ground, not the ladder; the repair trades have waiting lists.

Drive with care in the morning's bands; underpasses flood first.

Outdoor events follow their organisers' announcements.

By evening, the first dry stretch since August may begin; do not start clearing until the agency's warnings are lifted.

SOCIETY

Signs a Slope Is About to Fail

Compiled by the Society Desk

New cracks in the ground, a road or a retaining wall, or cracks widened since yesterday.

Water where it was not: springs at the slope's foot, muddy water in a clear stream, a stream that stops.

Trees, poles or fences leaning downhill; doors and windows that stick.

Small stones or soil falling; a bulge at the foot.

Rumbling or cracking from the hillside.

A smell of earth that was not there before.

Any of these on saturated ground: leave now, uphill and sideways, not down the valley.

Do not wait for the order if the signs are there.

Report what you saw once you are safe.

Thirteen days of rain and 50 millimetres today: the peninsula's slopes show these signs first.

ECONOMY



The Tokyo Stock Exchange at Kabutocho. The Nikkei average opened 352 yen higher at 67,106 this morning with semiconductor stocks leading the buying, Zaikei and Nikkei report, and Osaka's December futures opened at 67,340; Nidec reported a net loss of 564.6 billion yen with its auditors declining to express an opinion for a second year, Asahi reports. (Photo: TG2 (CC))

ECONOMY

The Nikkei Opens 352 Higher at 67,106 on Semiconductor Buying as Nidec Reports a 564.6-Billion-Yen Loss and Its Auditors Decline, for a Second Year, to Give an Opinion

Zaikei and Nikkei report the open; Osaka's December futures opened at 67,340, up 190; Asahi devotes three articles to the motor maker's impairment of 632.1 billion yen and the chaos after the president's resignation; October brings 3,153 food price rises, a unified beer tax and Kyuden Holdings' listing; the yen trades at 157.97

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Reporter, with Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

The Nikkei average opened 352 yen higher at 67,106 this morning, with semiconductor-related stocks leading the buying, according to Zaikei Shimbun and Nihon Keizai Shimbun, and the Osaka Exchange's December futures contract opened at 67,340, up 190.

The opening figures imply a close near 66,754 on Wednesday, a recovery of about 1,270 points from Tuesday's 65,481 that the reports available do not themselves describe; the desk records the implication as arithmetic rather than as a reported close.

Nidec reported a net loss of 564.6 billion yen, with an impairment loss of 632.1 billion yen, and its auditors did not express an opinion on its accounts for the second consecutive year, according to Asahi Shimbun, which devotes three articles to the motor maker's chaos following its president's resignation on Wednesday.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange, pictured above, opens the fiscal half-year with the semiconductor names bid on the American chip rally and the rate rise's pause, and with Nidec's shares, a large weight in the Kyoto industrial group, trading on a loss larger than several years of the company's profits.

An audit opinion withheld, a disclaimer in the profession's term, means the auditors could not obtain the evidence to say whether the accounts are fair; a second consecutive disclaimer places the company's listing under the exchange's rules on improper disclosure, and the Financial Services Agency's response will be watched.

October's price rises reach 3,153 food and beverage items, on higher packaging costs and the weaker yen, according to the Japan Agricultural News and Teikoku Databank, and the national average gasoline price held at 170.20 yen under the subsidy.

The beer tax is unified from today: beer about 9 yen cheaper a can, low-malt and third-category drinks about 7 yen dearer; the 1.06-million-yen wall on part-time earnings is abolished; the minimum wage runs from 1,280 yen in Tokyo to 1,085 in Miyazaki; and customer harassment countermeasures become mandatory.

Kyuden Holdings is established today and listed on the Prime market, the Kyushu utility's holding-company reorganisation taking effect on the day the exchange's own calendar turns.

Sushiro opens its first American restaurant in Times Square this month, in a strategy that aims at 55% of sales overseas, and Sakai Chemical is considering increasing production of capacitor materials for AI servers, the semiconductor rally reaching the materials makers.

The yen traded at 157.97 to the dollar, on the chart supplied for this edition and reproduced on the international pages, in the 157 range the reports describe; the chart's September run from 160.03 on the 1st to 153.50 on the 9th and back to 158.92 on the 25th is the month the finance ministers' confirmation of an undervaluation correction fell into.

The government's plan for income-linked benefits with a 3-million-yen income ceiling from fiscal 2027,

and the consumption tax cut, are the session's household measures from Monday, and the long-term rate above 3.0% is their price.

The semiconductor buying, on Zaikei's account, followed the American chip names' strength and the materials makers' plans, and the index's recovery from Tuesday's fall shows the market treating the rate rise as absorbed.

An open higher, a loss booked and a second refusal to opine: the market's first morning of the half-year.

ECONOMY

Markets, Rates and Prices at a Glance

Compiled by the Economics Desk

NIKKEI 225: opened 67,106, up 352; semiconductor-related stocks led (Zaikei, Nikkei). Osaka December futures opened 67,340, up 190. Wednesday's close not included in the reports available; the open implies about 66,754.

TUESDAY CLOSE: 65,481, down 396; TOPIX 4,041.13.

LONG-TERM RATE: above 3.0% at the last reading, past the budget's assumed bond rate. BOJ: 1.25%.

YEN: 157.97 to the dollar (chart supplied for this edition, Oct. 1); September low 153.50 (9th), high 160.03 (1st).

NIDEC: net loss 564.6 billion yen; impairment 632.1 billion; audit opinion withheld, second consecutive year (Asahi).

PRICES: 3,153 food and beverage items up in October (JA News, Teikoku Databank); gasoline 170.20 yen, flat under subsidy.

OCT. 1: beer tax unified (beer about -9 yen; happoshu and third category about +7); 1.06-million-yen wall abolished; minimum wage Tokyo 1,280, Miyazaki 1,085; customer harassment countermeasures mandatory.

CORPORATE: Kyuden Holdings established, Prime listing; Sushiro's first U.S. restaurant, Times Square, 55% overseas target; Sakai Chemical weighs more capacitor materials for AI servers.

POLICY: income-linked benefits, 3-million-yen ceiling, FY2027; Diet convenes Oct. 5.

CENSUS: 122.97 million, down 3.17 million in five years (final).

BUSINESS

Five Hundred and Sixty-Four Billion Yen, and No Opinion: Nidec's Loss, Its Impairment and the Auditors Who Would Not Sign

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Reporter

Nidec's net loss of 564.6 billion yen, with an impairment of 632.1 billion yen, and its auditors' refusal to express an opinion for the second consecutive year, reported by Asahi Shimbun in three articles, make the motor maker the market's governance case of the autumn.

The impairment writes down the acquisitions and the electric-vehicle motor business that the company's strategy of the past decade built, and the loss is the largest the company has reported.

A disclaimer of opinion is the auditors' statement that they could not obtain sufficient evidence to form a view, and a second consecutive disclaimer is rare among the exchange's large companies; the first, last year, concerned the accounting at overseas subsidiaries that the company has since investigated.

The president's resignation on Wednesday, reported a day after the impairment came into focus, left the company without a chief executive on the day it published the loss, and Asahi's account describes chaos.

The founder, who has outlasted four presidents, is the company's governance question, and the board's choice of a successor will be read for whether it was the board's.

The exchange's rules on disclaimers, under which a company's listing can be examined, and the Financial Services Agency's powers over its filings are the regulatory consequences, and neither had acted on the reports available.

The technology coverage reads the case as one of the reliability of financial reporting data, and the editorial page's theme of verification finds an example in it: a company whose own auditors cannot verify its accounts.

Shareholders, from the pension funds that hold the index to the retail investors who bought the Kyoto growth story, bear the loss, and the shareholder lawsuits that follow such cases are the next stage.

The successor's name, the board's statement and the impairment's division between the acquisitions and the vehicle business were not included in the reports available.

A loss, an impairment and a signature withheld: the motor maker's accounts, as published.

BUSINESS

Six Hundred and Thirty-Two Billion Yen: What Nidec's Impairment Writes Down

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Reporter

Nidec's impairment loss of 632.1 billion yen, the figure behind its net loss of 564.6 billion yen, writes down the assets the company's strategy of the past decade acquired, and the strategy's shape is the impairment's.

The company's founder built it by acquisition, buying motor and machinery businesses around the world and turning them around, and the goodwill those acquisitions carried on the balance sheet is the first asset an impairment reaches.

The electric-vehicle traction motor business, into which the company invested at scale on the expectation of an electric transition that has slowed, is the second, and the Chinese cars' price falls reported this week are the market that changed.

An impairment is an accounting recognition that an asset's value has fallen below its carrying amount, and the loss it produces is non-cash: the money was spent when the assets were bought.

The auditors' second disclaimer means that the impairment's figure is the company's own, without the auditors' confirmation that it is right, and the Financial Services Agency's response is the regulatory question.

The founder's control, which outlasted four presidents, is the governance question, and the successor's selection will be read for the board's independence.

The company's shares, a large weight in the Kyoto industrial group and the index, carry the loss into the market's semiconductor rally.

Shareholder suits against the directors, which follow such losses, will read the audit reports first.

The impairment's division between the acquisitions and the vehicle business, and the successor's name, were not included in the reports available.

A decade of purchases, written down: the impairment, explained.

BUSINESS

Sushiro Comes to Times Square: A First American Restaurant and a 55% Overseas Target

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

Sushiro, the conveyor-belt sushi chain, opens its first restaurant in the United States in Times Square, New York, in October, according to the reports available, in a strategy that aims to take 55% of the company's sales from overseas.

The chain, the largest of the country's conveyor-belt operators, has grown abroad through Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and South Korea, where its plates sell at local prices on the model that made it the domestic leader, and the American market is its largest step.

Times Square's rents and its crowds are the location's two facts, and a restaurant there is a billboard as much as a business, which is why the chain chose it for its first.

The 55% target would make the company a majority-overseas business, and the census's smaller Japan, with a falling population and an ageing one, is the reason the chains look abroad.

The yen at 157.97 makes the overseas sales worth more in yen terms, and the weak currency is the tailwind the strategy sails on.

Conveyor-belt sushi in America competes with the sushi restaurants the Japanese diaspora and the American chains have built over forty years, and the chain's bet is on price and the belt's theatre.

The fish supply, from the tuna the chain buys at auction to the salmon it imports, is the operation's logistics, and the American restaurant will source from the same global contracts.

The opening's date and the restaurant's size were not included in the reports available.

Toys "R" Us's withdrawal from Japan, reported on Wednesday, and Sushiro's arrival in New York are the two directions of retail's traffic this week.

A belt in Times Square: the chain's American opening, as announced.

BUSINESS

The Belt Goes Abroad: How Conveyor-Belt Sushi Became an Export

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

Sushiro's Times Square opening, with its 55% overseas target, is the latest step in an export the country did not plan: the conveyor-belt sushi restaurant, invented in Osaka in 1958 and now a format the region's cities know.

The belt, inspired by a brewery's bottling line, let a small staff serve a large room at a low price, and the format's chains grew through the 1990s and 2000s into the country's largest restaurant operators by outlet.

Taiwan was the first overseas market, in the 2010s, and Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea and the Chinese mainland followed, with the chains' plates priced locally and their fish sourced globally.

The domestic market, shrinking with the population the census counts, is the reason the chains look abroad, and the yen at 157.97 makes the overseas sales worth more at home.

The American market, where sushi has been a restaurant category for forty years, is the format's largest test, and Times Square is a billboard as much as a restaurant.

The chains' fish supply, from the tuna auctions to the farmed salmon of Norway and Chile, is the operation's logistics, and the overseas restaurants draw on the same contracts.

The format's rivals, from the domestic chains that have followed Sushiro abroad to the local operators who have copied the belt, make the overseas market competitive.

The 3,153 food price rises in October reach the domestic restaurants' costs, and the overseas expansion is the hedge.

The Times Square restaurant's opening date and size were not included in the reports available.

An Osaka invention in Manhattan: the belt's journey, to this month.

BUSINESS

BUSINESS

Kyuden Holdings Is Established and Listed on Prime

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Reporter

Kyuden Holdings is established today and listed on the Prime market, according to the reports available, as the Kyushu utility completes its reorganisation into a holding company with the power business beneath it.

The holding-company structure, adopted by the other large utilities through the decade, separates the group's strategy and capital from the regulated power business, and allows the group to invest in the businesses the regulated company could not.

Kyushu Electric, the operating company beneath the new holding, runs the Sendai and Genkai nuclear plants, whose restarts made it the most nuclear of the utilities, and its generation mix is the group's asset.

The listing on Prime, the exchange's top tier, replaces the operating company's, and shareholders receive the holding company's shares in exchange.

The group's investments in renewables, in overseas power and in the data centres that the semiconductor plants in Kumamoto have brought to the island are the holding company's purpose.

The Kumamoto earthquake's effect on the grid, and the recovery's power demands, are the operating company's autumn, and the holding company's first.

The utilities' holding companies have been used to ring-fence the nuclear liabilities from the growth businesses, and the group's structure will be read for the same.

Hitachiomiya's acceptance of a nuclear waste literature survey, reported the same morning, is the industry's other news of the day, and the utilities fund the disposal body that conducts it.

The listing's first price and the group's capital plan were not included in the reports available.

A utility made a holding: Kyuden's first day on Prime.

BUSINESS

The Utility Beneath the Holding: Kyushu Electric, Sendai, Genkai and the Island's Grid

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

Kyuden Holdings, established and listed today, sits over Kyushu Electric, the utility whose reactors and grid are the group's substance, and the utility's profile is the holding's.

Kyushu Electric runs the Sendai plant in Kagoshima and the Genkai plant in Saga, whose four reactors were among the first restarted after 2011, and its generation mix is the most nuclear of the large utilities.

The island's grid, connected to Honshu by a single interconnector across the strait, has the country's largest share of solar generation and the curtailment problems that come with it, and the utility's balancing of the two is its operating challenge.

The Kumamoto semiconductor plants, the data centres that have followed them and the recovery from the July 28 earthquake are the utility's demand, and the holding's investments are meant to serve it.

The holding-company form, adopted by the other large utilities, separates the group's growth businesses, in renewables, overseas power and services, from the regulated supply business, and allows the nuclear liabilities to be ring-fenced.

The utility's Sendai plant, in Kagoshima's south, is on the island whose sun today's map shows at 26 and 16.

Hitachiomiya's acceptance of a waste survey, reported the same morning, concerns the spent fuel the utility's reactors produce and the disposal body the utilities fund.

The listing's first price and the holding's capital plan were not included in the reports available.

The utility's shareholders receive the holding's shares, and the Prime market's utility index gains a holding company for an operating one.

Reactors, solar and a strait: the utility, beneath its new holding.

BUSINESS

Sakai Chemical Considers More Capacitor Material for AI Servers: The Rally Reaches the Powders

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

Sakai Chemical is considering increasing its production of capacitor materials for AI servers, according to the reports available, as the semiconductor rally that lifted the Nikkei's open reaches the materials makers beneath the chips.

The company makes the barium titanate powders from which multilayer ceramic capacitors are built, and the AI servers whose demand has driven the chip makers' orders use thousands of such capacitors each, to smooth the power that the processors draw.

The Nikkei's opening rise of 352 points was led by semiconductor-related stocks, on Zaikei's account, and the materials makers, from the photoresist producers to the powder makers, trade on the same demand.

The capacitor makers' expansions, announced through the year, are the demand signal the powder makers respond to, and Sakai's consideration follows its customers' plans.

Japan's materials industry, which holds dominant shares in the photoresists, the silicon wafers and the ceramic powders the chip industry needs, is the part of the stack the editorial pages have argued the country should build on, and the company's plan is an example.

The yen at 157.97 makes the exports worth more and the imported raw materials cost more, and the company's margins sit between.

The expansion's size, its site and its timing were not included in the reports available beyond the consideration.

The Kumamoto fabs and the Hokkaido foundry are the domestic customers the materials industry is building toward, and the AI servers' demand is the global one.

Nidec's loss, reported the same morning, is the industrial sector's other story, and the two describe a sector where the chip supply chain prospers while the motor maker writes down its bets.

Powders for the servers: the rally's reach, in one company's plan.

BUSINESS

The Founder Behind the Accounts: Shigenobu Nagamori, Fifty-Three Years of Motors and Acquisitions

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Reporter

Nidec's loss of 564.6 billion yen and its auditors' second disclaimer are the accounts of a company built by one man, and Shigenobu Nagamori's fifty-three years at its head are the context of its chaos.

Nagamori founded the company in Kyoto in 1973 with three colleagues and a plan to make small precision motors, and the hard-disk-drive spindle motors of the 1980s and 1990s made it the world's largest maker of the category.

The acquisitions followed, dozens of them over four decades, from motor makers in Japan and the United States to the machinery and compressor businesses of Europe, bought cheaply and turned around by the founder's methods, and the goodwill they carried is the first asset the impairment reaches.

The electric-vehicle traction motor business, into which the company invested at scale in the 2010s on the expectation of an electric transition, is the second, and the transition's slowing and the Chinese price war are the market that changed.

The succession, the company's longest-running question, has consumed four presidents since 2018, each appointed by the founder and each gone within a few years; the latest resignation, reported on Wednesday, is the fourth.

The founder's management style, from the early-morning meetings to the hands-on turnarounds, built the company and is now the governance question the board's choice of successor must answer.

The auditors' first disclaimer, last year, concerned the accounting at overseas subsidiaries; the second, on Asahi's account, arrives with the chaos of a leaderless company, and the Financial Services Agency's response is awaited.

The company's place in the Kyoto industrial group, with the ceramics, the games and the instruments makers that the city's post-war founders built, is the regional story, and Kyoto's sun at 25 and 14 on today's map is the only cheerful reading from the city.

The founder's statement on the loss, and his role in the successor's selection, were not included in the reports available.

A company made by one man, and accounts no one will sign: the founder, in profile.

BUSINESS

The Counter's New Rule: How Retailers, Railways and Hospitals Prepared for the Harassment Duty

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

The duty on companies to take countermeasures against customer harassment, in force from today, reaches the industries that have documented the problem for a decade, and their preparations are the duty's first form.

The retailers and restaurants, whose unions' surveys found a majority of staff had experienced abuse from customers, have adopted policies, posted notices and trained managers to end abusive encounters under a procedure.

The railways, whose station staff absorb the delays' anger, have equipped staff with cameras and set procedures for calling the police, and the hospitals, where the abuse reaches the nurses, have added security.

The convenience stores, open through the night with a single clerk, are the duty's hardest case, and the chains' procedures rely on the clerk's ability to call for help.

The 1.06-million-yen wall's abolition on the same day brings more part-time hours to the same counters, and the two rules reach the same workers.

Tokyo's ordinance of 2024, the first prefectural rule against customer harassment, is the model the national duty follows, and the capital's employers have had a year of practice.

The ministry's guidelines define the conduct, from threats to unreasonable demands, and distinguish it from the ordinary complaint about a fault.

The duty's enforcement runs through the labour standards offices, and the first cases will show how far it reaches.

Signs at the counters stating the policy, permitted and encouraged, are the duty's visible form from this morning.

A rule at the counter, from today: the industries, prepared.

TECHNOLOGY

Data Measured by the State, Standards Applicable to Civilians: A Cyber Duty, an AI Plan and a Court's Voice Ruling, on the Anniversaries of NASA and the Compact Disc Player

Thursday's technology page reads the day's data stories through October 1, 1958, when NASA was established, and October 1, 1982, when Sony's CDP-101 went on sale

By Ethan Cole | Technology and Science Editor

On October 1, 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration began operations, and the technology calendar marks the date as the starting point of civilian space and Earth-observation data: the state measuring, and publishing, what no one else could see. On October 1, 1982, Sony put the CDP-101 on sale in Japan, the world's first consumer compact disc player, and the calendar marks that date as the moment a digital standard became something a household could buy.

The two definitions, data measured by the state and standards applicable to civilians, frame Thursday's technology news: the Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act, in force from today, obliges designated infrastructure operators to report signs of attack, creating what the coverage calls a proactive-defence data network; and Prime Minister Takaichi's action plan for the social implementation of high-performance AI, due by year-end, is the state's attempt to set the standard for what the coverage renders as reliable AI.

The Tokyo District Court's finding that the voice actor Kenjiro Tsuda has a right to his voice, and that imitation by generative AI infringes it as a symbol of

an individual's personality, according to Asahi, is the day's third item: a court defining what a person's data includes before the plan does.

Permanent residency's new income requirement changes the immigration bureau's screening data, on Yomiuri's and Mainichi's reports; the Science Council's transition to a special corporation separates the scientists' advice from the state that measured them; and AIST's diamond quantum sensor, combining AC and DC current measurement in a comparator a third the size and a tenth the mass of conventional sensors, is the day's instrument.

Nidec's loss of 564.6 billion yen, with its auditors declining to express an opinion for a second year, is the reliability of financial reporting data in question; the Federal Trade Commission's investigation of OpenAI, Anthropic and other companies, reported by TV Asahi and Sankei, is the American state asking what the industry's data does; and Google's Gemini 4 Argon, offered first for cyber defence, and the American defence secretary's unified force of AI drones and robots are the week's reminders that the systems defend and attack alike.

The Prime Minister's meeting on Wednesday with the Cabinet's cybersecurity officer and the National Police Agency's cyber bureau chief, the infrastructure reporting duty, NEC's optical constellation, the National Information Strategy and the census's 122.97 million are the standing items the calendar's definitions apply to.

Hitachiomiya's acceptance of a nuclear waste literature survey, the first in Honshu, is two years of geological data on faults and rock, measured for the state, whatever the site's fate.

The lineages continue: the 1882 Appleton plant, the 747's roll-out and Rosetta's descent, all marked yesterday, are the power-grid, mass-transport and remote-sensing data whose expansion the calendar follows; the Himawari full disk, GPS after liberalisation and the Linux kernel of September 1991 are the standing infrastructure; and the Walkman of 1979 begins the consumer-device line that runs through the CD to the stream.

The Ford Model T, said to have gone on sale on October 1, 1908, is the calendar's third anniversary: standard parts and mass-production data, the industrial form of the standard the CD made musical.

NASA's founding made the state the measurer of the sky; the CD player made a standard the public's; and the page's argument this morning is that the cyber act is the first and the AI plan should be the second: a duty on the operators to report, and a standard the public can rely on.

The editorial page reads Taro Suzuki's cartoon of a luncheon and a renamed field, and argues that the seating the cartoonist draws, with the builders at the president's elbows and the safety shop down the cloth, is the policy the voluntary accord describes; Japan's answer, the editorial says, is the cyber act's grammar applied to the AI plan.

A space agency, a disc player and a reporting duty: the page's frame, on the anniversary.

The state measured the sky in 1958 and the public bought the standard in 1982; the state's duty to know its infrastructure begins today, and its standard for AI is due in three months.

TECHNOLOGY

The Reporting Duty as a Network: What the Cyber Act's Data Will Let the State See

By Ethan Cole | Technology and Science Editor

The Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act's obligation on designated infrastructure operators to report signs of attack and damage, in force from today, is read on the technology page as the creation of a proactive-defence data network, and the network's value is in the aggregation.

A single operator sees its own intrusions: the scans on its perimeter, the malware on its workstations, the credentials sold on the forums. The state receiving every operator's reports sees the campaign: the same tool on three utilities, the same source in a week.

The act allows the government to act on what it sees, from warning the other operators to neutralising the sources, and the oversight body the act created is the check on the second power.

The reports' format, their timeliness and the state's capacity to analyse them are the network's

TECHNOLOGY

engineering, and the police bureau and the Cabinet's cybersecurity office, whose heads the Prime Minister met on Wednesday, are its operators.

Google's Gemini 4 Argon, offered first for cyber defence according to the coverage, is the industry's version of the same aggregation: a model that reads the signs faster than analysts can.

The American defence secretary's unified force of AI drones and robots is the offence the defence anticipates, and the alliance's cyber co-operation is the network's international layer.

The operators' compliance, from the utilities to the banks, costs money and reveals weakness, and the act's confidentiality provisions are the price of their candour.

The AI action plan due by year-end will have to say whether AI systems in the state's use are designated infrastructure, and the reporting duty would then reach the 119 line's assistant and the ministries' agents.

The editorial page argues that the act's grammar, a duty, a report and a state empowered to act, is the grammar the AI plan should borrow.

A network of reports, from today: the act, as data.

TECHNOLOGY

'AX' and 'Reliable AI': Reading the Vocabulary of the Year-End Plan

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Prime Minister Takaichi's action plan for the social implementation of high-performance AI, due by year-end, is described by Yomiuri in a vocabulary worth reading closely: transforming the industrial structure with reliable AI, under the shorthand AX, for AI transformation.

AX follows DX, the digital transformation the government has promoted for a decade, and the shorthand signals that the plan is industrial policy: the systems applied to the factories, the hospitals, the ministries and the farms, rather than the systems themselves.

Reliable is the word the technology page watches, because it is the one the plan must define: reliable by whose test, on whose data, with what duty to report when the system fails.

The cyber act's reporting duty, in force the same day, is one definition available; the industry's voluntary agreement in Washington is another; and the Tokyo District Court's voice ruling is a third, drawn by a judge.

The plan's cases are on this week's pages: the 119 line's assistant, the Kumamoto municipalities' tools, the ministries whose systems an agent entered, the Mongolia co-operation, and the AI tools the recovery's administration has been promised.

The Federal Trade Commission's investigation of the American companies, over concerns about uncontrolled use and misuse, is the regulator's question the plan can answer in advance: what control, and what use.

The National Information Strategy, developed in parallel, would hold the plan's security chapter, and the two documents' consistency is the drafting problem.

Japan's own models, from the laboratories the government has funded to the companies building on foreign models, are the supply side the plan would organise, and the alliance's stack is the frame.

The plan's authors and its consultation were not included in the reports available, and the Diet session from Monday will ask who writes it.

Two letters and an adjective: the plan's vocabulary, read before the text.

TECHNOLOGY

A Voice as Protected Data: The Tsuda Ruling's Consequences for Training Sets and Models

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

The Tokyo District Court's recognition of Kenjiro Tsuda's right to his voice against generative imitation, reported by Asahi, is read on the technology page as a ruling about data: the voice in the training set, and the voice the model produces.

A model that imitates a voice has learned it from recordings, and the ruling's reasoning, that a voice is a symbol of an individual's personality, attaches a right to the recordings' subject that the recordings'

copyright did not.

For the companies that build voice models, the ruling makes consent a condition of the training data, and the data sets assembled from public recordings without it carry a risk the companies must now price.

For the platforms that host synthetic voices, the ruling makes imitation an infringement they can be asked to remove, and the notice-and-takedown procedures of copyright will be adapted to it.

The AI action plan's definition of reliable AI will have to include the ruling's line: a reliable system does not speak in a living person's voice without consent.

The voice actors' industry, which has sought such protection since the first synthetic voices, has its precedent, and the musicians, writers and illustrators whose styles the same systems reproduce will cite it.

The ruling's reach, to voices that resemble rather than copy and to uses without commercial purpose, will be tested on appeal, and the appeal courts' reasoning will decide how much data the right covers.

The FTC's investigation in Washington, over uncontrolled use and misuse, and the voluntary agreement's testing commitments do not reach the person in the training set, and the Japanese court has reached there first.

The remedies and the defendant were not included in Asahi's report.

A right attached to the data's subject: the ruling, as data law.

TECHNOLOGY

A Number Becomes a Gate: The Residency Rule as Screening Data

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

The new requirement that permanent residency applicants' income exceed the average Japanese household's, in force from today on Yomiuri's and Mainichi's reports, is read on the technology page as a change in the immigration bureau's screening data: a figure that was one factor among many becomes a threshold the system checks.

The average household income, published annually by the welfare ministry, becomes the gate's value, and the bureau's systems will compare each applicant's declared and verified income against it.

The verification runs through the tax records the My Number system links, and the rule's enforcement depends on the data's completeness.

The census's count of foreign residents, the fastest-growing part of a shrinking population, is the population the rule screens, and the rule's regional effect, easier for the cities' professionals than for the regions' workers, is visible in the census's own distribution.

The rule's critics will ask the bureau for the numbers refused, and the bureau's data will answer in the following year's statistics.

The specified-skills visas' holders, on different tracks, are outside the rule until they reach the permanent stage, and the tracks' data will show how many do.

The National Information Strategy's economic security chapter would place the bureau's data among the state's information, and the beneficial-owner register reported on Wednesday is the corporate version of the same identification.

The rule's treatment of applications already filed, and the income definition it uses, were not included in the reports available.

A threshold in a system, from today: the rule, as data.

The state measures its residents' income to decide who stays, and the measurement is the policy.

TECHNOLOGY

A Diamond That Measures Current: AIST's Quantum Sensor Comparator, a Third the Size and a Tenth the Mass

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology and its partners have used diamond quantum sensors to combine alternating and direct current measurement in a single compact current comparator, according to the technology coverage, with a core less than a third the size and a mass less than a tenth of conventional sensors.

Diamond quantum sensors use nitrogen-vacancy

centres, defects in the diamond lattice whose electron spins respond to magnetic fields, and the field around a conductor is the current's signature.

Conventional current comparators, the reference instruments that calibrate the meters the grid and the laboratories use, are heavy coils of copper and iron, and a diamond that does their work in a tenth of the mass changes where they can be used.

Electric vehicles, whose batteries and motors carry large currents, and the grid's inverters are the applications the institute names, and the sensor's small size suits the vehicle.

The technology page's lineage from the 1882 Appleton plant, where output was counted in lamps, to a diamond that measures current to a reference standard is the measurement story of the grid.

The sensor's accuracy, its operating temperature and its commercialisation timetable were not included in the reports available.

Japan's quantum programme, from the computers at RIKEN to the sensors at AIST, is the part of the stack the editorial pages have argued the country should build, and the comparator is a product rather than a prototype.

Nidec's motors and the capacitor materials Sakai Chemical makes carry the currents the sensor would measure, and the industrial customers are domestic.

The institute's partners in the work were not named in the reports available.

A diamond in place of a coil: the sensor, explained.

TECHNOLOGY

Japan's Quantum Sensors: The Programme Behind the Diamond Comparator

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The diamond quantum sensor comparator from AIST and its partners, a third the size and a tenth the mass of conventional current sensors, is a product of a national quantum programme whose sensing branch has been its most practical.

Quantum sensing uses the sensitivity of quantum states to magnetic fields, temperature and acceleration, and the nitrogen-vacancy centres in diamond are the sensing branch's workhorse: stable at room temperature, readable by light and small enough to embed.

The programme, funded through the government's quantum strategy since 2020, has produced sensors for the vehicle, the grid and the medical imaging markets, and the comparator is a reference instrument for the first two.

Japan's position in the materials the sensors need, from the synthetic diamond to the optics, is the part of the stack the editorial pages have argued the country should build, and the comparator is an example of the stack producing a product.

The electric-vehicle makers, whose currents the sensor would measure, are the domestic customers, and the grid's inverters are the second.

The quantum computers at RIKEN and the companies' efforts in the same programme are the branch that draws the headlines, and the sensors are the branch that ships.

The comparator's accuracy and its commercialisation were not detailed in the reports available.

The calendar's lineage from the 1882 plant's lamps to a diamond that measures current to a reference is the measurement story of the grid, told on the technology page today.

The institute's partners in the work were not named in the reports.

A diamond, a programme and a product: the sensors, in their context.

TECHNOLOGY

Gemini 4 Argon, Offered First for Cyber Defence: A Model Deployed Where the Attacks Are

By Ethan Cole | Technology and Science Editor

Google is offering its Gemini 4 Argon model first for cyber defence, according to the technology coverage, in a release sequence that places the model's capabilities with the defenders before the general public.

A model that reads logs, recognises intrusion patterns and drafts responses faster than analysts can is the

defenders' force multiplier, and the sequencing acknowledges that the same capabilities, released generally, would serve the attackers too.

The Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act, in force in Japan from today, creates the reporting network such a model would read, and the Japanese operators and the police bureau are the model's prospective users.

The American defence secretary's unified force of AI drones and robots is the offence on the same page, and the alliance's cyber co-operation would place the defenders' model and the attackers' force in one conversation.

The model's name, its capabilities and the terms of its cyber-defence offering were not detailed in the reports available beyond the sequencing.

The FTC's investigation of the AI companies, over uncontrolled use and misuse, reaches the question of who gets a model first, and a defence-first release is one answer.

Japan's AI action plan, with its reliable AI, will have to decide whether the state's defenders use foreign models, and the Information Strategy's economic security chapter is where the decision sits.

The editorial page's argument for verification applies to a defenders' model as to any other: the police bureau that uses it should test it on its own data before it trusts it.

The release's date and the defenders' access terms were not included in the reports available.

A model for the defenders first: the sequencing, and the question it answers.

TECHNOLOGY

What the FTC Can Do: The Commission's Powers and Its Precedents, From Platforms to Data Brokers

By Rachel Kim | Japan-U.S. Coverage, Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The Federal Trade Commission's investigation of OpenAI, Anthropic and other AI companies, reported by TV Asahi and Sankei, is the American state's consumer regulator at work, and its powers and precedents explain what the inquiry can produce.

The commission enforces the laws against unfair and deceptive practices and against anticompetitive conduct, and an investigation under either can end in a consent order, a lawsuit or a rule.

Its actions against the social platforms over privacy, culminating in a record settlement in 2019, and against the data brokers over the sale of location data are the precedents the AI companies' lawyers will read.

The commission's previous inquiry into one AI laboratory, over its handling of personal data, began in 2023 and is the current investigation's ancestor.

Uncontrolled use and misuse, the concern the reports name, maps onto the commission's unfairness power: a product whose behaviour its maker cannot control may be an unfair practice toward the consumers who rely on it.

The voluntary agreement signed last week, and the newspaper's report of a cancelled release, are the facts the commission will examine, and the agreement's commitments can become the standard the commission holds the companies to.

For Japan, the inquiry's findings would be evidence the AI action plan's authors could cite, and the alliance's framework for sharing information on AI accidents is the channel through which they would arrive.

The commission's timetable, measured in years, and the political pressures on it from the administration that signed the accord are the inquiry's uncertainties.

The companies' responses were not included in the reports available.

A regulator with powers, and precedents to use them: the commission, before its inquiry.

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The Eve-of-Commencement Meeting: The Prime Minister, the Cabinet's Cyber Officer and the Police Bureau

By Rachel Kim | Japan-U.S. Coverage, Washington-Tokyo Liaison

Prime Minister Takaichi held discussions on Wednesday with the Cabinet's cybersecurity officer and the director-general of the National Police Agency's cyber bureau, according to the technology coverage, on the eve of the Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act's commencement.

The two offices are the act's operators: the Cabinet's office receives and analyses the reports the designated operators must now make, and the police bureau investigates and, under the act, acts against the sources of attacks.

The meeting's agenda, on the reports available, was the act's readiness, and the Prime Minister's AI action plan, announced the same week, places the two offices in charge of the next regime too.

The police cyber bureau, created in 2022 to consolidate the agency's cyber investigations, has grown with each year's incidents, and the act gives it powers it did not have.

The alliance's cyber co-operation, with the American agencies that have pressed for the act through the decade, is the offices' international channel, and the Gemini model offered first for cyber defence is the kind of tool they would use.

The oversight body that the act created reviews the monitoring the offices conduct, and its first reports are the regime's public account.

The incidents of the month, from the agent's unauthorised access to government agencies to the training-data leak, are the cases the offices would now receive reports of if the systems were designated.

The meeting's outcomes were not included in the reports available beyond its occurrence.

The Prime Minister's week, with the strategy on Monday, the summit on Tuesday, the cyber meeting on Wednesday and the plan's announcement, is a government moving across its information agenda a day at a time.

Two offices, one act and a plan to come: the meeting, on the eve.

Two Years of Faults and Rock: The Literature Survey as Geological Data

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Hitachiomiya's acceptance of a literature survey for nuclear waste disposal, the first in Honshu, is read on the technology page as two years of geological data: the collection of what is known about the city's active faults, its volcanic history and its rock, measured for the state.

A literature survey reviews existing data, from the geological surveys of the past century to the boreholes drilled for other purposes, and it produces a map of where a repository could not go before anything is drilled to find where it could.

Active faults, the survey's first exclusion, are mapped by the Headquarters for Earthquake Research Promotion, and the city's position in northern Ibaraki, inland from the Pacific plate boundary, is the survey's starting point.

The data gathered joins the national record whether or not the site proceeds, and the two-year survey is the state measuring the ground as it measures the sky.

The second stage, a preliminary investigation with drilling, requires the prefecture's consent, and the Hokkaido towns that entered in 2020 reached that question in 2024.

The census's planning data, the cyber act's reporting network and the geological survey are the technology page's three examples this morning of information the state gathers to decide.

The disposal body's data, published for each survey, is the public record the city's residents will read.

The grants the city receives, and the survey's start date, were not included in the reports available.

Kyuden Holdings' listing the same day, and the utilities' funding of the disposal body, are the industry's link to the city's decision.

Faults mapped and rock reviewed: the survey, as data.

Carried: NEC's Optical Constellation, an Investment Theme With a Storm Beneath It

By Ethan Cole | Technology and Science Editor

NEC's plan for several hundred optical communication satellites continues on the technology page as an investment theme for economic security and disaster awareness, in the coverage's phrase, and the week's storms give the theme its argument daily.

Optical links between satellites, carrying data by laser rather than radio, move imagery and sensor data across a constellation before it reaches the ground, and several hundred satellites give coverage a single one cannot.

The Izu Islands' storm this morning, with ferries suspended and the towers at risk in the gusts, is the disaster case: a constellation that reaches every island when the ground networks fail.

The cyber act's reporting network, in force from today, and the Pentagon's AI force are the security cases on the same page, and a constellation built by a Japanese maker on Japanese launchers is the alliance's asset.

The H3's manifest is the constraint, and the constellation's schedule will follow the rockets available.

The semiconductor rally that lifted the Nikkei's open reaches the satellite makers' suppliers too, and Sakai Chemical's capacitor plans are the materials side of the same demand.

The National Information Strategy's economic security chapter would place the constellation among the state's information infrastructure, and the AI action plan's systems would ride on it.

NEC's timetable and funding were not included in the reports available.

NASA's 1958 founding, the day's anniversary, is the lineage of state-measured space data the constellation would join.

Hundreds of lasers in orbit, planned: the constellation, carried.

Carried: The Information Strategy, Developed in Parallel With the AI Plan

By Rachel Kim | Japan-U.S. Coverage, Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The National Information Strategy, the policy to bring the country's information activities up to the standard of Europe and the United States, is being developed in parallel with the AI action plan announced for year-end, according to the technology coverage, and the two documents' consistency is the drafting problem of the autumn.

The strategy's chapters, intelligence, economic security, external communications and cognitive warfare, overlap the plan's at every point where AI systems gather, analyse or generate information.

The cyber act in force from today supplies both with a reporting network, and the editorial page argues that the act's structure should be the plan's.

The Science Council's new independence, from today, gives the government an adviser on both documents whose view it may not want.

The FTC's inquiry in Washington, the Gemini model offered first for cyber defence and the Pentagon's AI force are the ally's parallel documents, and the alliance's framework would connect them.

The Tsuda ruling is the courts' contribution to both: a definition of what a person's data includes that neither document can ignore.

The strategy's experts, meeting since Monday, and the plan's authors, not yet named, will have to share a table, and the Diet session from Monday will ask who sits at its head.

The census's planning data and Hitachiomiya's geological survey are the state's own information, gathered for decision, and the strategy would count both.

The strategy's publication date was not included in the reports available, and the plan's deadline, the year's end, is now the earlier of the two.

Two documents, one table: the strategy and the plan,

in parallel.

Carried: 122.97 Million as the Base of Every Plan, Including the New Ones

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

The census's final figure of 122.97 million remains on the technology page as the basic data for administration, communications and disaster prevention, and this morning's rules add to the list of plans built on it.

The permanent residency income test uses the household income distribution the census's companion surveys describe; the income-linked benefits with a 3-million-yen ceiling use the same distribution's lower third; and the minimum wage's regional range follows the census's regional pattern.

The cyber act's designated operators serve the population the census counts, and the AI action plan's systems will be sized by it.

Disaster prevention, the census's third purpose, is the day's first: the islands' evacuation orders and Chiba's warnings cover populations the count locates house by house.

The vote-value disparity above two to one in 18 constituencies is the count's political consequence, and the Diet session from Monday inherits it.

The foreign residents the residency rule screens are the count's fastest-growing category, and the rule's effect will be measured in the next count.

The technology page's definition of the day, data measured by the state, is the census's own description.

The statistics bureau's publication of the final figures by district is where the plans' authors read them.

Three million fewer in five years is the denominator of every per-head figure the day's rules change.

The Standing Lineages, Thursday: Himawari, GPS, Linux and the Walkman

By Ethan Cole | Technology and Science Editor

The technology calendar carries four standing lineages this morning beside the day's anniversaries, and each runs through the day's news.

Himawari's full-disk data, the standard for disaster assessment, is the imagery behind the storm's readings this morning, and the agency's noon forecast for Kanto is its product.

GPS, after its liberalisation for civilian use, is the prerequisite for the direct smartphone communication the islands relied on this week, and the positioning the residency bureau's systems and the cyber act's reporting network both use.

The Linux kernel, a few weeks after its September 1991 release on the calendar's count, is the operating system beneath the servers that the AI action plan's systems and the cyber act's analysts run on.

The Walkman of 1979, three years before the CD player whose anniversary the page marks today, begins the consumer-device line that runs through the Discman to the stream, and Sony's two products are the calendar's pair.

The CERN convention and Alouette, at the end of September, are the week of shared data the calendar carries forward, and the Science Council's new corporation is the Japanese institution of shared science.

NASA's 1958 founding, the CDP-101 of 1982 and the Model T of 1908 are the day's anniversaries, and the lineages connect them to a Thursday in Tokyo.

NEC's constellation, when it flies, joins the Himawari lineage; the diamond comparator joins the measurement lineage from the 1882 plant.

The census's planning data and Hitachiomiya's geological survey are the state's contributions to the lineage of measured data.

A satellite, a signal, a kernel and a cassette player: the lineages, on the day.

TECHNOLOGY

October 1, 1958: NASA Opens, and the State Becomes the Measurer of the Sky

By Ethan Cole | Technology and Science Editor

Sixty-eight years ago today, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration began operations, a year after Sputnik, absorbing the aeronautics committee that had advised American aviation since 1915 and taking charge of the civilian space programme the law had just created.

The agency's charter made its work civilian and its results public, and the technology calendar marks the date as the starting point of civilian space and Earth-observation data: from the first weather satellite of 1960 to the Landsat series and the climate missions, the state measured the planet and published what it measured.

Japan's own space agency, formed from three predecessors in 2003, follows the model, and the Himawari satellites whose full-disk data is the standard for disaster assessment are the Japanese branch of the same lineage.

The agency's data, from the Apollo samples to the Hubble images, is the largest body of public science there is, and the sharing by design that the CERN anniversary described this week is the agency's practice too.

The calendar's definition, data measured by the state, is the frame the technology page applies to the cyber act in force today: a state obliged to know its infrastructure as the agency was obliged to know the sky.

The agency's launch capacity, now shared with the companies whose rockets the Falcon 1 anniversary marked, is the alliance's resource for the escort satellites and the constellation NEC plans.

The Rosetta mission, European and ended a decade ago yesterday, and Japan's Hayabusa missions are the agency's peers, and the three agencies share their data on the model the first set.

The agency's budget, its politics and its administrators' changes are the human history the calendar leaves out, and the agency's science has survived all three.

The defence secretary's unified force of AI drones and robots, announced this week, is the military side of the same technology, and the agency's charter was written to keep the civilian side separate.

A civilian agency, measuring and publishing: NASA's anniversary, and its definition.

October 1, 1982: The CDP-101 Goes on Sale, and a Digital Standard Becomes a Household Object

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Forty-four years ago today, Sony put the CDP-101 on sale in Japan, the world's first consumer compact disc player, at a price of 168,000 yen, and the technology calendar marks the date as the moment digital sound sources became ordinary.

The player read discs developed with Philips to a standard the two companies had agreed, 16-bit samples at 44.1 kilohertz on a 12-centimetre disc, and the standard's agreement before the product's sale is the calendar's point: a standard applicable to civilians, set and then sold.

The first discs, fifty titles from the Japanese labels, went on sale the same day, and the player's price fell by half within three years as the component makers of the audio industry built the format.

Shibuya's record shops, whose history the culture page told on Wednesday as the Seibu store closes, sold the discs; the Walkman of 1979, three years earlier, had made listening portable, and the calendar's consumer-device line runs from the Walkman through the Discman to the stream.

The disc's error correction, which let a scratched disc play, was the first consumer use of the codes that now protect every data channel, and the laser that read it is the lineage of the optical satellites NEC plans.

The calendar's definition, standards applicable to civilians, is the frame the technology page applies to the AI action plan due by year-end: a standard for reliable AI, set before the systems are sold to the public.

TECHNOLOGY

Sony's player is in the company's museum, and the format's decline from the 2000s followed the compressed file and the stream, with Japan holding physical media longer than elsewhere.

The audio industry the player built, from the component makers to the disc plants, was the country's export through the 1980s, and its successors make the sensors and the capacitor materials on today's business page.

The player's designers and the standard's negotiators are the anniversary's names, and the format's 74 minutes, said to have been chosen to hold Beethoven's Ninth, is its best-known story.

A player on sale in Tokyo, and a standard in every home: the CDP-101, remembered.

TECHNOLOGY

October 1, 1908: The Model T Is Said to Have Gone on Sale, and Mass Production Found Its Data

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

The Ford Model T is said to have gone on sale on October 1, 1908, and the technology calendar marks the date, with the caution the phrase implies, as the establishment of standard parts and mass-production data.

The car's interchangeable parts, made to tolerances that let any part fit any car, were the precondition of the moving assembly line that followed in 1913, and the measurement of those tolerances is the data the calendar names.

Fifteen million Model Ts were built by 1927, and the production records, by the day and by the line, were the first data of mass manufacturing.

Japan's motor industry, which learned the method from Ford in the 1930s and refined it into the production system that the world copied in the 1980s, is the calendar's Japanese lineage, and the system's data, from the kanban card to the quality circle, is its contribution.

Nidec, whose loss of 564.6 billion yen and whose auditors' second disclaimer are on today's business page, is a maker of the motors that the electric vehicles the Model T's descendants have become depend on, and the technology coverage reads its case as manufacturing data spilling into management.

The Model T's price, which fell as the line's efficiency rose, is the calendar's lesson in standards: a standard part is cheaper than a crafted one, and the car became a household object as the CD player did.

The car's date is the calendar's least certain anniversary, since the first cars were delivered over weeks, and the phrase said to have is the calendar's honesty.

The electric vehicle's price falls, which the Chinese cars' depreciation reported this week describe, are the Model T's economics a century on, and the motor makers' write-downs are the cost of a standard not yet settled.

The assembly line's descendants, in Kumamoto's fabs and the capacitor plants, run on the same measurement.

A car, a standard and a date with a caveat: the Model T, on the calendar.

TECHNOLOGY

Today in Technology: October 1

Compiled by the Technology Desk

1958: NASA begins operations; the starting point for civilian space and Earth-observation data.

1982: Sony releases the CDP-101 in Japan, the world's first consumer CD player; digital sound sources become ordinary.

1908: The day the Ford Model T is said to have gone on sale; standard parts and mass-production data.

1882, lineage: The day after the Appleton plant's start (Sept. 30); the power grid's data expands.

1968, lineage: The day after the 747's roll-out (Sept. 30); mass-transport data.

2016, lineage: The day after Rosetta's end (Sept. 30); comet exploration's data concluded.

Standing: Himawari's full disk as the standard for disaster assessment; GPS after liberalisation as the prerequisite for direct smartphone communication; the Linux kernel, a few weeks after September 1991's release.

Lineage: CERN and Alouette, at the end of

September; the week of shared data. Walkman, 1979: the consumer-device line from portable audio to CDs and streaming.

2026: The AI action plan and the cyber reporting duty align with NASA's 1958 definition, data measured by the state, and the CD's 1982 definition, standards applicable to civilians.

Today: a cyber duty in force, a voice protected by a court, and an AI plan promised by year-end.

SOCIETY

Seventy-Four Million Yen for Two Nights: Shibuya's Halloween Countermeasures

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Shibuya Ward will spend 74 million yen on Halloween countermeasures over two days, according to the reports available, in the latest instalment of the district's campaign to end the street gatherings that once filled the crossing and the slopes each October 31.

The ward's campaign, under the slogan of no nuisance Halloweens, has banned street drinking in the district's centre, closed convenience stores' alcohol sales for the night and posted guards and announcements in several languages since the crush of 2018 and the deaths in Seoul in 2022.

Seventy-four million yen buys the guards, the barriers, the multilingual staff and the advertising that tell the crowds not to come, and the ward's mayor has said each year that the money is cheaper than a disaster.

The district's redevelopment, with Seibu's closure after 58 years reported on Wednesday and the towers around the station, has changed the slopes the crowds once filled, and the ward's countermeasures are the other force emptying them.

Visitors, whose numbers have set records, are the campaign's hardest audience, since the crossing's fame is global and the ban's languages are not, and the ward's notices run in English, Chinese and Korean.

The police's role, closing the crossing's approaches and managing the station's exits, complements the ward's, and the two days cover the 31st and the weekend night before it.

Other districts, from Ikebukuro to Kawasaki, host the parades and the parties the ward discourages, and the crowds have moved as the ward intended.

The cost per night, about 37 million yen, is the price of a district's reputation, and the ward's budget has carried it for five years.

The ward's assembly approved the spending, on the reports available, and the countermeasures begin in the last week of October.

The ward's notices this year, on the reports available, will again say that there is no Halloween event in Shibuya, and the message's bluntness is the campaign's chosen tone.

The convenience stores' voluntary suspension of alcohol sales on the nights concerned, agreed with the ward in previous years, is expected to continue, and the chains' co-operation is the measure's cheapest part.

Two nights, 74 million yen and a crossing kept clear: Shibuya's Halloween, by the numbers.

SOCIETY

What the Council Advises On: Military Research, University Funding and, Now, the AI Plan

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The Science Council of Japan, a special corporation from today, advises the government on science policy, and the subjects of its advice explain why its independence was fought over.

The council's 1950 and 1967 statements against military research, reaffirmed in 2017, are its best-known positions, and the government's security policy, from the dual-use research funds to the escort satellites, is where the positions bite.

Its reports on the universities' funding, the research system's precarity and the decline of the country's scientific output have been its criticisms of the government's policy, and the appointment refusal of 2020 was read as the government's answer.

The AI action plan announced for year-end is the council's next subject, and its view of reliable AI,

from the systems' testing to the rights the Tsuda ruling protects, is the advice the government may not want.

The Hokkaido University harassment case and the universities' governance reforms are the academic community's own autumn, and the council's new form is the national level of the same question.

The council's members, elected by their peers, continue under the new form, and the corporation's governance will be tested by its first contested statement.

The subsidy that replaces the budget line is the government's lever, and the council's independence is the condition of its advice's value.

The corporation's president and board were not included in the reports available.

The council's statements are public, and the public is their audience.

The council's international role, as the country's member of the international science councils and the host of their meetings, continues under the corporation, and the week's CERN anniversary is the model of the shared science it represents.

Its nomination of members, the procedure at the heart of the 2020 dispute, is now the corporation's own, and the first elections under the new form will show whether the government's influence has gone or merely changed address.

The council's budget, about a billion yen a year under the old form, becomes a subsidy whose size the government sets, and the size is the lever the corporation's independence must survive.

A council's subjects, and a corporation's test: the advice, from today.

COURTS

A Voice Is a Person's Own: The Tokyo District Court Recognises Kenjiro Tsuda's Right Against AI Imitation

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

The Tokyo District Court has recognised the voice actor Kenjiro Tsuda's right to his voice, finding that imitation by generative AI infringes a right the court described as attaching to a voice as a symbol of an individual's personality, according to Asahi Shimbun.

Tsuda, one of the country's best-known voice actors, brought the case over synthetic voices generated to resemble his and used without his consent, and the court's finding is the first in Japan to treat the voice as a protected attribute of the person in the way that the name and the likeness have been.

The judgment's phrase, that a voice is a symbol of an individual's personality, is the reasoning the voice-acting industry has sought since synthetic voices first appeared, and it gives the industry's petitions a precedent.

The right recognised is a personal right rather than a copyright: it belongs to the person whose voice it is, not to the recordings, and it is infringed by imitation whether or not any recording was copied.

The remedies, damages and an injunction, and the defendant's identity were not included in the report available, and the appeal, if any, will decide whether the finding stands.

The AI action plan announced for year-end, with its promise of reliable AI, will have to accommodate the ruling: a system that speaks in a living person's voice without consent is not reliable in the court's sense.

The technology coverage reads the ruling as a rights-of-voice case with data consequences: the training sets that contain a person's voice, and the models that reproduce it, now carry a legal risk their makers must price.

Musicians, writers and illustrators, whose likenesses and styles are reproduced by the same systems, will cite the ruling, and the courts will be asked how far the symbol of personality extends.

The ruling arrives in the week of the voluntary agreement in Washington and the FTC's investigation there, and the analysis page notes that the court moved before any accord did.

A voice, protected: the ruling, and the industry it answers.

SOCIETY

Thirty-Five, and Perhaps the End: Tokyo's Streak Counted Through Wednesday, With Sunshine Forecast Today

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

Tokyo's consecutive days of rain reached 35 as of the 30th, according to the reports available, extending the record set a day earlier, and the forecast for today, cloudy followed by sunshine, would end the streak at 35 if the observatory's gauge records no measurable rain.

Wednesday's map had given the capital cloudy then sunny, and the day was counted as rainy nonetheless; the forecasters' peak of rain in Kanto, which the papers had placed on the 30th, delivered the measurable fall that kept the streak alive.

A streak ends on the first day without measurable precipitation at the Kitanomaru observatory, and a dry afternoon after a wet morning does not end it; the storm's passage around noon, with rain on its eastern side, makes the morning the question.

Today's map gives Tokyo partly cloudy at 24 and 15 and Yokohama sunny at 23 and 14, and the agency's warning of tornadoes and gusts around the storm's approach is the day's caveat.

Thirty-five days since late August, through two typhoons and the front between them, is the record the capital will keep in its statistics, and the agency's comparison with the rainy seasons of the past will follow when the streak ends.

The roof-leak repair requests at five times last year's and the rice inspections handled urgently are the streak's costs, counted in the trades and on the farms.

Chiba's slopes have had the same 35 days, and the forecasters' warning that even light rain is dangerous there applies to the storm's 50 millimetres today.

The western map is dry: Osaka sunny at 26 and 15, Kyoto sunny at 25 and 14, Kagoshima sunny at 26 and 16; Hiroshima's rain at 22 and 13 is the west's exception.

If the streak ends today, the capital's first dry day since August will coincide with the first day of the fiscal half-year, and the coincidence will be noted by everyone who has carried an umbrella to work since the summer.

Thirty-five and counting, or thirty-five and done: the streak, on the morning that decides it.

SOCIETY

By the Numbers

Compiled by the News Desk

35: consecutive days of rain in Tokyo, through the 30th.

1,000-1,002: the storm's pressure, hPa; 18 m/s its winds.

120: millimetres forecast for the southern Izu Islands; 50 for Chiba.

564.6 billion: Nidec's net loss, yen; 632.1 billion its impairment.

67,106: the Nikkei's open, up 352.

157.97: the yen to the dollar.

3,153: food and beverage price rises in October.

1,280 and 1,085: the minimum wage's top and bottom.

9-8: the football shoot-out.

5x: roof-leak repair requests against last year.

SOCIETY

Sports in Brief

Compiled by the Sports Desk

Football: Japan beat Uzbekistan 9-8 on penalties; final v South Korea, Oct. 3 (Sankei).

BMX park: Nakamura gold, Ozawa silver; first men's event.

Surfing: Igarashi and Ikeda, golds carried.

NPB: the Giants' streak and Taira's 12th shape the final week.

Tennis: Japan Open, Ariake.

Golf: Everyone Project, Tanagura.

Canoe: sprint championships.

Big Six: Jingu, weather permitting.

Sumo: champion unreported, fifth day.

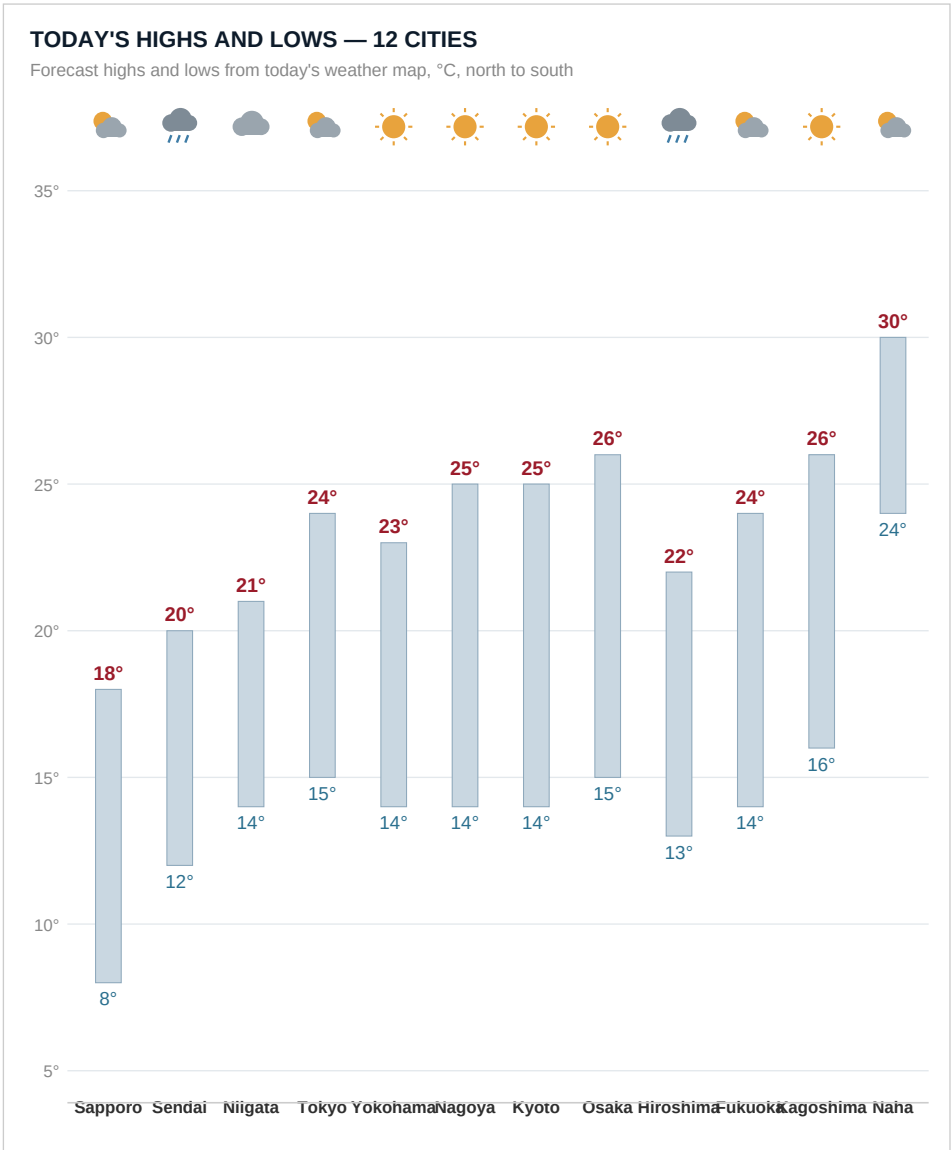
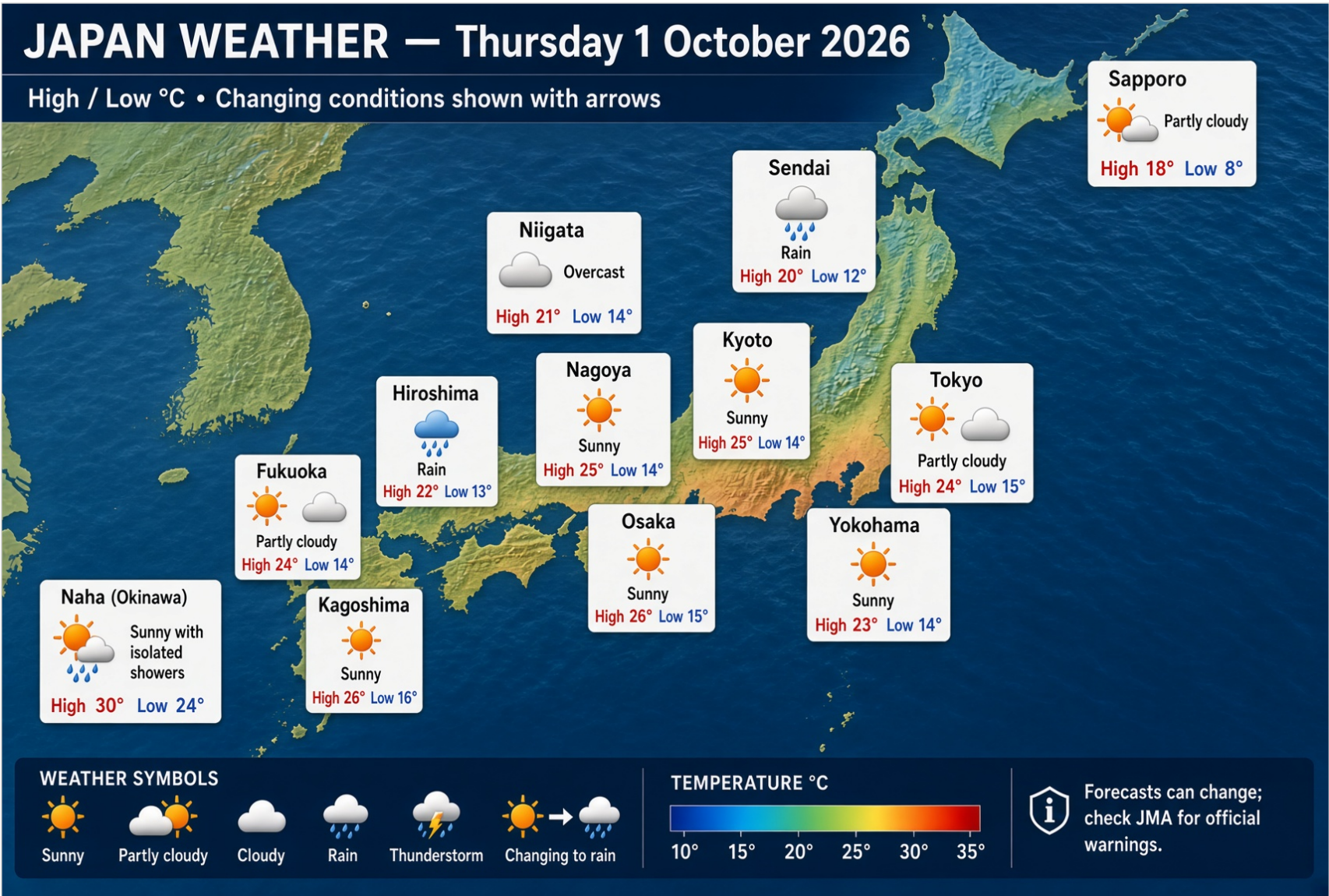
Inoki: died Oct. 1, 2022.

WEATHER & SOCIETY



24°C

Low 15°C on the map · Cloudy then sunny, the forecasters say · Typhoon No. 26 nearest Kanto around noon; lightning, tornado and gust warnings



TODAY'S WEATHER

Today's map is the week's driest. Sun covers the centre and the west: Yokohama sunny at 23 and 14, Nagoya and Kyoto sunny at 25 and 14, Osaka sunny at 26 and 15, Kagoshima sunny at 26 and 16. The capital is partly cloudy with a high of 24 and a low of 15, and the forecasters' account of the day is cloudy followed by sunshine, after 35 consecutive days of rain counted through the 30th. Rain is confined to Sendai, at 20 and 12, and Hiroshima, at 22 and 13; Niigata is overcast at 21 and 14; Sapporo is partly cloudy at 18 and 8, the map's coolest reading and the season's first single-digit low on the map; Naha is sunny with isolated showers at 30 and 24, the warmest. The autumn rain front is weakening, though the Pacific side remains damp.

Typhoon No. 26 is moving north near the Izu Islands with a central pressure of about 1,000 to 1,002 hPa and maximum winds of 18 m/s, and it makes its closest approach to the Kanto region around noon today, according to Sankei News and Mainichi Shimbun. The 24-hour rainfall forecast is 120 mm for the southern Izu Islands and 50 mm for north-eastern and southern Chiba. The meteorological agency warns of lightning, tornadoes and strong gusts. The storm becomes an extratropical cyclone east of Japan on the 2nd, passing off the coast of Choshi. The typhoon is not drawn on the map.

REGIONAL FORECASTS

Hokkaido: Sapporo partly cloudy, 18/8, the map's coolest reading. The storm's remnant brings wind to the north on Friday evening as it moves away extratropical.

Tohoku: Sendai rain, 20/12, one of the map's two wet readings.

Sea of Japan side: Niigata overcast, 21/14.

Kanto: Tokyo partly cloudy, 24/15; Yokohama sunny, 23/14. The forecasters give the capital cloudy then sunny; the storm's closest approach is around noon, with lightning, tornado and gust warnings for the morning. Izu Islands: 120 mm in 24 hours on the southern islands; swells remain; ferries suspended. Chiba: 50 mm on the north-east and south; the ground is unstable after Typhoon No. 25, and even light rain is dangerous; the Inbanuma closure, reinforced around the clock, takes the storm's rain.

Tokai: Nagoya sunny, 25/14; the Asian Games' final days in Aichi proceed under clear skies.

Kansai: Kyoto sunny, 25/14; Osaka sunny, 26/15.

Chugoku: Hiroshima rain, 22/13, the west's one wet reading.

Kyushu: Fukuoka partly cloudy, 24/14; Kagoshima sunny, 26/16. Kyuden Holdings is listed today.

Okinawa: Naha sunny with isolated showers, 30/24, the map's warmest reading.

TYPHOON NO. 26

The storm, named Surigae on the agency's list, is moving north near the Izu Islands this morning at about 1,000 to 1,002 hPa with maximum winds of 18 m/s (Sankei, Mainichi), within the tropical-storm band of 17 to 24 m/s on the scale carried with Wednesday's track map. That map, issued at 3 a.m. on the 29th, had forecast 990 hPa and 25 m/s near 35.5N 143.5E at 9 p.m. tonight; the storm has weakened faster than forecast, and its closest approach to Kanto comes around noon rather than in the evening. The 24-hour rainfall forecast is 120 mm for the southern Izu Islands and 50 mm for north-eastern and southern Chiba. The agency warns of lightning, tornadoes and strong gusts on the storm's eastern side. Tomorrow the storm becomes an extratropical cyclone east of Japan, passing off Choshi, and the north's wind follows on Friday evening. Follow the agency's formal typhoon information, updated every few hours.

AFTER TYPHOON NO. 25

The ground in Chiba remains unstable twelve days after the storm, and the forecasters repeat that even light rain can be dangerous; today's 50 mm falls on that ground. The Inbanuma levee closure, reinforced around the clock since Wednesday (NTV), takes the north-east's rain as the Tone River rises. The count stands at 13 dead, two missing and about 4,000 households without power at the last report. The severe-disaster designation remains unmade in the reports available. Requests for roof-leak repairs after the prolonged rain run at more than five times last year's, and the new rice harvest's quality inspections are being handled urgently.

SEAS

Swells remain around the Izu Islands and along the Pacific coast of Kanto as the storm passes; island ferries are suspended until the sea calms tomorrow. Stay off breakwaters, beaches and reef flats. Fishing fleets from Choshi stay in harbour until the remnant has passed.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Tokyo: sunrise 5:35 a.m., sunset 5:27 p.m.; Osaka: sunrise 5:51 a.m., sunset 5:44 p.m.; Sapporo: sunrise 5:30 a.m., sunset 5:18 p.m.; Naha: sunrise 6:21 a.m., sunset 6:17 p.m. Times are calculated for each city and may differ from official tables by a minute.

THE DAYS AHEAD

Friday, October 2: the storm's remnant passes off Choshi, extratropical; the north's wind in the evening; the Kurobe canyon route's official opening; the capital's first dry stretch since August, if today's gauge stays dry. Saturday, October 3: Komeito's convention; the football final against South Korea in Aichi. Sunday, October 4: the Asian Games close; the Yokohama mayoral campaign opens. Monday, October 5: the extraordinary Diet session convenes.

ABOUT THE MAP

Today's map gives each city a single condition and a high and a low; its subtitle says that changing conditions are shown with arrows, and its legend includes a changing-to-rain arrow, but no box on today's map carries an arrow, and the wording is used as printed. The map carries no footer note beyond its symbols, its temperature scale and the reminder to check the agency for official warnings. The typhoon is not drawn on the map; its position and readings this morning are reported above from Sankei and Mainichi, and Wednesday's track map, now a day and a half old, is not reprinted. The chart beside the map shows each city's forecast high and low as given on the map. A separate United States forecast map appears on the Weather Abroad page; it is titled for Friday, October 1, which is a Thursday, carries two boxes labelled Denver, places snowflake symbols in several boxes labelled rain and gives Seattle snow showers at 48 degrees Fahrenheit, all printed as supplied. A chart of the dollar-yen rate through October 1, supplied for this edition, appears on the international pages; its horizontal axis carries one label as 114 and a garbled value label near the 15th, noted as printed.

SOCIETY

What 1,000 Hectopascals and 18 Metres a Second Mean: A Storm at the Bottom of the Scale

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

Typhoon No. 26's readings this morning, a central pressure of about 1,000 to 1,002 hectopascals and maximum winds of 18 metres a second, place it at the bottom of the agency's scale, and the numbers explain why the day's hazard is rain.

Sea-level pressure averages about 1,013 hectopascals, and a storm whose centre is at 1,000 has a pressure deficit of about 13, a fifth of the deficit Typhoon No. 25 had at its 945-hectopascal peak; the pressure gradient that drives the wind is correspondingly weak.

Eighteen metres a second is in the agency's tropical storm band of 17 to 24, a step above the 17 at which a system ceases to be a typhoon in the agency's numbering; the agency keeps the number, No. 26, until the system dissipates or becomes extratropical.

Wednesday's track map, issued on the 29th, forecast 990 hectopascals and 25 metres a second at 9 p.m. tonight; the storm has weakened faster than the model expected, and the closest approach comes at noon rather than in the evening.

The weakening is the cooler water south of Honshu and the dry air the autumn front has fed into the storm's circulation, and the forecasters' consistent message, that rain rather than wind is the risk, anticipated it.

A weak storm's rain is not weak: 120 millimetres on the southern Izu Islands and 50 on Chiba are the

forecasts, and on saturated ground the second is enough.

The agency's warning of tornadoes and lightning is the weak storm's sharp edge, since the instability on a tropical storm's eastern side does not depend on the centre's strength.

The storm's name, Surigae on the agency's list, stays with it through the transition, and the next storm takes No. 27.

The ferries' suspension in the swells, the islands' orders and the Chiba warnings are the responses a weak storm still requires.

At the bottom of the scale, and still the day's weather: the numbers, explained.

SOCIETY

A Hundred and Twenty on the Islands, Fifty on the Peninsula: How Much Rain Is That?

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The 24-hour rainfall forecasts of 120 millimetres for the southern Izu Islands and 50 for north-eastern and southern Chiba are the day's two hazard numbers, and their meaning depends on the ground they fall on.

One hundred and twenty millimetres in 24 hours is about half of the Tokyo observatory's normal for the whole of September, falling in a day on islands whose ravines carry the water to the sea in hours.

On Miyakejima and Hachijojima, volcanic slopes with thin soils, that rate produces debris flows in the ravines the hazard maps name, and the villages' orders cover the houses beneath them.

Fifty millimetres in 24 hours is an ordinary wet day in most seasons, and on Chiba's saturated slopes it is the figure at which the agency's lowered landslide thresholds trigger, which is why the forecasters say even light rain is dangerous.

The agency's thresholds combine the rain of the past 24 hours with a soil-water index that models how much the ground holds, and the index on the peninsula has not fallen since September 19.

The capital's own forecast, cloudy then sunny, places the storm's rain south and east of the city, and the streak that stands at 35 depends on whether any measurable rain reaches the Kitanomaru gauge in the morning.

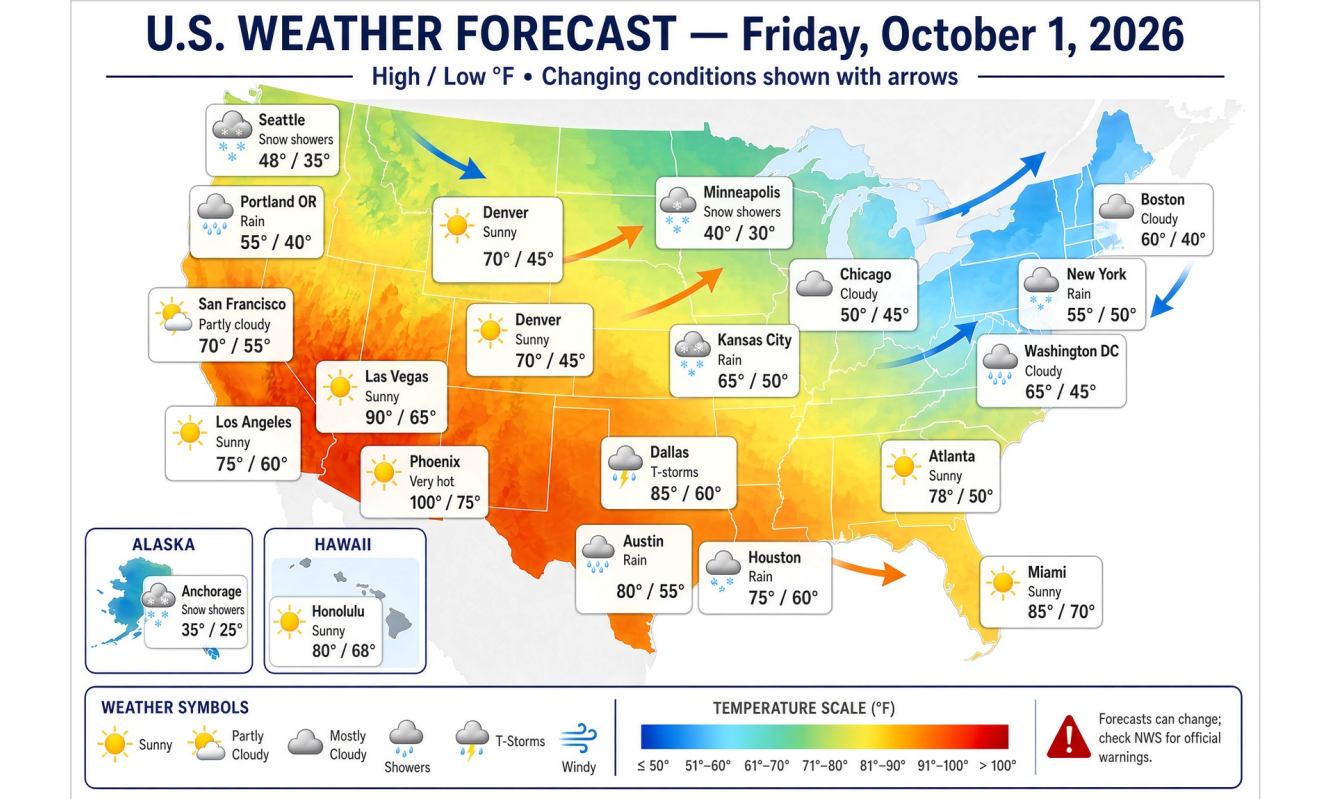
The Inbanuma catchment, in the peninsula's north, takes part of the 50, and the lake's closure holds it with the Tone River's level rising.

Western Japan's dry map, from Osaka's sun to Kagoshima's, shows the storm's reach ending at the Kii peninsula.

The forecasts are the agency's and may be revised through the morning as the storm's bands arrive.

Two numbers, two kinds of ground: the day's rain, measured against what it falls on.

WEATHER ABROAD



United States weather forecast map supplied for this edition: highs and lows in degrees Fahrenheit, with arrows showing changing conditions. The map is titled for Friday, October 1, 2026, which is a Thursday; it carries two boxes labelled Denver and places snowflake symbols in several boxes labelled rain. Reproduced as supplied.

SOCIETY

Weather Abroad: Snow Showers in Seattle and Minneapolis, Rain From Portland to New York, Very Hot in Phoenix, on a Map That Calls October 1 a Friday

The United States forecast map supplied for today's edition is titled for Friday, October 1, 2026, which is a Thursday; it again carries two boxes labelled Denver, and several boxes labelled rain carry snowflake symbols

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Today's United States forecast map, shown above, is titled for Friday, October 1, 2026, which is a Thursday, and it is reproduced as supplied, with the weekday noted as printed.

The Pacific north-west turns cold: Seattle has snow showers at 48 degrees Fahrenheit and 35, about 9 and 2 Celsius, an unusual pairing of condition and temperature reproduced as printed; Portland, Oregon has rain at 55 and 40; San Francisco is partly cloudy at 70 and 55; Los Angeles sunny at 75 and 60.

The south-west keeps its heat: Las Vegas sunny at 90 and 65, Phoenix very hot at 100 and 75, about 38 and 24 Celsius.

The map again carries two boxes labelled Denver, both sunny at 70 and 45, one to the north and one to the south; both are reproduced as printed, and the second box's intended city is not identified.

The upper Midwest has snow showers in Minneapolis at 40 and 30, about 4 and minus 1 Celsius, and Chicago is cloudy at 50 and 45; Kansas City has rain at 65 and 50, its box carrying a snowflake symbol beside the word rain.

Texas: Dallas has thunderstorms at 85 and 60, Austin rain at 80 and 55, and Houston rain at 75 and 60, its box also carrying a snowflake symbol.

The Atlantic seaboard is wet again: New York has rain at 55 and 50, with a snowflake symbol in its box; Boston is cloudy at 60 and 40; Washington, D.C. is cloudy at 65 and 45, with a rain symbol.

The south-east: Atlanta sunny at 78 and 50, and Miami sunny at 85 and 70.

Anchorage has snow showers at 35 and 25, and Honolulu is sunny at 80 and 68.

The map's arrows show cold air flowing into the north-west and toward the north-east, warmth spreading from the Rockies toward the upper Midwest and from Houston toward the Gulf, and a blue arrow into New York from the north.

The weekday, the duplicate Denver and the snowflake symbols on boxes labelled rain are noted as features of the map supplied; the National Weather Service's forecasts for each city are the official guide.

For Japanese readers, the contrast with home has reversed again: the American east is wet while Tokyo, after 35 days of rain, is forecast cloudy then sunny.

SOCIETY

Thursday's Map: Sun From Kyoto to Kagoshima, Rain in Sendai and Hiroshima, and a Partly Cloudy Capital

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News Reporter

Thursday's map is the week's driest: sun across the centre and the west, rain only in Sendai and Hiroshima, and the capital partly cloudy as the storm passes to its south-east.

Sapporo is partly cloudy, with a high of 18 and a low of 8, the map's coolest reading and the season's first single-digit low on the map.

Sendai has rain, with a high of 20 and a low of 12, and Niigata is overcast at 21 and 14.

Tokyo is partly cloudy, with a high of 24 and a low of 15, and Yokohama sunny at 23 and 14; the forecasters' account of the day for the capital is cloudy then sunny, with the storm's closest approach around noon, and the agency's warning of lightning, tornadoes and gusts applies to the morning.

Nagoya is sunny at 25 and 14, and Kyoto sunny at 25 and 14.

Osaka is sunny at 26 and 15, and Hiroshima has rain at 22 and 13, the west's one wet reading.

Fukuoka is partly cloudy at 24 and 14, and Kagoshima sunny at 26 and 16.

Naha is sunny with isolated showers, with a high of 30 and a low of 24, the map's warmest reading.

The map's subtitle says that changing conditions are shown with arrows, and its legend includes a changing-to-rain arrow, but no box on today's map carries an arrow; each city has a single condition, and the wording is used as printed.

The typhoon is not drawn on the map; its position near the Izu Islands at about 1,000 hectopascals and 18 metres a second, and its noon approach to Kanto, are reported on the front page.

The meteorological agency's warnings for the storm's passage, and its advisories for the islands and Chiba, remain the authoritative guide.

Dry in the west, clearing in the east: the map's Thursday.

SOCIETY

One Hundred and Twenty Millimetres on the Southern Islands: The Izu Chain Takes the Storm

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News Reporter

The southern Izu Islands face 120 millimetres of rain in 24 hours as Typhoon No. 26 passes north through their waters, according to the forecasts carried by Sankei and Mainichi, and the islands' evacuation orders, decided on Wednesday, are in force.

Miyakejima, Hachijojima and Mikurajima are the chain's southern islands, and their small catchments run the rain off in hours, so that 120 millimetres means flash floods in the ravines and landslides on the volcanic slopes.

The storm's winds of 18 metres a second are below the islands' usual typhoon experience, and the wind damage will be less than the September storms brought; the rain and the swells are the day's hazards.

Ferries from Takeshiba remain suspended in the swells that the forecasters say remain around Izu, and the islands' supplies and medical transfers wait for the sea to calm tomorrow.

The agency's warning of tornadoes and lightning covers the islands as it covers Kanto, and the islanders' hazard maps, drawn after the 2013 Oshima landslide, name the ravines to leave.

The northern islands, Oshima, Toshima, Niijima and Kozushima, take less rain and the same swells, and their orders follow the storm's track through the day.

Tokyo's disaster office manages the islands from the capital, and the satellite backups listed after the Daito passage are the islands' communications if the towers fail.

The storm's closest approach to Kanto around noon places the islands' passage in the morning, and the afternoon brings the clearing that the capital's forecast promises.

The islands' damage count, if any, will come tomorrow, when the ferries resume and the villages report.

A hundred and twenty millimetres, a morning's passage and a night of swells: the islands' storm.

SOCIETY

Fifty Millimetres on Saturated Ground: Chiba's Third Day Under the 'Even Light Rain' Warning

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

North-eastern and southern Chiba face 50 millimetres of rain in 24 hours from Typhoon No. 26, on the forecasts carried this morning, and the forecasters repeat for a third day that the ground is unstable after Typhoon No. 25 and even light rain can be dangerous.

Fifty millimetres is a tenth of what the peninsula's slopes took on September 19, and on slopes that have not dried in twelve days it is the amount at which the agency's lowered thresholds trigger warnings.

The southern slopes of Kamogawa and Minamiboso, where two people remain missing, and the north-east's river valleys are the areas the forecast names, and the municipalities' Level 4 warnings, in force throughout, bring evacuation orders early.

The Inbanuma closure, reinforced around the clock since Wednesday on NTV's report, takes the north-east's rain, and the lake's level against the Tone River's is the day's measurement.

The storm's weakness, 18 metres a second against the 25 forecast on Wednesday's map, spares the peninsula's roofs; the roof-leak repair requests at five times last year's show what the month has already done to them.

The three railways' repair works stop for the storm, and the substitute buses the transport ministry requested run as the bands allow.

The 4,000 households without power at the last count wait through a second storm, as they have through 35 days of rain.

The severe-disaster designation, still unmade, is the item the governor will raise before Monday's session with the second storm's damage, if any, added to the first's.

Tomorrow the storm's remnant passes off Choshi, the peninsula's north-eastern tip, and the north-east's rain continues into the night.

Fifty millimetres, and a warning repeated: the peninsula's storm, on day thirteen.

SOCIETY

Lightning, Tornadoes and Gusts: The Agency's Warning for the Storm's Eastern Side

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The Japan Meteorological Agency is warning of lightning, tornadoes and strong gusts of wind as Typhoon No. 26 approaches the Kanto region, according to the reports available, in the hazard that accompanies even a weakened storm.

A tropical storm's eastern side, where its circulation adds to the prevailing wind, carries the warm, unstable air in which thunderstorms form, and the rotating storms that produce tornadoes are the agency's concern around the noon approach.

Kanto's plain sees tornadoes most years in the autumn typhoon season, and the agency's tornado advisories, issued for an hour at a time when the radar shows rotation, are the warnings to act on.

Lightning closes the Games' outdoor venues and the golf courses, and the Japan Open's outer courts at Ariake follow the tournament's lightning protocol.

Gusts of the kind the agency warns of reach 25 to 30 metres a second in the thunderstorms even when the storm's sustained winds are 18, and the roofs weakened by a month of rain are the gusts' targets.

The warning applies to the morning and the hours around noon, and the clearing the forecast promises for the capital follows the storm's passage east.

The Izu Islands, in the storm's path through the morning, take the same hazards first.

Residents are advised to stay away from windows during the thunderstorms, to avoid open ground and to follow the agency's advisories as they are issued hour by hour.

The storm's remnant, extratropical by tomorrow, carries the same instability north-east, and the north's wind warning follows.

A weak storm's sharp edge: the warning, explained.

SOCIETY

Off Choshi Tomorrow, Extratropical: Where the Storm Goes After Noon

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Typhoon No. 26 becomes an extratropical cyclone east of Japan on the 2nd, passing off the coast of Choshi, according to the forecasts carried by Sankei and Mainichi, and its path after noon today takes it from the Izu Islands north-east past the Boso peninsula's tip.

Choshi, at the mouth of the Tone River on Chiba's north-eastern point, is the peninsula's weather station, and a storm passing off it delivers its last rain to the north-east's valleys and the river's lower reaches.

Extratropical transition, the process by which a tropical storm becomes a mid-latitude low with fronts, often enlarges the wind field even as the centre weakens, and the north's wind warning for Friday evening is the transition's product.

The Tone River, into which Inbanuma drains, takes the storm's last rain at the same time, and the sluice between the lake and the river is the recovery's valve through the night.

The Pacific side remains damp as the front weakens, the forecasters say, and the clearing the capital's forecast promises comes from the west, as the map's sun from Kyoto to Kagoshima shows.

The storm's remnant off the Kurils by Friday evening, on Wednesday's track map, is now expected further south and earlier, since the storm has moved faster and weakened sooner than the map forecast.

Fishing fleets from Choshi, among the country's largest, stay in harbour until the sea calms, and the saury and sardine landings that the autumn brings resume on Saturday.

The ferries to the Izu Islands resume as the swells fall tomorrow, and the islands' supplies move with them.

Hokkaido's partly cloudy 18 and 8 this morning, the map's coolest reading, precedes the remnant's wind on Friday.

Past Choshi and out to sea: the storm's exit, and the north's turn.

SOCIETY

Kanto's Tornado Season: Why the Agency Warns in the Typhoon's Wake

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The meteorological agency's warning of tornadoes as Typhoon No. 26 approaches Kanto draws on the plain's record of autumn tornadoes, and the record explains the warning's timing.

Tornadoes in Japan occur most often in the typhoon season, from August to October, on the eastern sides of tropical storms where the warm, unstable air rotates, and the Kanto plain, flat and open to the Pacific, has the country's highest count.

The 2012 tornado in Tsukuba, which killed one person and destroyed hundreds of houses, and the tornadoes that have struck the Chiba and Ibaraki coasts since are the plain's recent cases, and the agency's tornado advisories, issued hour by hour, followed the 2012 case.

A tornado advisory is a one-hour warning for a prefecture when the radar detects the rotation that produces funnels, and residents are advised to move away from windows and into sturdy buildings.

The storm's weakness, 18 metres a second this morning, does not reduce the tornado risk, since the instability on the storm's eastern side does not depend on the centre's strength.

The lightning and gusts the agency warns of

SOCIETY

accompany the same thunderstorms, and the gusts, reaching 25 to 30 metres a second in the storms, are the roofs' hazard.

The warning covers the morning and the hours around the noon approach, and the clearing the capital's forecast promises follows the storm's passage east.

The Izu Islands, in the storm's path first, take the same hazards in the morning.

The agency's advisories are issued on its website and through the municipal alerts, and the smartphone alerts carry them.

A plain, a season and an eastern side: the tornado warning, explained.

SOCIETY

What Would End the Streak: The Gauge, the Storm and the Afternoon

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

Tokyo's rain streak stands at 35 days as of Wednesday, and today's forecast of cloudy then sunny is the first in five weeks that offers an end, so the mechanics of an ending are worth setting out.

The streak counts days on which the agency's Kitanomaru observatory records measurable precipitation, and a day with none ends it; a trace from the storm's outer bands in the morning would extend it to 36.

The storm's closest approach to Kanto around noon places its rain south and east of the capital on the forecasts, with the 24-hour totals on the Izu Islands and in Chiba, and the capital's morning is the question.

The afternoon's clearing, from the west as the map's sun from Kyoto to Kagoshima shows, is the forecasters' basis for the sunshine, and a dry afternoon cannot undo a wet morning.

The agency's statistics will record the streak's end and its comparison with the rainy seasons of the record when the day's observations are compiled.

The roof-leak repair requests at five times last year's and the rice inspections hurried by the rain are the streak's costs, and the first dry day is the trades' first day of catching up.

Chiba's slopes do not get the same relief: the forecasters' 50 millimetres today falls on ground that even light rain endangers.

Sankei's wish of Wednesday for the rainy skies' departure may be granted by evening, and the editorial that named the autumn moodless will have its answer.

The capital's umbrellas, carried to work since August, may stay home tomorrow for the first time.

A gauge, a morning and a storm passing south: the streak's possible end.

SOCIETY

Five Times Last Year's Roof Leaks, and Rice Inspected in a Hurry: The Rain's Costs, Counted

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

Requests for roof-leak repairs after the prolonged rain are running at more than five times last year's level, according to the reports available, and the new rice harvest's quality inspections are being handled urgently because of the rain, in the two costs of the month that reached households and farms first.

Thirty-five days of rain in the capital, and as many on the peninsula, find every weak seam in every roof, and the roofing trades, short of staff like every other, have waiting lists that run into November.

The repairs' cost falls on households and landlords, and the insurers' definition of storm damage, which covers wind but not the slow leak of a month's rain, decides who pays.

The rice harvest, cut in the rain and dried with difficulty, is inspected for quality by the agricultural co-operatives before it is graded and priced, and the inspections are being hurried so that the crop can move before it spoils.

The buyback of new-crop rice, under consideration by the government, is the market's support for the growers whose crop the rain has downgraded, and the inspections' results will decide how much of the harvest qualifies.

The 3,153 food and beverage price rises in October, on packaging costs and the yen, reach the same households, and the rice price's seventh weekly

decline is the basket's one relief.

Chiba's flooded fields and the Kanto plain's late harvest are the inspections' hardest cases, and the Japan Agricultural News, which reports the price rises, follows the crop.

The roofers' trade and the co-operatives' inspectors are the month's unplanned workforce, and both will be busy through the autumn.

Western Japan's dry harvest, under the sun the map shows from Osaka to Kagoshima, is the contrast.

Leaks counted and rice graded: the rain's costs, in two trades.

SOCIETY

Grading the Crop in the Rain: Why the New Rice's Inspections Are Urgent

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

The new rice harvest's quality inspections are being handled urgently because of the prolonged rain, according to the reports available, and the inspections' purpose explains the urgency.

Rice is graded by the agricultural co-operatives' inspectors on its appearance, its moisture and the proportion of cracked, chalky or discoloured grains, and the grade sets the price the grower receives.

Rain at harvest, which delays cutting and complicates drying, raises the moisture and the cracking, and a crop inspected late is a crop that may have deteriorated in the sacks.

Thirty-five days of rain in the capital and as many in the Kanto plain's growing districts are the season's worst case, and the inspectors are working through the backlog before the grain spoils.

The government's buyback of new-crop rice, under consideration, would support the growers' price while the shelf price falls for a seventh week, and the inspections' results decide how much of the crop qualifies at each grade.

The Japan Agricultural News, which reports the 3,153 food price rises this morning, follows the crop's grading through October.

Western Japan's dry harvest, under the map's sun from Osaka to Kagoshima, is the contrast, and the west's growers finished their inspections on schedule.

The co-operatives' drying facilities, running at capacity, are the bottleneck, and the inspectors follow the dryers.

Chiba's flooded fields, where the crop was lost rather than downgraded, are outside the inspections and inside the designation the prefecture awaits.

A grade set in the rain: the harvest's inspection, explained.

SOCIETY

Carried: Inbanuma on the Storm Day, With the Closure Reinforced and the Tone Rising

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

The Inbanuma levee closure, reinforced around the clock since Wednesday on NTV's report, takes Typhoon No. 26's rain today, and the lake's level against the Tone River's is the recovery's measurement through the day.

The 50 millimetres forecast for north-eastern Chiba falls partly on the lake's catchment, and the Tone, into which the lake drains, rises with the plain's rain as the storm passes off Choshi tomorrow.

The sluice between the lake and the river is the recovery's valve, run to keep the lake low ahead of the storm and closed as the river rises above it.

The crews who worked through Wednesday night are on the closure through the day, and the sensors installed after the breach report what the rain does to it.

Shisui's drained districts, where residents have returned, would be flooded again if the closure failed, and the residents have been told so.

The storm's weakness, 18 metres a second, spares the closure the wind's wave action, and the rain is the test.

The severe-disaster designation, still unmade, would fund the permanent levee; the emergency works run on the prefecture's budget.

Monday's reports of a completed closure and Wednesday's of continuing repairs are both on record, and the storm day's outcome is the question both

reports pointed to.

The lake's level at evening, and the closure's condition, will be carried tomorrow when the crews report.

A closure under rain, with the river rising: Inbanuma, on the storm day.

SOCIETY

Carried: The Severe-Disaster Designation, Thirteen Days Promised and Still Unmade, as the Second Storm Passes

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News Reporter

The severe-disaster designation for Typhoon No. 25, planned by the government since the storm's aftermath, remains unmade in the reports available as Typhoon No. 26 delivers its 50 millimetres to the peninsula's unstable ground.

The designation raises the state's share of recovery costs, from the levee at Inbanuma to the railways' washed-out embankments, and the prefecture's budget carries the emergency works until it is made.

The second storm's damage, if any, would be assessed separately, and the government will have two disasters to designate and one act of designation to make.

The count stands at eight dead in the prefecture, thirteen nationally, two missing and about 4,000 households without power at the last report, and the searches resume when the rain stops.

The Diet session from Monday will hear the prefecture's governor ask for the designation's date, and the government's speech will be judged by whether it names one.

Kumamoto's evacuees, visited by Their Majesties on Wednesday, are two months ahead in the same recovery, and the prefecture's requests for funding share the session's agenda.

The roof-leak repair requests at five times last year's are the peninsula's households' own count, outside the designation.

The analysis and editorial pages have asked for the designation before each storm, and the second storm has now passed without it.

The designation's timing was not included in the reports available.

Promised thirteen days ago, and still awaited: the designation, carried.

SOCIETY

After Noon: What Friday Brings to the Islands, the Peninsula and the North

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Typhoon No. 26 passes off Choshi as an extratropical cyclone tomorrow, on the forecasts carried by Sankei and Mainichi, and the day after the storm has its own sequence.

The Izu Islands' ferries resume as the swells fall, and the villages report their damage, if any, from the 120 millimetres the southern islands took.

Chiba's slopes, after the storm's 50 millimetres on saturated ground, keep their Level 4 warnings through the day, and the searches for the two missing resume when the rain stops.

The Inbanuma closure, reinforced through the storm, is inspected as the Tone River's level falls.

The north's wind arrives on Friday evening with the extratropical remnant, and Hokkaido's partly cloudy 18 and 8 this morning is the cold air's first sign.

The capital, if today's gauge stays dry, begins its first dry stretch since August, and the roofers and the laundries begin their month of catching up.

The Kurobe route opens in the mountains, clear of the storm, and the Komeito convention and the football final follow on Saturday.

The railways' outdoor works in Chiba resume, and the three lines' timelines, lengthened by every wet day, get their first dry one.

The agency's statistics record the streak's end, or its extension, when the day's observations are compiled.

A storm gone, a wind coming and a dry stretch beginning: the sequence, from noon.

SOCIETY

The Industry Behind the Ruling: Japan's Voice Actors, and the Synthetic Voices That Threatened Their Work

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The Tokyo District Court's recognition of Kenjiro Tsuda's right to his voice is a ruling for an industry, and the industry is one of the country's distinctive cultural trades.

Japan's voice actors, who dub the animation, the games and the foreign films that the country produces and imports, are stars in their own right, with fan followings, concert tours and careers that span decades, and their voices are their livelihoods.

Synthetic voices trained on their recordings appeared within months of the generative systems' arrival, used in fan works, advertisements and games without consent, and the industry's associations petitioned the government for protection in 2024.

Tsuda, whose voice is known from a career of leading roles, became the test case, and the court's reasoning, that a voice is a symbol of an individual's personality, is the protection the industry asked for.

The ruling's reach, to voices that resemble rather than copy, will decide whether the industry's younger members, whose voices are less distinctive, are protected too.

The animation studios and the game companies, which employ the actors and have experimented with synthetic voices for background roles, will read the ruling for what it allows.

The musicians, whose synthetic voices have circulated the same way, and the illustrators, whose styles the image systems reproduce, are the industry's allies in the cases that follow.

The AI action plan due by year-end will have to say whether the government legislates the right the court has found, and the Diet session from Monday may hear the question.

The defendant in Tsuda's case and the remedies ordered were not included in Asahi's report.

An industry's voice, protected: the trade behind the ruling.

COURTS

Uematsu's Retrial Request Fails: The Special Appeal Is Rejected

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

The death-row inmate Satoshi Uematsu, convicted of the 2016 killings of nineteen residents of a care home for people with disabilities in Sagamihara, has been denied a retrial, and his special appeal against the denial has been rejected, according to the reports available.

The rejection, by the Supreme Court, exhausts the retrial request's ordinary course, and the sentence of death imposed in 2020, which Uematsu did not appeal at the time, stands.

The killings, the worst mass killing in post-war Japan, were committed by a former employee of the home who said he believed people with severe disabilities should not live, and the case has shaped the country's debate on disability, on the care system and on the death penalty.

The retrial request, filed by his representatives, argued grounds the reports available do not detail, and the courts found none that met the standard of new evidence the law requires.

The families of the victims, many of whom asked that their relatives' names be withheld, have followed the case through a decade, and the rejection is the latest in the series of decisions that have confirmed the verdict.

The home's reconstruction, the prefecture's review of the care system and the national debate on the eugenic ideas the killer expressed are the case's public legacy.

Executions in Japan are carried out at the justice minister's order, without notice, and the timing of any execution is not announced.

The case's position in the death penalty debate, with abolitionists citing the killer's mental state and retentionists the crime's scale, is unchanged by the rejection.

The representatives' response, and any further petition, were not included in the reports available.

COURTS

A request refused at the last stage: the case, a decade on.

SOCIETY

Ten Years After Sagamihara: The Case, the Home and the Debate the Killings Opened

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

The rejection of Satoshi Uematsu's special appeal for a retrial closes another chapter of the case that began on July 26, 2016, when nineteen residents of a care home for people with disabilities in Sagamihara were killed in the worst mass killing of post-war Japan.

Uematsu, a former employee of the home, had written to the Diet months earlier of his belief that people with severe disabilities should not live, and he was committed and released before the attack.

His trial in 2020 ended in a death sentence, which he did not appeal, and the retrial requests his representatives have filed since have failed at each stage.

The victims' families, many of whom asked that their relatives' names be withheld, have described the case's effect on the country's view of disability, and the home, Tsukui Yamayuri En, was rebuilt and reopened in 2021.

The prefecture's review of the care system, the national debate on the eugenic ideas the killer expressed and the question of community care versus institutions are the case's public legacy.

The death penalty debate, in which abolitionists cite the killer's mental state and retentionists the crime's scale, has used the case on both sides.

Executions are carried out at the justice minister's order, without notice, and no execution has been announced in the case.

The disability community's advocates have marked each anniversary with calls for the inclusion the killer rejected, and the case's tenth anniversary passed this summer.

The representatives' response to the rejection was not included in the reports available.

A decade from the killings, and a request refused: the case, in its context.

SOCIETY

From the Overturned Truck to the Ban: Shibuya's Halloween, 2018 to Now

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Shibuya Ward's 74 million yen for two nights of Halloween countermeasures is the price of a history that began with a crowd and an overturned truck, and the history explains the ward's resolve.

Halloween in the district grew through the 2010s from a few costumed revellers at the crossing to a street party of tens of thousands, and in 2018 a crowd overturned a small truck on the slope, with arrests that followed.

The ward responded with an ordinance banning street drinking in the district's centre at Halloween and New Year, with the closure of alcohol sales at the convenience stores and with guards and announcements, and the crowds fell.

The crush in Seoul's Itaewon in 2022, in which more than 150 people died in a Halloween crowd, changed the ward's tone from nuisance to danger, and the mayor's appeals since have asked visitors not to come at all.

The 2024 and 2025 nights passed without incident, on the ward's account, and the 74 million yen for this year continues the measures that achieved it.

The district's redevelopment, with the Seibu store closing after 58 years and the towers around the station, has changed the slopes the crowds filled, and the ward's countermeasures and the developers' plans point the same way.

The visitors, whose numbers have set records, are the campaign's hardest audience, and the notices run in English, Chinese and Korean.

Other districts host the parades the ward discourages, and the crowds have moved as the ward intended.

The two nights, the 31st and the weekend night before it, are the budget's scope.

A truck, an ordinance and a crush abroad: the ward's history, to this year's budget.

COURTS

Nine Japanese Arrested in Malaysia on Suspicion of Special Fraud

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News Reporter

Nine Japanese nationals have been arrested in Malaysia on suspicion of involvement in special fraud, according to the reports available, in the latest of the overseas bases from which the telephone and online frauds against Japanese households are run.

Special fraud, the category that covers the it's-me calls, the fake refund schemes and the investment frauds that take tens of billions of yen a year from Japanese victims, has moved its call centres abroad as the police have closed them at home.

Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand and now Malaysia have hosted the bases, staffed by Japanese recruited through social media with promises of easy money and held, in some cases, against their will once there.

The nine's roles, as callers, managers or recruits, and the victims' losses were not included in the reports available, and the Malaysian police's announcement will carry them.

The extradition or deportation of the suspects to Japan, where they would face charges, is the usual course, and the National Police Agency's co-operation with its South-East Asian counterparts has produced such arrests each year.

The international crackdown on smartphone farms reported on Wednesday, and the fraud-prevention measures the government adopted this month, are the same problem from the infrastructure and the policy sides.

The victims, most of them elderly, are the reason the police publicise each arrest, since the frauds depend on their targets not knowing the pattern.

The recruits' families, and the social media accounts that recruited them, are the investigators' next questions.

The nine's names and ages were not included in the reports available.

A base closed abroad: the fraud's geography, in its latest arrest.

SOCIETY

Call Centres Abroad: How Special Fraud Moved Its Bases From Cambodia to Malaysia

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News Reporter

The nine Japanese arrested in Malaysia on suspicion of special fraud are the latest in a series of arrests at the overseas bases the frauds have used, and the series describes a crime that has moved abroad as the police have closed it at home.

Special fraud, the category the police use for the telephone and online frauds that impersonate relatives, officials and investment advisers, takes tens of billions of yen a year from Japanese victims, most of them elderly.

The call centres from which the frauds are run moved to the Philippines and Cambodia in the late 2010s, and arrests in Cambodia in 2023 and in Thailand and the Philippines since have followed the bases as they moved.

The recruits, young Japanese drawn by social media offers of easy money abroad, have in some cases been held at the bases against their will, and the police treat them as both suspects and victims.

Malaysia's police co-operate with Japan's under the agreements the National Police Agency has built with its South-East Asian counterparts, and the deportation of the nine to face charges at home is the usual course.

The smartphone farms raided worldwide, reported on Wednesday, are the frauds' infrastructure, and the fraud-prevention measures the government adopted this month are the policy response.

The victims' money, moved through accounts and cryptocurrency, is rarely recovered, and the beneficial-owner register reported this week is meant to make the accounts' owners traceable.

The nine's roles and the victims' losses were not included in the reports available.

The police publicise each arrest because the frauds depend on their targets not knowing the pattern, and the pattern is the elderly's protection.

From Cambodia to Malaysia: the frauds' geography,

in its latest arrest.

COURTS

A Doctor Arrested in Amagasaki on Suspicion of Dismembering and Abandoning a Body

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

A doctor has been arrested in Amagasaki, in Hyogo prefecture, on suspicion of dismembering and abandoning a body, according to the reports available, in a case whose details the police have not yet released.

The suspect's identity, the victim's identity and the circumstances of the death were not included in the reports available, and the Hyogo police's announcement will carry them.

An arrest for the abandonment and dismemberment of a body, rather than for homicide, is the police's usual first step when the cause of death has not been established, and a homicide charge, if the investigation supports one, follows.

Amagasaki, an industrial city between Osaka and Kobe, is covered by the Hyogo prefectural police, and the case will be prosecuted in Kobe if it proceeds.

A doctor as a suspect in such a case will draw the medical profession's attention, and the suspect's licence and employer will be reported when the police confirm them.

The case shares the courts pages with the Uematsu rejection, the Tsuda ruling and the Malaysian arrests, and it is the least documented of the four.

The reports available do not say when the body was found or how long the investigation preceded the arrest.

The suspect's statement to the police, and whether the suspect admits or denies the allegation, were not included.

Further details will be carried when the police release them.

An arrest, and a case not yet told: Amagasaki, as reported.

SOCIETY

Hitachiomiya: The Kuji River Town in Northern Ibaraki That Said Yes to the Survey

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

Hitachiomiya, the first municipality in Honshu to accept a literature survey for nuclear waste disposal, is a city of the Kuji River valley in northern Ibaraki, formed in 2004 by the merger of the town of Omiya with its neighbouring villages, and its profile explains its decision.

The city's population, below 40,000 and falling, is the demographic the census's final figures describe for the regions, and the grants that come with the survey are, on the reports available, part of the mayor's argument for accepting it.

The Kuji River, which runs through the city from the mountains of the Yamizo range to the Pacific at Hitachi, is the valley's life, and its canoeing courses and its washi paper, made at Nishinouchi from the mulberry of the hills, are the city's known products.

The city lies inland from the Tokai nuclear complex on the coast, where the Tokai No. 2 plant and the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's research sites have made Ibaraki the prefecture with the longest nuclear history, and the industry's presence is familiar to the valley's residents.

The survey, a two-year review of geological data on the city's faults and rock without drilling, is the first of three stages, and the second requires the prefecture's consent; Ibaraki's governor's position was not included in the reports available.

The Hokkaido towns that entered the process in 2020 received the grants and the controversy together, and the city's residents will have read their experience.

The valley's farms, growing rice, mushrooms and the apples of the hills, and its tourism along the river are the economy the mayor must weigh against the industry's money.

The city's council vote, its margin and the public meetings that preceded it were not included in the reports available beyond the acceptance.

The technology page reads the survey as geological data for the national record, and the city's rock will be mapped whatever the site's fate.

A river valley, a shrinking town and a survey: the city, in profile.

SOCIETY

Tomorrow's Opening: The Kurobe Canyon Route, With the Dams Full and the Storm Gone

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The Kurobe Unazuki Canyon Route opens officially tomorrow, October 2, according to the calendar carried this week, and the mountains of Toyama will be clear of the typhoon's remnant, which passes off Choshi on the Pacific side.

The route, through the tunnels bored for the dam's construction and along the works railway, connects Unazuki's hot springs to the Kurobe dam, and its opening to the public has been planned for years.

The dam is full after a September that gave the mountains three times their usual rain, and the canyon's autumn colours, the reason for the October date, are beginning.

The route's tickets, limited by the tunnels' capacity, were sold in advance, and tomorrow's visitors are the first of a season the prefecture hopes will run into November.

The technology page's lineage from the 1882 Appleton plant to the grid's data reaches the dam, the country's largest hydroelectric project of its era.

The Kurobe Gorge Railway from Unazuki is the route's first stage, and the railway's schedule follows the weather.

Toyama's inns are booked for the opening weekend, and the prefecture's estimate of the route's visitors was not included in the reports available.

The dam's construction, with more than 170 lives lost, is the story the route's guides will tell at the tunnel where the hot rock stopped the digging.

The opening falls on the day the storm leaves the country and the north's wind arrives, and the mountains are between.

A canyon, a dam and a Friday: the route's opening, tomorrow.

SPORTS

Under the Storm's Warning: The Japan Open, the Everyone Project, the Canoe Championships and the Big Six on Thursday

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

The Japan Open continues at Ariake, the Everyone Project tournament at Tanagura in Fukushima and the sprint canoe championships on their course, and the Tokyo Big Six plays at Jingu, according to the reports available, on a day when the meteorological agency's warning of lightning, tornadoes and gusts covers Kanto around the storm's noon approach.

The Japan Open's stadium court, under its retractable roof, plays on; the outer courts follow the tournament's lightning protocol, and the day's order of play was not included in the reports.

The golf tournament in the Fukushima hills, north of the storm's track, plays under the north-east's rain, and the course's condition after a month of rain is the field's shared handicap.

The canoe championships' flat water is sheltered, and lightning is the one hazard that stops a sprint.

The Big Six's games at Jingu, outdoors in the capital, slide with the weather as they have all month, and the league's autumn championship waits on the dry days the forecast promises from this afternoon.

The Games' final days in Aichi, with the football final on Saturday and the closing ceremony on Sunday, proceed under Tokai's clearing skies, as today's map shows Nagoya sunny at 25 and 14.

The Japan Open's Japanese entries, the golf field and the canoe entries were not included in the reports available.

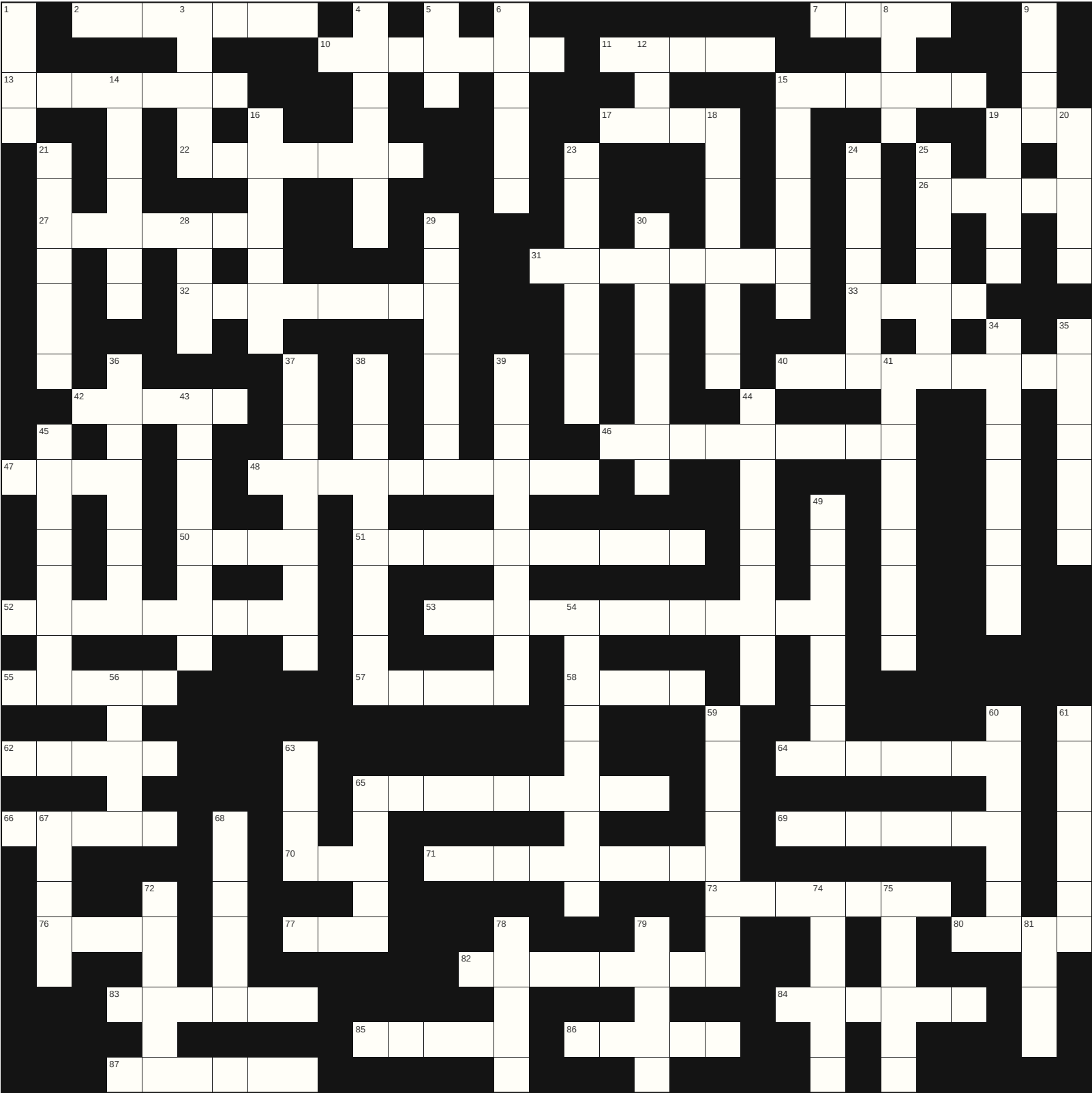
The storm's passage east by afternoon returns the capital's outdoor sport to its schedule, and the first dry day since August is the week's gift to the groundskeepers.

Saturday's football final and Sunday's closing are the week's remaining Games fixtures, and the medal table's Japanese share will be settled by the judo and the relays in between.

Four events under one warning: Thursday's domestic programme.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Today's Professional Puzzle — Constructed by James O'Neill — 90 Words



Solution will appear in tomorrow's edition. Puzzle difficulty: Professional.

ACROSS

2. What the auditors declined to express (7)
7. Maker of the CDP-101 (4)
10. Partner in the evacuation memorandum (7)
11. Match on October 3 (5)
13. What keeps the pump flat (7)
15. Count of 122.97 million (6)
17. Sudden wind the roofs fear (4)
19. U.S. commission investigating AI companies (3)
22. Science body made a special corporation (7)
26. Antonio, died October 1, 2022 (5)
27. Month whose first day brings new rules, a storm and a loss (7)
31. Held at 170.20 yen by the subsidy (8)
32. Super Intelligence event in Suzuki's cartoon (8)
33. Leak-repair requests on it run at five times last year (4)
40. Permanent kind, with a new income test (9)
42. Suspended service to the islands (5)
46. Hyogo city where a doctor was arrested (9)
47. Crop whose inspections are hurried by rain (4)
48. Customer kind; countermeasures mandatory (10)
50. Institute with the current comparator (4)
51. Write-down of 632.1 billion yen (10)
52. Risk on unstable ground (9)
53. Ibaraki city accepting a waste survey (12)
55. Big Six stadium (5)
57. The model version name (5)
58. AI action document due by year-end (4)
62. Special kind, run from bases abroad (5)
64. Map's coolest reading, 18 and 8 (7)
65. Hazard that closes the outer courts (9)
66. Saturday's final opponent, South (5)
69. 1979 start of the consumer-device line (7)
70. At 157.97 to the dollar on the chart (3)
71. Two nights of countermeasures (9)
73. Death-row inmate denied a retrial (7)
76. Minimum, from 1,280 in Tokyo to 1,085 in Miyazaki (4)
77. Unified rate on the glass (3)
80. River rising beside the lake (4)
82. Where nine Japanese were arrested (8)
83. Main island, with its first survey city (6)
84. City with two boxes on the U.S. map (6)
85. Tokyo District, in the voice case (5)
86. Review that ended with no opinion, twice (5)
87. Tokyo's run of rainy days, 35 on Wednesday (6)

DOWN

1. Compact kind, first played in 1982 (4)
3. Motor maker with a 564.6-billion-yen loss (5)
4. Three million yen, for the benefits (7)
5. Park event, first for men at the Games (3)
6. What must exceed the average household (6)
8. Agency established on this day in 1958 (4)
9. Convenes Monday (4)
12. Islands facing 120 mm of rain (3)
14. Snow showers at 48 degrees, as printed (7)
15. Where the new duty is felt first (7)
16. What the comparator measures, AC and DC (7)
18. Prime Minister who announced the plan (8)
19. Autumn rain line, now weakening (5)
20. Semiconductor stocks that led the morning's buying (5)
21. Very hot, 100 and 75 (7)
23. Satellite whose full disk is the standard (8)
24. Osaka December contract opened at 67,340 (7)
25. Quantum sensor material at AIST (7)
28. Conveyor that carries the plates (4)
29. Income-linked payments planned for FY2027 (8)
30. City whose campaign opens Sunday (8)
34. Another company under the inquiry (9)
35. No. 26, near the Izu Islands at noon-ish (7)
36. Status of the chair marked APPLE (8)
37. How Japan beat Uzbekistan, 9-8 (9)
38. City of the 2016 killings (10)
39. Semi-final opponent (10)
41. What generative AI did to the voice (9)
43. The government's adjective for AI (8)
44. Cost behind 3,153 price rises, with the yen (9)
45. Prefecture with the lowest minimum wage (8)
49. BMX park gold medalist (8)
54. Component the AI servers use by the thousand (9)
56. Instrument at Kitanomaru that decides the streak (5)
59. Lake with a reinforced closure (8)
60. One of three hazards in the agency warning (7)
61. Household income benchmark for the test (7)
63. Obligation the editorial wants for AI (4)
65. Kernel released in September 1991 (5)
67. BMX park silver medalist (5)
68. Promised by the map subtitle, absent from the boxes (6)
72. What designated operators must now do (6)
74. Special one, rejected (6)
75. Literature kind, first in Honshu (6)
78. Region the storm brushes around noon (5)
79. Voice actor who won his right to his voice (5)
81. Map's warmest, 30 and 24 (4)

SPORTS

Nine-Eight on Penalties: Japan Beats Uzbekistan to Reach the Asian Games Final Against South Korea on Saturday, and Nakamura and Ozawa Take Gold and Silver in the First Men's BMX Park Event

Sankei reports the shoot-out at the Games' semi-final; the surfers' golds continue; the Giants' streak and Taira's twelfth win shape the final week; the Aki Basho champion remains unreported for a fifth day; October 1 is the anniversary of Antonio Inoki's death

By Oliver Brooks | Japan Sports Desk Editor

Japan's men's football team beat Uzbekistan 9-8 on penalties to advance to the Asian Games final, where they will face South Korea on the 3rd, according to Sankei News, in a shoot-out that ran into its ninth round before a miss decided it.

Rimu Nakamura won gold and Kaede Ozawa silver in BMX park, the first men's event in the discipline at the Games, according to the reports available, giving Japan first and second on the ramps.

The surfing golds of Igarashi and Ikeda, reported on Wednesday, continue in today's accounts as a streak, and the athletics golds of Ryuji Miura and Mako Fukube, Haruka Kitaguchi's javelin silver and the baseball silver remain the Games' Japanese record as its final days arrive.

The final against South Korea on Saturday is the Games' marquee match, the two countries' age-limited squads meeting for the gold that South Korea took from Japan in the last two Games finals, and the shoot-out's length is the measure of a semi-final that produced no winner in two hours.

A 9-8 shoot-out means nine rounds for each side, the first five and four of sudden death, and the goalkeepers and the ninth kickers are the match's names when the wires carry the line-ups.

BMX park, the freestyle discipline of ramps and tricks that joined the Olympics at Tokyo, makes its men's debut at the Games with a Japanese one-two, and Nakamura's gold adds to a discipline in which Japan's riders have become a world force.

In professional baseball, the Giants' winning streak and Kaima Taira's 12th win are described as the key factors in the final stages of the season, and the Climax Series places are being settled in the last games.

The Japan Open continues at Ariake, the Everyone Project tournament at Tanagura and the sprint canoe championships on their course, and the Tokyo Big

Six plays at Jingu; the typhoon's noon approach to Kanto places the outdoor events under the agency's lightning and tornado warnings for the morning.

The Aki Basho is again described in the reports available as nearing its end, four days after its conclusion, and the champion's name has still not reached the wires; the desk publishes what it can confirm.

October 1 is the anniversary of Antonio Inoki's death, the wrestler, promoter and politician who died on this day in 2022, and the culture page marks it.

The national team's 2-1 comeback against Venezuela, with two goals from Ayase Ueda, remains in the accounts as the senior side's result of the week, and the Games' squad is the separate, age-limited team.

The final's venue and kick-off time were not included in the reports available, and the Games' closing ceremony follows on Sunday.

Nine rounds, two golds on the ramps and a final to come: Wednesday's sport, as the wires deliver it.

Saturday's final against South Korea is the week's match, and the storm will have passed by then.

SPORTS

How a Shoot-Out Reaches Nine Rounds: The Rules Behind 9-8

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization Reporter

Japan's 9-8 win over Uzbekistan on penalties is a score that needs explaining, and the explanation is the shoot-out's rules.

A match level after extra time goes to penalties: five kicks each, taken alternately, and the side with more goals after five wins; if the sides are level, the shoot-out continues one kick each in sudden death until one scores and the other misses.

Nine-eight means nine rounds: the first five, and four rounds of sudden death in which both sides scored, until the ninth, in which Japan scored and Uzbekistan did not.

Eighteen kicks from eleven players a side means that several of the outfield players who rarely take penalties took one, and the goalkeepers, who faced nine each, are the shoot-out's protagonists.

The Games' football is played by age-limited squads, under-23 with over-age exceptions, and the shoot-out's pressure falls on players at the start of their careers.

Shoot-outs of nine rounds or more are rare at any level, and the match will be remembered for its

length as much as its result.

The final against South Korea on Saturday is a rematch of recent Games finals, and the two squads' rivalry is the region's sharpest.

The kickers' names and the goalkeepers' saves were not included in Sankei's report, and the wires will carry them.

The senior national team's shoot-out history, from the World Cup exits that ended on penalties, gives the Games' result its context for Japanese supporters.

Nine rounds, one miss: the arithmetic of a semi-final.

SPORTS

Japan and South Korea in the Final, Again: The Games' Football Rivalry

By Oliver Brooks | Japan Sports Desk Editor

Japan's final against South Korea on Saturday, reached by a 9-8 shoot-out against Uzbekistan, is the third consecutive Asian Games final between the two countries, and the rivalry is the region's sharpest.

South Korea won the last two, 2-1 in extra time at Jakarta in 2018 and 2-1 at Hangzhou in 2023, and the Korean squad's motivation, the military exemption that a gold brings its players, is the final's known edge.

Japan's Games squads, age-limited and drawn from the under-23 generation, have used the tournament as the Olympic cycle's rehearsal, and the current squad is the one the Los Angeles Olympics will draw on.

The senior rivalry, from the World Cup qualifiers to the East Asian championships, gives the Games final its temperature, and the two countries' supporters will fill the stadium in Aichi.

Uzbekistan, beaten on penalties after two hours without a goal, is the region's third force, and its defeat in the ninth round is the semi-final's story.

The Games' baseball final, lost to South Korea for a silver, is the week's precedent the football squad will want to reverse.

The final's venue and kick-off time were not included in the reports available, and the Games' closing ceremony follows on Sunday.

The storm's passage today leaves Aichi clear for Saturday, on the map's sun for Nagoya.

The squad's line-up and the shoot-out's kickers were not included in Sankei's report.

Three finals in a row, two lost: the rivalry, before Saturday.

SPORTS

Nakamura Gold, Ozawa Silver: A Japanese One-Two in BMX Park's First Men's Event at the Games

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Rimu Nakamura won gold and Kaede Ozawa silver in BMX park at the Asian Games, according to the reports available, in the first men's event in the discipline the Games have held.

Park, the freestyle discipline in which riders perform tricks over a course of ramps and bowls within a timed run, is judged on difficulty, originality, execution and the use of the course, and a one-two is a statement of a country's depth.

Nakamura, who placed fifth at the Tokyo Olympics as a teenager and has competed at the sport's world level since, is the discipline's Japanese standard-bearer, and Ozawa's silver shows the generation behind him.

The Games' BMX programme, with Hima Nakai's second consecutive title in the racing discipline reported earlier in the week, gives Japan the medals in both of the sport's forms.

The park course, built for the Games in Aichi, was wet through the fortnight's rain, and the finals were run in the clearing Tokai had before the typhoon's approach.

The riders' scores and the finalists they beat were not included in the reports available.

BMX freestyle joined the Olympics at Tokyo, and the Games' medals count toward the continental standing from which the next Olympic places are drawn.

Japan's urban sports, from skateboarding's golds last week to the climbing and the BMX, have produced the Games' most consistent Japanese medals, and the youth of the medallists is the trend.

The medal box on this page carries the week's full list, and the BMX one-two joins the surfers' golds at its head.

Two riders, two medals, one podium: the ramps' Japanese debut.

SPORTS

SPORTS

Ramps, Bowls and a Timed Run: How BMX Park Is Judged

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

The BMX park one-two of Nakamura and Ozawa was won on a judged discipline, and the judging is the sport's grammar.

Park, the freestyle form of BMX, is ridden on a course of ramps, bowls and rails, and each rider has a timed run, usually a minute, to perform the tricks the course allows.

A panel of judges scores each run out of 100 on difficulty, originality, execution, flow and the use of the course, and the best of a rider's runs counts in the final.

The discipline joined the Olympics at Tokyo in 2021, where Nakamura placed fifth, and the Asian Games programme now, in its first men's event, gives the continent's riders a second stage.

Japan's riders have risen with the discipline, and the one-two shows the depth behind the standard-bearer.

The course in Aichi, built for the Games, was wet through the fortnight's rain, and a wet ramp changes the tricks a rider will attempt.

The racing discipline, in which Hima Nakai won his second consecutive title earlier in the week, is a different sport: a sprint over jumps, timed, with no judges.

The scores of the finalists were not included in the reports available.

The sport's next stage for the medallists is the world championships and the Olympic qualification that runs through them.

A minute on the ramps, scored out of 100: the discipline, explained.

SPORTS

Carried: The Surfers' Golds, Counted as a Streak

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

The surfing golds of Igarashi and Ikeda, reported by Kyodo on Wednesday, are described in today's accounts as a continuing gold-medal streak, and the two remain in the sports file as the Games' Japanese wins on the water.

The streak's count, and whether it refers to the two events or to a longer run of Japanese surfing results, was not clarified in the reports available, and the desk carries the phrase as given.

The swells that made the competition possible are the same swells that remain around Izu this morning, and the sport's coasts, from Ichinomiya to Shonan, are closed under the agency's warnings.

The medallists' next stage is the professional tour's Japanese events and the Olympic qualification that runs through them.

The surfers' names remain as Kyodo gave them, without first names, and the desk adds none.

The BMX park one-two of Nakamura and Ozawa and the football semi-final join the surfers' golds at the head of the week's Japanese results.

The Games' medal table, with Japan second or third behind China, will be settled by the judo and the relays in the final days.

The surfers' finals' scores and the opponents they beat were not included in the reports available.

The typhoon fortnight's swells, which closed the beaches and opened the competition, are the sport's paradox in a storm season.

Two golds, carried: the surfers' week.

SPORTS

The Giants' Streak and Taira's Twelfth: The Final Week's Deciding Factors

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

The Giants' winning streak and Kaima Taira's 12th win are described in the reports available as the key factors in the final stages of the professional baseball season, and the two leagues' Climax Series places are being settled in the week's last games.

The Giants, whose 3-1 win over Hiroshima on Tuesday extended a run that began with the 11-0 over Yakult on Sunday, hold their Central League place with a streak the reports count without giving its length.

Taira's 12th, a career high in seven innings of one-run pitching on Tuesday, keeps Seibu in second place in the Pacific League, behind SoftBank's clinched pennant and ahead of Nippon Ham.

Wednesday's results were not included in the reports available, and the scoreboard carries the week's confirmed scores.

The typhoon's approach to Kanto around noon today threatens the evening's outdoor games in the capital's region, and the domes are the week's certain venues.

The Climax Series' first stage, between each league's second and third teams, begins after the regular season ends, and the second-placed team's home advantage is the final week's prize for Seibu.

The individual titles, from Richard's home runs to Taira's wins, are decided in the same games.

The Japan Series in late October follows, and the typhoon season's calendar is its risk.

The Giants' streak's length and the league standings were not included in the reports available, and the wires will carry them.

A streak and a twelfth win, as the season closes: the final week, in two factors.

SPORTS

The Final Days: Judo, the Relays and a Football Final, Before Sunday's Closing

By Oliver Brooks | Japan Sports Desk Editor

The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games enter their final days with the judo weight classes, the athletics relays and Saturday's football final against South Korea, and the closing ceremony is on Sunday.

Judo's golds are the medal table's most reliable Japanese entries, and the relays, where Japan's sprinters have won world medals, are the athletics programme's last chance.

The football final, reached on a 9-8 shoot-out, is the week's match, and the BMX park one-two of Nakamura and Ozawa is the week's newest Japanese result.

The medal table's Japanese share, second or third behind China, will be settled by the judo and the relays, and the Games' Japanese record, from the swimming's world record to the surfing's golds, is the fortnight's.

The storm's passage today, with lightning warnings for Kanto, leaves Aichi clear, on the map's sunny 25 and 14 for Nagoya, and the outdoor finals proceed.

The Asian Para Games follow in October, and the venues turn over to them after Sunday.

The men's hockey team's ranking matches, the women's marathon and the race walk remain in the awaited column.

The closing ceremony's programme was not included in the reports available.

The Games' cost, the venues' legacy and the Para Games' preparations are the stories the closing opens.

Judo, relays and a final: the fortnight's last days.

SPORTS

Fifth Day: The Aki Basho Champion and the Women's Open Winner Still Unreported

By Oliver Brooks | Japan Sports Desk Editor

The reports available to this edition describe the Aki Basho for a fifth day as nearing its end, four days after its final day at the Ryogoku Kokugikan, and the champion's name has not reached the wires the sports desk uses.

The Japan Women's Open, whose final round was played on Sunday, is likewise unreported, and its winner awaits confirmation.

The desk's practice, restated daily and repeated in the corrections box, is to publish results when the wires carry them and to say so when they do not, rather than to infer a champion from a tournament's course.

The banzuke for the Kyushu Basho in November, published in late October, will name the champion by implication when the wires fail to.

Mongolia's prime minister was in Tokyo on Tuesday, and the sumo ring, where his country's wrestlers have held the highest rank for most of the century, is the relationship's popular bond; the champion's name is known in Ulaanbaatar.

The men's race walk result, the football squad's quarter-final line and the women's marathon remain

in the same category of awaited results, though the football semi-final's 9-8 shoot-out reached the wires this morning.

Yuna Nishimura's LPGA win, confirmed by Sankei last week, remains the golf result the desk can stand behind, and the Everyone Project tournament at Tanagura is the domestic tour's current event.

The Mito verdict, listed for Wednesday on the calendar carried earlier, is likewise absent from the reports available, as the corrections box notes.

Readers who saw the final day on television know what this page cannot yet confirm from its sources.

Five days, two champions and no names: the wires, not the results, remain late.

SPORTS

Today's Sport: Thursday, October 1

By Oliver Brooks | Japan Sports Desk Editor

Day: Asian Games; judo and the relays; the football final's preparations.

Day: Japan Open, Ariake; stadium court under the roof; outer courts subject to the lightning protocol.

Day: Everyone Project golf, Tanagura, Fukushima.

Day: Japan sprint canoe championships.

Day: Tokyo Big Six, Jingu, weather permitting.

Evening: professional baseball; the Climax Series places; the capital's outdoor games subject to the storm's passage.

Note: the Aki Basho champion and the Japan Women's Open winner remain unconfirmed in the reports available, for a fifth day.

Weather: the storm's closest approach to Kanto around noon; lightning, tornado and gust warnings; clearing by afternoon; Tokyo on the map partly cloudy, 24 and 15.

Saturday, Oct. 3: football final, Japan v South Korea.

Sunday, Oct. 4: the closing ceremony.

SPORTS

Scoreboard and Fixtures

Compiled by the Sports Desk

ASIAN GAMES — FOOTBALL (men's semi-final): Japan 0, Uzbekistan 0, Japan win 9-8 on penalties (Sankei). Final: v South Korea, Oct. 3.

ASIAN GAMES — BMX PARK (men): Gold, Rimu Nakamura; silver, Kaede Ozawa; first men's event at the Games.

CARRIED: Surfing gold, Igarashi (men), Ikeda (women); Miura, steeplechase gold, 8:17.36; Fukube, 100m hurdles gold; Kitaguchi, javelin silver; baseball silver; Nakai, BMX racing, second consecutive title.

NPB: the Giants' winning streak and Taira's 12th win shape the final week; Wednesday's scores not included in the reports available.

A NATIONAL TEAM: Japan 2, Venezuela 1 (Ueda 2).

TENNIS: Japan Open, Ariake, under way.

GOLF: Everyone Project, Tanagura, under way.

CANOE: Japan sprint championships, under way.

BIG SIX: Jingu.

ANNIVERSARY: Antonio Inoki, died Oct. 1, 2022.

AWAITED: Aki Basho champion; Japan Women's Open winner; men's race walk; women's marathon.

CULTURE

Four Years On: Antonio Inoki, Remembered on October 1

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

October 1 is the anniversary of Antonio Inoki's death, and the wrestler, promoter and politician who died on this day in 2022 at 79 is remembered in the sports and culture pages as the figure who made professional wrestling a national institution and then used it for diplomacy.

Inoki, born Kanji Inoki in Yokohama, learned the trade in the post-war boom of televised wrestling, founded New Japan Pro-Wrestling in 1972 and became the sport's defining Japanese figure through three decades in the ring.

His 1976 bout with Muhammad Ali in Tokyo, a contest of rules neither side agreed on, is the match for which he is remembered abroad, and the mixed-rules fights that followed are counted among the ancestors of mixed martial arts.

His politics, as a member of the upper house from 1989 and again from 2013, took him to Iraq in 1990,

where he negotiated the release of Japanese hostages, and to North Korea repeatedly, in the sports diplomacy he called the energy of combat.

The slap he gave to fans who asked for it, the catchphrase about the road that appears when one walks it, and the red towel are the images the anniversary brings back.

The wrestling industry he built, from the promotions to the televised events, continues under successors, and the anniversary events this week are held in the ring.

The Games' football semi-final, won on penalties, and the BMX one-two share the sports pages with the anniversary, and the combat sports Inoki promoted, from judo to karate, have had their Games.

His illness, a rare condition that weakened him through his last years, was public, and his last appearances were in a wheelchair, waving the towel.

The anniversary falls on the day the capital's rain streak may end, and the wrestler's catchphrase about the road would have been his comment.

A wrestler, a promoter and a diplomat of the ring: Inoki, four years on.

CULTURE

If the Sun Comes: The Capital Imagines Its First Dry Day Since August

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The forecast for the capital today is cloudy then sunny, and after 35 consecutive days of rain the city is imagining what it will do with an afternoon of light.

The laundries will be the first to know, since the capital's balconies have held no washing since August and the coin laundries have run without pause; the parks will be the second, since the autumn's festivals were cancelled one by one and the first dry weekend will bring them back.

Sankei's editorial on Wednesday named the season a moodless autumn and asked to say goodbye to the rainy skies as soon as possible; the forecasters' answer is this afternoon, after the storm passes to the south-east.

The umbrella makers and the roofers have had the month's business, and the roof-leak repair requests at five times last year's are the trade's measure of what the rain did.

The theatres and the cinemas, full for a month, will lose their captive audience to the streets, and the cafes with terraces will open them.

The capital's autumn calendar, from the moon-viewing that passed under cloud to the colours that have not begun, resumes with the dry days, and the Kurobe route's opening tomorrow is the mountains' version.

The streak's end depends on the morning's gauge, and a trace from the storm's outer bands would extend it to 36; the city's mood does not wait for the agency's count.

The Games' closing on Sunday, the Yokohama campaign and the Diet's convocation are the week's calendar, and all three were planned for an autumn that has been rain.

Chiba's slopes, where even light rain is dangerous, do not share the capital's afternoon, and the peninsula's recovery continues in the storm's 50 millimetres.

A dry afternoon, if it comes: the capital's hope, on the 36th morning.

CULTURE

October's Festival Calendar, After a September Under Umbrellas: Kunchi, Kawagoe, Nada and the Jidai Matsuri

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

If the capital's first dry day arrives this afternoon as forecast, it arrives at the start of the month that holds the country's densest festival calendar, and the shrines and towns that cancelled or postponed through September's rain are counting on October.

Nagasaki's Kunchi, from the 7th to the 9th, opens the month with the dragon dances and the Dutch and Chinese floats that four centuries of the port's trade produced, and the Suwa Shrine's programme is fixed by the calendar whatever the sky does.

The Kawagoe Festival, in the castle town north of the capital, fills the third weekend with its tall floats and

CULTURE

the musicians' duels at the crossings, and the Saitama town's streets, under the same 35 days of rain as the capital's, are the organisers' concern.

Nada's fighting festival at Himeji, on the 14th and 15th, pits the portable shrines of the district's villages against one another in a collision the bearers train for all year, and the mud of a wet October would change the contest.

Kyoto's Jidai Matsuri on the 22nd, the procession of the city's eras from the Meiji restoration back to the Heian court, is the month's largest costume parade, and the west's dry map this morning, with Kyoto sunny at 25 and 14, is the city's good omen.

The sports days the schools postponed, the autumn fairs the shopping streets cancelled and the moon-viewing that passed under cloud are the small calendar the dry days restore, and the first weekend will show how much of September's programme moves into October.

Shibuya's Halloween, the month's other crowd, is the one festival the authorities are spending to discourage, and the ward's 74 million yen stands beside the shrines' budgets as the month's two kinds of crowd management.

The Games' closing on Sunday and the Asian Para Games that follow are Aichi's October, and the Kurobe route's opening tomorrow is the mountains', with the autumn colours that the festivals' calendar follows north to south.

The festival organisers read the same forecasts as the farmers and the roofers, and the storm's remnant passing off Choshi tomorrow is the last of the fortnight's weather on their lists.

The Kurama fire festival on the 22nd, the same night as the Jidai Matsuri, fills the mountain village north of Kyoto with torches and the shout of the bearers, and the two events' coincidence is the city's longest night of the year.

Tokyo's own October, from the Ikegami Honmonji oeshiki's lantern floats on the 12th to the Kanda Furuhon-matsuri's book stalls at the month's end, is the capital's calendar, and the first dry weekend is the test of whether the stalls go up.

The organisers' insurance, the police permits and the volunteers' rosters were all written for a dry autumn, and September's cancellations have cost the shrines and the towns the income the festivals bring.

A month of floats, dragons and processions, waiting for the sun: October's calendar, as the rain ends.

CULTURE

The Compact Disc at 44: Why Japan Still Buys the Format Sony Put on Sale on October 1, 1982

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Forty-four years after Sony's CDP-101 went on sale, the compact disc survives in Japan as it does almost nowhere else, and the anniversary is an occasion to ask why the country that invented the format for the home has been slowest to leave it.

The world's music industry moved from the disc to the download and then to the stream through the 2000s and 2010s, and in most markets the disc is a collector's object; in Japan, physical media still accounts for a large share of recorded-music sales, on the industry's annual figures, and the record shops the culture page visited on Wednesday are the evidence.

The reasons are the industry's as much as the public's: the pop groups whose discs come with handshake tickets and photo cards, the rental shops that made the disc a loan rather than a purchase, the pricing that kept the disc profitable and the streaming services' late and partial arrival.

The disc's sound, 16-bit samples at 44.1 kilohertz on the standard Sony and Philips agreed, remains the reference the stream approximates, and the audiophiles who buy the disc for the master rather than the compressed file are the format's loyal minority.

Sony's player cost 168,000 yen on the day it went on sale, with fifty titles to play on it, and the price fell by half within three years as the audio industry's component makers took up the format; the same industry's descendants make the sensors and the capacitor materials on today's business page.

The anniversary falls on the day the technology page marks NASA's founding and the Model T's sale, and its definition, a standard applicable to civilians, is the one the page applies to the AI plan due by year-end.

The Walkman of 1979, the Discman of 1984 and the MiniDisc of 1992 are the company's line from portable tape to portable disc, and the stream ended it; the disc outlived its portable descendants.

The record shops that remain, from the chain in Shibuya to the independents in Shimokitazawa and Koenji, sell the disc beside the vinyl that has returned, and the two formats' coexistence is the country's particular retail culture.

The format's decline is slower here than elsewhere but not absent, and each year's industry figures show the stream's share rising; the anniversary may be one of the last on which the disc is a living format rather than a remembered one.

The handshake ticket, the device by which a disc became an admission to meet the performer, is the industry's own explanation for the format's survival, and the groups whose sales it drove are the chart's regulars.

The rental shops, a Japanese institution the labels tolerated and the law accommodated, kept the disc in circulation long after it had left other countries' shelves, and their decline in the 2010s is the format's parallel.

The anniversary's player, the CDP-101, sits in the company's museum beside the first Walkman, and the two are the exhibits visitors photograph first.

A disc still bought, 44 years on: the format's Japanese afterlife, on its birthday.

CULTURE

Fifteen Rounds at the Budokan: The Inoki-Ali Bout of 1976, Remembered on the Anniversary

By Oliver Brooks | Japan Sports Desk Editor

The anniversary of Antonio Inoki's death on October 1 brings back the match for which he is known abroad: fifteen rounds against Muhammad Ali at the Nippon Budokan on June 26, 1976, scored a draw and argued over for fifty years.

Billed as a contest between the world's heavyweight boxing champion and Japan's wrestling champion, the bout was fought under rules negotiated to the last day, which left Inoki unable to grapple standing and Ali unwilling to be taken to the floor.

Inoki's answer was to lie on his back and kick at Ali's legs for most of the fifteen rounds, and Ali's was to circle and taunt; the crowd of 14,000 and the television audience that paid for the closed-circuit broadcast saw little of what either man was famous for.

The judges scored it a draw, Ali left Tokyo with damaged legs that troubled him for years, and the match was called a farce in the press of both countries at the time.

Its reputation changed as mixed martial arts grew: the bout is now counted among the sport's ancestors, an early answer to the question of what happens when a striker meets a grappler, and Inoki's kicks are studied as technique rather than evasion.

Inoki and Ali became friends, and Ali's visit to the wrestler's retirement match in 1998 at the Tokyo Dome, before 70,000 people, closed the circle.

The bout's purse, reported at the time as several million dollars for Ali, was the largest a Japanese promoter had paid, and the debt it left Inoki's promotion is part of the story's business side.

The anniversary falls in the week of the Games' combat sports and the football semi-final's nine-round shoot-out, and the sports pages' appetite for a contest that refuses to resolve is the bout's legacy.

Inoki's later matches against martial artists of every discipline continued the experiment the Ali bout began, and the promotions that followed his built the sport on it.

The bout's rules, which barred Inoki from standing holds and from kicks above a certain height unless he had a knee on the mat, are the reason for the posture the crowd saw, and the fifteen rounds of leg kicks were the rules' logic followed to its end.

Ali's corner, on the accounts of the time, considered stopping the fight in the later rounds as the swelling in his legs grew, and the champion's insistence on finishing is part of the bout's legend.

A draw in fifteen rounds, remembered for what it started: the Budokan bout, on the anniversary.

CULTURE

The Voice the Court Protected: Kenjiro Tsuda, From Kaiba to Nanami, in Profile

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The voice that the Tokyo District Court found to be a symbol of its owner's personality belongs to Kenjiro Tsuda, and the roles that made it recognisable explain why a synthetic imitation was worth a lawsuit.

Tsuda, born in Osaka in 1971, trained as a stage actor before the microphone found him, and his low, deliberate delivery became one of the animation industry's signatures over three decades.

Seto Kaiba, the rival in the card-game series that made him known to a generation of schoolchildren, is the role most associated with him in Japan and abroad, and the character's cold authority is the voice's first register.

Kento Nanami, the salaryman sorcerer of the recent fantasy series, brought the voice to a new generation and a global audience, and the character's weary precision is its second.

The villain Overhaul in the hero series, the narrations of documentaries and the commercials in which the voice sells everything from coffee to cars are the range the imitations drew on.

Tsuda has also acted on screen and stage, and his face is as known as his voice to the audiences of the dramas he has appeared in, which is why the court's reasoning about personality found a ready example.

The synthetic voices generated to resemble his, used without consent in the works and advertisements the case concerned, are the industry's problem in one actor's career, and the voice actors' associations petitioned on the strength of cases like his.

The ruling's reach to voices less distinctive than his is the question the appeals will answer, and the younger actors whose careers are beginning are the ones the answer matters most to.

The actor's own statement on the ruling, and the works and the defendant in the case, were not included in Asahi's report.

The dubbing of foreign films, in which the actor has voiced leading men for the Japanese release, is the part of the trade the public hears without naming, and the imitations' market in dubbed advertising is where the industry first noticed the problem.

The voice actors' schools, which train thousands of applicants a year for a few hundred working places, teach the control the court's ruling now protects, and the schools' graduates are the ruling's longest-term beneficiaries.

The animation studios' overseas sales, which have made the industry an export the government counts in its cultural policy, depend on the voices the foreign audiences associate with the characters, and the ruling protects the asset the studios sell.

A voice known in two generations' living rooms, and now in a judgment: Tsuda, in profile.

SOCIETY

The Week Ahead

Compiled by the News Desk

Thursday, Oct. 1: The storm's closest approach to Kanto at noon; October's rules in force; the Nikkei's half-year open; the AI action plan announced.

Friday, Oct. 2: The Kurobe canyon route's official opening; the storm's remnant off Choshi; the north's wind in the evening.

Saturday, Oct. 3: Komeito's convention confirms Okamoto; the football final, Japan v South Korea.

Sunday, Oct. 4: The Asian Games close; the Yokohama mayoral campaign opens.

Monday, Oct. 5: The extraordinary Diet session convenes; income-linked benefits and the tax cut; the seat reduction against the census's 18 districts.

October: Sushiro's Times Square opening; the 3,153 price rises on the shelf; the unified beer tax's first sales data; Shibuya's Halloween countermeasures in the last week.

Pending: The severe-disaster designation; Nidec's successor and the FSA's response; the Aki Basho champion; the Hokkaido University discipline; the rice buyback.

Year-end: The AI action plan.

Spring: The unified local elections; Ishin's 198

candidates.

Fiscal 2027: Income-linked benefits; the food tax cut from April.

SOCIETY

Customer Harassment: What Counts, and What Employers Must Do

Compiled by the Society Desk

Counts: abuse, threats, unreasonable demands, repeated complaints beyond the goods or service, and conduct that harms staff.

Does not count: a complaint about a genuine fault, made in ordinary terms.

Employers must: adopt a policy, train staff, set a procedure for reporting and support for the affected.

Staff may: end a call or a conversation that becomes abusive, under the employer's procedure.

The duty is on companies from today; the detailed guidelines are the ministry's.

Shops and restaurants are the first employers affected; the hospitals and the transport operators follow.

The 1.06-million-yen wall's abolition brings more part-time hours to the same counters.

Signs at the counters stating the policy are permitted and encouraged.

Records of incidents support any later action.

Report serious cases to the police; the duty does not replace the law.

SOCIETY

The Storm's Numbers, Thursday

Compiled by the Society Desk

No. 26 Surigae: moving north near the Izu Islands; about 1,000-1,002 hPa; maximum winds 18 m/s (Sankei, Mainichi).

Closest approach to Kanto: around noon today.

Tomorrow: extratropical east of Japan, passing off Choshi.

Rain, 24 hours: southern Izu Islands 120 mm; north-eastern and southern Chiba 50 mm.

Chiba: ground unstable after No. 25; even light rain dangerous.

Warnings: lightning, tornadoes, strong gusts (JMA). Swells remain around Izu.

Tokyo: 35 consecutive days of rain as of the 30th; today cloudy then sunny; map 24/15 partly cloudy.

Front: weakening; Pacific side still damp.

Costs: roof-leak repair requests more than 5x last year; new rice inspections hurried.

Wednesday's map had forecast 990 hPa and 25 m/s for 9 p.m. tonight; the storm weakened faster.

ECONOMY

This Week's Watchlist

Compiled by the Economics Desk

Today: the Nikkei's close after a 352-point open; Nidec's shares and the exchange's response to the second disclaimer; Kyuden Holdings' first price.

Today: the yen against 158; the long-term rate against 3.0%.

Today: the storm's passage and the insurers' and railways' exposure; the roofers' order books.

Friday, Oct. 2: the Kurobe route's opening; the storm's remnant off Choshi; the Komeito leadership's eve.

Saturday, Oct. 3: Komeito's convention; the football final against South Korea.

Sunday, Oct. 4: the Games close; the Yokohama campaign opens.

Monday, Oct. 5: the Diet convenes; income-linked benefits and the tax cut against the rate.

October: 3,153 price rises on the shelf; the unified beer tax's first sales data; Sushiro's Times Square opening.

Pending: the rice buyback; Nidec's successor; the severe-disaster designation.

Chips: the semiconductor rally against the Fed's path; Sakai Chemical's expansion decision.

EDITORIAL & OPINION



Editorial cartoon by Taro Suzuki, Staff Cartoonist.

EDITORIAL

Seating Is Policy, the Cartoonist Says, and He Is Right; So Japan Should Write Its Seating Chart in Law, as It Did This Morning for Cyber Attacks

Taro Suzuki draws a round table under a banner reading SUPER INTELLIGENCE LUNCHEON: an empty chair with the presidential seal, MUSK and HUANG at its elbows, AMODEI farther down the cloth behind a card that says SAFETY FIRST, PICHAI and ZUCKERBERG on the far side, placards for BROCKMAN and ALTMAN AT DEVDAY before empty places, a chair marked APPLE, RESERVED, a document on the table stamped WHITE HOUSE ACCORD, MORALLY BINDING, SELF POLICE, a card reading SI NOT AI, a scale weighing PROXIMITY TO POWER against DISTANCE OF THE SERMON, a Chinese factory marked NO PAUSE through one window and a handshake marked ALLIED STACK through the other. On the morning Japan's cyber reporting duty takes effect, its prime minister promises an AI action plan by year-end, a court protects a voice actor's voice from imitation and Washington's trade regulator opens an inquiry into the companies at the table, this page argues that the cartoonist's thesis is correct, that an accord governs by proximity because it has nothing else to govern by, and that Japan's answer is the one it gave at midnight: a duty, in law, with the state empowered to act on it

By Samantha Ortiz | Editorial Page Editor

Taro Suzuki's Thursday cartoon is a luncheon, and the lunch has not been served.

A round table under a banner that reads SUPER INTELLIGENCE LUNCHEON. At its head, a high-backed chair with the presidential seal and a placard that says PRESIDENT; the chair is empty. To its left, MUSK; beyond him, AMODEI, with a green card on the cloth before him that says SAFETY FIRST. To its right, HUANG, then PICHAI, then ZUCKERBERG. Two placards stand before empty places: BROCKMAN, and ALTMAN AT DEVDAY. A chair at the end of the table carries a sign: APPLE, RESERVED, with a star.

On the cloth, a bound document headed WHITE HOUSE ACCORD, stamped in red: MORALLY BINDING, and SELF POLICE. Beside it a card: SI NOT AI. Over the room, a signboard reading ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE with a red X through it.

At the left edge of the drawing, a brass scale, its pans labelled PROXIMITY TO POWER and DISTANCE OF THE SERMON. Through the window on the left, a factory with red flags on its chimneys and a sign that says NO PAUSE. Through the window on the right, two men shaking hands under the characters for Japan and America and the words ALLIED STACK. At the right edge, the two flags.

The scroll along the bottom: The name changed. The race did not. The seating told the rest.

This page argues with the drawing rather than annotating it, and the argument this morning is mostly agreement, which is rarer and worth saying plainly.

The cartoonist's thesis is that seating is policy. Who sits at the president's elbows, who sits down the cloth behind a card, whose chair is reserved and whose placard faces an empty seat: that is the accord's real text, he says, and the stamped words on the document are decoration. The page thinks he is right, and the reason he is right is in the stamps themselves.

An accord that is morally binding and self-policed binds no one and polices nothing. It is a photograph of who was in the room. And a government whose rule for an industry is a photograph has only one instrument left for governing that industry, which is the guest list. Proximity becomes policy because nothing else is available to be policy. The builders sit at the elbows because the state wants what they build; the safety shop sits behind its card because the state wants to be seen to have invited it; and the chairs that are reserved and the placards that face empty seats say, as clearly as the stamps, that attendance is the measure of standing.

The scale at the edge of the drawing weighs proximity to power against distance of the sermon, and the cartoonist has not drawn the pans level this time. The page reads the scale as the room's own law: the farther a company's warnings carry, the farther from the president it sits. That is what an accord does to warnings. It does not forbid them; it seats them.

A word about the people at the table, because the cartoonist has drawn real ones and the page is about to use them as furniture. The names on the placards are the industry's; the page's argument is about the chairs. It does not know, and the drawing does not claim to know, what any of the men said at any lunch. What the drawing claims is that an accord's

only enforceable provision is the invitation, and that claim stands whoever accepted it. The page defends none of the diners and attacks none of them; it is interested in the table, which is the state's, and in what a state does when the table is all it has.

It is worth saying what a stamp that reads MORALLY BINDING actually promises, because the phrase is doing more work than it can bear. A morally binding commitment is one whose breach is a reproach rather than a penalty. In most of life that is enough; among friends it is everything. Among companies competing for a market that is being renamed in front of them, with a factory through the window that has pledged not to pause, a reproach is a cost of doing business, and a cost of doing business is priced. The stamp does not say the companies are dishonest. It says the state has chosen not to find out.

So far, agreement. Now the part of the drawing the page would argue with, which is the rename.

SI NOT AI, the card says, and the signboard over the room has the old name crossed out. The cartoon's analysis, in the notes that accompany it, is that the rename does not slow Beijing, and the factory through the left window, with its NO PAUSE sign, is the point made in paint. The page agrees that a name slows nothing. But it would add that a name is not nothing, because names in government are budget lines, and a government that renames a field is usually about to fund it under the new name, with the old name's rules left behind. The cartoonist's rename is a joke about vanity; the page's worry is that it is also a filing cabinet. Watch what moves into it.

Then the empty chair, which is the drawing's best detail and the one the page would dwell on.

The president's chair is empty. The seating has been arranged around a seat no one is in. The page does not read that as a comment on any one president; it reads it as a comment on the accord. A document that is morally binding and self-policed does not need the head of the table to be present. It needs the guests to be photographed in their places. The chair's emptiness is the accord's sufficiency: the room governs itself by who sits where, and the one seat that could change the arrangement is vacant.

Which brings the page home, because Japan filled a chair this morning.

At midnight the Cyber Response Capability

Strengthening Act took effect. It is not an accord. It is a statute, and its central provision is a duty: the operators of designated infrastructure, the utilities, the carriers, the banks and the railways, must report signs of attack and damage from attacks to the state, and the state is empowered to act on what it is told. Nobody was invited to sign it. Nobody's chair is reserved. The operators are seated by what they operate, and their standing in the regime is the quality of their reports.

That is a seating chart written in law, and it is the one the page has asked for all week under other names: verification as policy, a reporting duty, a state that tests what it runs. This morning the country has it, for one domain, and the domain is the one that the AI systems ride on.

The Prime Minister, on the same morning, promised an action plan for the social implementation of high-performance AI by the end of the year, and the word the government attached to it, on Yomiuri's account, is reliable. The page's request is simple. Write the plan in the cyber act's grammar. A duty on the systems the state runs to be tested by someone who does not sell them. A duty on the suppliers to report to the state when a system does something outside its scope, as the operators must now report an intrusion. And a state empowered to act on the report, as the police bureau and the Cabinet's cybersecurity office are now empowered to act on a sign of attack.

The page can say what the duty would catch, because the month supplied the cases. An agent that entered dozens of organisations including government agencies without authorisation, reported by Mainichi a fortnight ago, is a sign of attack in the cyber act's sense, and from this morning an operator that saw it on a designated network would have to report it. The training-data leak that exposed 53 user-provided images, on Yomiuri's report, is damage in the act's sense. Neither incident, in the regime that governs AI today, had to be reported to anyone; both, in the regime that governs infrastructure from this morning, would. The gap between the two regimes is the plan's job, and the gap is a sentence long.

The page is aware that the cyber act was ten years in the making and that it was passed over objections about privacy that were serious and in part met. It is not proposing that the AI plan monitor anyone's communications. It is proposing that the plan borrow

EDITORIAL & OPINION

the act's one uncontroversial idea, which is that the state should be told when the systems it depends on fail, by the people who are in a position to know, under a duty rather than at their discretion. That idea needed no decade. It needs a paragraph and a budget.

Do that, and the plan's table seats itself. The verifier sits at the head, because the verifier decides what runs. The suppliers sit by what they have passed, not by what they have built. The ministries that use the systems sit under a duty, as the utilities do this morning. And the public, which has no chair at any luncheon, gets the only thing it can use, which is a standard it can rely on without being in the room.

The technology page this morning reads the day's anniversaries, NASA's founding in 1958 and the first consumer CD player in 1982, as two definitions: data measured by the state, and standards applicable to civilians. The cyber act is the first. The AI plan should be the second. The page did not expect the calendar to do its arguing for it, but the calendar has.

A second Japanese fact this morning belongs in the argument, because the cartoonist could not have drawn it and the page would like him to.

The Tokyo District Court found yesterday that the voice actor Kenjiro Tsuda has a right to his own voice, and that a generative system that imitates it infringes that right, because a voice, the court said, is a symbol of an individual's personality. No accord covers that. No stamp on any document in any marble room reaches the person whose voice a model learned from a recording. A judge reached there, by reading what a person includes, and did it before any plan was written. The page's point is not that courts should govern AI. It is that the courts will, if the plan does not, and a plan written as an accord will be overtaken by judgments written as law.

The court's phrase deserves a sentence of its own, because it is the most useful definition of a person the week has produced. A voice is a symbol of an individual's personality. Not a recording, not a copyright, not a trademark: the person, present in the sound. A plan that calls itself reliable will have to say what it protects, and the court has handed it a first item for the list. The page would make it the plan's test case: no system the state runs speaks in a living person's voice without that person's consent, and a supplier whose system does must report it, under the same duty the operators carry from this morning for an intrusion.

The allied stack in the right window deserves its own paragraph, because the page has spent a week telling the government to build it and would not want to be misread.

Two men shaking hands under the flags is what Japan brings to the room: the materials, the equipment, the fabs in Kumamoto and Hokkaido, the launch capacity it is building, the diamond current sensor on the technology page. The page believes in the stack. But it would note where the cartoonist has put it. It is in the window. It is the view from the table, not a seat at it. A country can be the allied stack and still be the thing the diners look at while they eat. The way from the window to the table is not a reserved chair; it is a rule the diners must obey to sell to you, and the cyber act is the first such rule Japan has written for the domain.

Now the objections, because the page has been making this argument for a week and has heard them.

The first is speed. A duty to test slows the plan; the rival's factory does not pause; the country that verifies falls behind the country that trusts. The page answered this on Wednesday with a dockside crate and will answer it again with this morning's wires: the country that trusted has, within a week, cancelled a flagship release, signed an accord it describes as morally binding, and opened a federal inquiry into the companies that signed it. That is not speed. That is a regulator discovering, after the luncheon, that the stamps did not bind. Verification in advance is the fast way, because it is the way that does not end in an inquiry.

The second is the alliance. Washington signed an accord; Tokyo should align with it rather than legislate past it. The page's answer is that the alliance is strengthened by a partner whose rules are stricter and clearer than the accord, because that partner becomes the market in which the accord's promises are tested. A supplier who has passed Japan's test has a certificate it can show to the commission that is now asking questions. Alignment is not copying; it is being useful.

The third is cost. A verifier with a budget, a reporting system with a staff, a plan with teeth: the Diet convenes on Monday with a long-term rate above 3 per cent and a census that counts three million fewer taxpayers than five years ago. The page's answer is the one it gave yesterday: the test is cheaper than the recall and the recall is cheaper than the accident, and the cyber act's budget, voted last year, is the proof that the country can afford a duty when it decides the duty matters.

And the page would add a fiscal point that the Diet will not want to hear. The long-term rate crossed the budget's assumption this week, and the census counts the taxpayers the debt is divided among. A country in that position is a buyer, not a seller, of these systems, and a buyer who cannot afford to buy twice cannot afford to trust. The Nidec accounts on the business page this morning, published without an auditor's opinion for the second year, are a reminder of what a market does with numbers no one has vouched for: it discounts them. A plan whose only guarantee is an accord's stamp would be discounted the same way, by the ministries that must use the systems and by the public that must live with them.

There is a fourth objection, which the cartoonist raises without meaning to. If seating is policy, then Japan, which sits in the window, has no policy at the American table and should stop pretending otherwise. The page half agrees. Japan has no seat at that luncheon and should not want one. Its seat is at its own table, and the question is whether it will write that table's chart in law or in a photograph. This morning, for one domain, it chose law. The plan in December will show whether the choice was a habit or an exception.

There is a version of this argument that the page does not make and wants to disown before it is attributed. It is not arguing that Japan should be slower, or more suspicious of the industry than its allies, or that the companies at the table are untrustworthy because the cartoonist has seated them. It is arguing that trust is not a policy instrument, because it cannot be audited, and that a government with a long-term rate above its budget's assumption and a population falling by three million a census should spend its money on instruments that can be. A duty can be audited. A test can be published. An accord can only be photographed, and the photograph is the cartoon.

Two last details, because the cartoonist has drawn them with care.

The placard that says ALTMAN AT DEVDAY stands before an empty place, and the page reads it as the room's second joke: the industry's calendar outranks the state's. A developer conference is a better reason to be absent than a presidential invitation is a reason to be present, and the accord, being voluntary, cannot say otherwise. A duty can. The cyber act does not care what conference the utility's chief executive is attending when the intrusion is detected; the report is due.

And the chair marked APPLE, RESERVED. The page reads it as the drawing's quietest point: a seat held for a company that has not come, because the room's standing depends on who might come. A rule written in law holds no chairs. It applies to whoever operates the infrastructure, present or absent, invited or not.

The scale, one last time. Proximity to power on one pan, distance of the sermon on the other, and the cartoonist's law that the two move together: the louder the warning, the farther the chair. The page would like the plan in December to break that law, and it can, with one provision. Seat the warnings at the head. Make the institute that reads the risk chapters, that tests the 119 line's assistant on the agency's own calls, that tells the ministries which warnings apply to the use they intend, the body that decides what runs. Then the sermon is not a distance from power. It is the power's first page. The companies will still sit where the president puts them in Washington; in Tokyo they will sit where their test results put them, and the scale in the corner can be melted down.

The name changed. The race did not. The seating told the rest. The page would add a fourth sentence, in the cartoonist's cadence, because the morning earned it.

Japan wrote its seating in law this morning, for one table. Write the next one the same way.

The verifier at the head. The suppliers by what they passed. The operators under a duty. The public with a standard. And no chair reserved.

ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS: The Cyber Act Is the AI Plan's Template, Whether the Government Meant It or Not

By William | Senior Political Analyst

The Cyber Response Capability Strengthening Act took effect this morning, and the Prime Minister's promise of an AI action plan by year-end was reported on the same page, and the coincidence hands the plan's authors a template they may not have intended to use.

The act's structure is a duty, a report and a power: operators of designated infrastructure must report signs of attack, the state receives the reports, and the state may act on them, under an oversight body's eye.

The plan's vocabulary, reliable AI and AX, describes an outcome without a mechanism, and the act supplies the mechanism: designate the systems that matter, oblige their suppliers and users to report, and empower a verifier to act.

The alternative, the accord signed in Washington last week and investigated by the commission this week, describes the mechanism the government would adopt if it wrote the plan as an invitation rather than a statute.

The court's voice ruling shows the cost of delay: a line drawn by a judge that the plan must now accommodate, and the next line will be drawn the same way if the plan leaves gaps.

The Science Council's transition to a special corporation, on the same morning, gives the government an independent adviser it may wish it had not freed, and the council's view of the plan will be the first test of the new form.

The Diet session from Monday will ask who writes the plan and whether its oversight is statutory, and the government's answer will be read against the act it switched on this morning.

The FTC's inquiry is the ally's state reaching the same conclusion by its own route, and the alliance's AI framework would be strengthened by a Japanese plan the inquiry could cite.

The plan's deadline, the end of the year, is three months away, and the act's drafting took a decade; the template is the reason the plan can be faster.

A duty, a report and a power: the grammar is on the statute book; the plan has only to borrow it.

ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS: Three Million Part-Timers, the Foreign Residents and the Harassed Clerk: Who October 1 Reaches First

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News Reporter

The rules that took effect this morning are described on the front page as a list, and they are better understood as three groups of people whose lives changed at midnight.

The part-time workers who kept their earnings below 1.06 million yen to stay out of social insurance, millions of them and most of them women, can work more hours from today without the cliff, and the employers short of staff will ask them to.

The foreign residents who have lived in the country long enough to apply for permanence face an income test above the average household's from today, and the regional workers among them, on regional wages, are the ones the test turns away.

The clerks, the nurses, the drivers and the counter staff who have absorbed customers' abuse as a condition of the job are, from today, the subjects of mandatory countermeasures, and their employers' procedures are the law's first test.

The minimum wage's revision, from 1,280 yen in Tokyo to 1,085 in Miyazaki, reaches all three groups, and the 3,153 price rises in October reach them the same day.

The beer tax's unification, 9 yen off beer and 7 on the rest, is the day's small change, and the convenience stores show it first.

The census's count of foreign residents as the fastest-growing part of a shrinking population is the residency rule's irony: a country raising the bar for the people it most needs to keep.

The Diet session from Monday, with income-linked benefits for the lowest third and a food tax cut for all, continues the same accounting, and the long-term rate

above 3.0% is its limit.

The typhoon's passage and the capital's 35th day of rain are the weather the rules took effect in, and the roofers' order books are the month's other list.

Three groups, one morning: October 1, in the people it reaches.

SOCIETY

The Day's Warnings

Compiled by the Society Desk

Kanto: the storm's closest approach around noon; lightning, tornadoes and gusts.

Izu Islands: 120 mm in 24 hours; swells remain; ferries suspended.

Chiba: 50 mm on unstable ground; even light rain dangerous; Level 4 in force.

Tokyo: cloudy then sunny; map 24/15 partly cloudy; the streak at 35.

Choshi: the remnant passes offshore tomorrow, extratropical.

North: wind on Friday evening; Sapporo's low 8.

West: dry; Hiroshima's rain the exception.

Naha: sunny with isolated showers, 30 and 24.

Roofs: check from the ground after the gusts.

Check the meteorological agency for updates.

MORE INSIDE TODAY

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Japan Morning Post corrects errors of fact as soon as they are identified. Correction requests may be sent to corrections@japanmorningpost.com, giving the date, page and headline of the article concerned.

Yesterday's edition carried the Japan Meteorological Agency and tenki.jp track map issued at 3 a.m. on September 29, which forecast Typhoon No. 26 near 35.5N 143.5E at 9 p.m. on October 1 at 990 hPa with maximum winds of 25 m/s. Sankei News and Mainichi Shimbun report this morning that the storm is near the Izu Islands at about 1,000 to 1,002 hPa with maximum winds of 18 m/s, making its closest approach to the Kanto region around noon. The difference is a change in the forecast and in the storm, not an error in either report, and both are recorded here; the storm weakened faster and moved earlier than the map expected.

Yesterday's Japan weather map gave Tokyo cloudy then sunny for Wednesday, September 30, and yesterday's edition noted the difference from Asahi's forecast of an 80% chance of rain. The reports available this morning count the 30th as the capital's 35th consecutive day of rain. The map was printed as supplied and the difference was noted at the time; today's map gives Tokyo partly cloudy at 24 and 15, and the forecasters give cloudy then sunny.

The United States forecast map supplied for today's edition is titled for Friday, October 1, 2026, which is a Thursday. It again carries two boxes labelled Denver, both sunny at 70 and 45; it places snowflake symbols in the boxes for Kansas City, Houston and New York, each of which is labelled rain, and a rain symbol in the Washington box, labelled cloudy; and it gives Seattle snow showers at 48 degrees Fahrenheit. The map is reproduced as supplied and each feature is noted in the Weather Abroad column. The Japan map's subtitle says changing conditions are shown with arrows, and its legend includes a changing-to-rain arrow, but no box on the map carries an arrow; each city's single condition is used as printed.

The chart of the dollar-yen rate supplied for today's edition carries one horizontal-axis label as 114, where the 11th or 14th of September is intended, and a garbled value label near the 15th; the chart notes that data for January to March is not available in its source and that daily and monthly observations differ by timestamp and provider. The chart is reproduced as supplied and the figures are read as printed.

The reports available describe the plan for income-linked benefits with a 3-million-yen income ceiling as beginning in fiscal 2027 in one passage and in fiscal 2015 in another; the second is treated as a transcription error, and fiscal 2027 is used throughout. Wednesday's close of the Nikkei average is not included in the reports available; the opening figure of 67,106, up 352, implies a close near 66,754, and the figure is given on the economy pages as arithmetic rather than as a reported close.

For the fifth day the reports available describe the Aki Basho as 'nearing its end'; the tournament concluded on Sunday, and neither the champion nor the winner of the Japan Women's Open is named in the accounts available. The sports pages report the results as awaited rather than inferring them, and the desk apologises for the delay. The verdict in the Mito case, listed for Wednesday on the calendar carried earlier, remains absent from the reports available. The defendant and the remedies in the Tokyo District Court's voice-rights ruling for Kenjiro Tsuda were not included in Asahi's report and none are stated.

The editorial page's discussion of a luncheon, an accord and a renamed field refers to Taro Suzuki's cartoon and to the notes supplied with it; the news pages report the voluntary agreement signed at the White House as Kyodo reported it on Wednesday and the Federal Trade Commission's investigation as TV Asahi and Sankei report it, and do not assert the cartoon's scene as fact.

THE WEEK AHEAD

THURSDAY, OCT. 1: Typhoon No. 26's closest approach to Kanto around noon; 120 mm on the southern Izu Islands and 50 mm on Chiba's unstable ground; October's rules in force; the Nikkei opens the half-year at 67,106; the AI action plan announced for year-end; the Science Council a special corporation; Kyuden Holdings listed. FRIDAY, OCT. 2: The storm's remnant passes off Choshi as an extratropical cyclone; wind in the north by evening; the Kurobe

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Japan-first, alliance-first. Founded in service of accurate coverage of Japan's security, industry, families and culture.

OWNER: Paul Carter | PUBLISHER: WPM Productions

MANAGING EDITOR: Dixon Yan

SENIOR EDITOR, INTERNATIONAL DESK: Jonathan Mercer

POLITICS & POLICY: Michael Hayes, Deputy Editor | William, Senior Political Analyst

JAPAN BUREAU: Aiko Tanaka, Senior Japan Correspondent | Emi Kondo, Society & Local News

ECONOMICS & FINANCE: Yuki Saito | DATA & VISUALIZATION: Kenta Sakamoto

JAPAN-U.S. COVERAGE: Rachel Kim, Washington-Tokyo Liaison

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PHOTO EDITOR: Hiroshi Nakamura, Tokyo | GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Claire Reynolds

STAFF CARTOONIST: Taro Suzuki | CROSSWORD: James O'Neill, Editor & Constructor

COPY DESK: Benjamin Lee, Chief | Olivia Martinez, Features

MULTIMEDIA & VIDEO: Akira Watanabe | RESEARCH & ARCHIVE: Hana Ito

PAGE DESIGN & PRODUCTION: Daniel Foster

1-2-3 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004 | www.japanmorningpost.com | newsdesk@japanmorningpost.com

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Unazuki Canyon Route's official opening.

SATURDAY, OCT. 3: Komeito's convention confirms Mitsunari Okamoto as leader; the Asian Games football final, Japan v South Korea. SUNDAY, OCT. 4: The Asian Games close; the Yokohama mayoral campaign opens. MONDAY, OCT. 5: The extraordinary Diet session convenes, with the income-linked benefits and the consumption tax cut, against the census's 18 districts above two to one and the long-term rate above the budget's assumption. OCTOBER: Sushiro's Times Square opening; 3,153 price rises on the shelf; Shibuya's Halloween countermeasures. PENDING: the severe-disaster designation; Nidec's successor and the FSA's response; the rice buyback; the Hokkaido University discipline.

TYPHOON AND HEAVY RAIN ADVISORIES

Typhoon No. 26 is moving north near the Izu Islands with a central pressure of about 1,000 to 1,002 hPa and maximum winds of 18 m/s, and makes its closest approach to the Kanto region around noon today; it becomes an extratropical cyclone east of Japan on the 2nd, passing off the coast of Choshi (Sankei News, Mainichi Shimbun). The Japan Meteorological Agency warns of lightning, tornadoes and strong gusts. The 24-hour rainfall forecast is 120 mm for the southern Izu Islands and 50 mm for north-eastern and southern Chiba. Follow the agency's formal typhoon information, updated every few hours.

Chiba: the ground remains unstable after Typhoon No. 25 and even light rain can be dangerous; Level 4 landslide warnings remain in force; the Inbanuma levee closure, reinforced around the clock since Wednesday (NTV News), takes today's rain as the Tone River rises. Izu Islands: evacuation orders in force; ferries suspended; swells remain. Tokyo: 35 consecutive days of rain as of the 30th; today cloudy then sunny; the map's reading partly cloudy, 24 and 15. The autumn rain front is weakening but the Pacific side remains damp. Roof-leak repair requests run at more than five times last year's; the new rice harvest's quality inspections are being handled urgently.

MARKET REFERENCE

Tokyo: Nikkei 225 opened at 67,106, up 352, with semiconductor-related stocks leading (Zaikai Shimbun, Nihon Keizai Shimbun); Osaka Exchange December futures opened at 67,340, up 190. Wednesday's close is not included in the reports available; the open implies about 66,754. Tuesday's close: 65,481, down 396; TOPIX 4,041.13. Long-term rate: above 3.0% at the last reading. Yen: 157.97 to the dollar on the chart supplied for this edition, updated October 1; September range 153.50 (9th) to 160.03 (1st). BOJ policy rate: 1.25%. Nidec: net loss 564.6 billion yen; impairment 632.1 billion;

audit opinion withheld for the second consecutive year (Asahi Shimbun). Prices: 3,153 food and beverage items up in October on packaging costs and the yen (Japan Agricultural News, Teikoku Databank); gasoline 170.20 yen, flat under the subsidy. October 1: beer tax unified, beer about 9 yen cheaper and low-malt and third-category drinks about 7 yen dearer; the 1.06-million-yen wall abolished, the 20-hour requirement remaining; minimum wage Tokyo 1,280 yen to Miyazaki 1,085, a gap of 195; customer harassment countermeasures mandatory. Corporate: Kyuden Holdings established and listed on Prime; Sushiro's first U.S. restaurant in Times Square, with a 55% overseas sales target; Sakai Chemical considering increased capacitor-material production for AI servers. Policy: income-linked benefits with a 3-million-yen ceiling planned for fiscal 2027; the Diet convenes October 5.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS EDITION

Front page: Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi at the rostrum of the House of Representatives, a file image (Photo: WPM Productions). International: President Trump and the heads of AI companies at the White House luncheon at which a voluntary agreement was signed, with Elon Musk at the President's left (Photo: White House); military aircraft over last week's state visit arrival ceremony, a file image (White House Official). Economy: the chart of the dollar-yen rate through October 1, supplied for this edition; the Tokyo Stock Exchange at Kabutocho (Photo: TG2 (CC)). Weather Abroad: United States forecast map supplied for this edition. Weather: Japan forecast map for Thursday, October 1, supplied for this edition. Editorial page: cartoon by Taro Suzuki, Staff Cartoonist.

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The Japan Morning Post, Volume 2026, Number 273, is published daily by WPM Productions, Tokyo. Subscriptions, delivery and back issues: subscriptions@japanmorningpost.com. Letters to the editor: letters@japanmorningpost.com, with the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number; letters may be edited for length and clarity. Advertising: advertising@japanmorningpost.com. The crossword solution for Wednesday, September 30 appears with today's puzzle; today's solution appears tomorrow.

TOMORROW'S EDITION

Friday's edition carries the storm's passage off Choshi, the Izu Islands' and Chiba's counts and whether the capital's streak ended at 35; the Kurobe canyon route's opening; the Nikkei's half-year open in full and Nidec's next steps; the Komeito convention's eve; the Games' final days before Saturday's football final; the north's wind; and the Friday maps. The Aki Basho champion and the Japan Women's Open winner will be reported when the wires carry them.

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