

GMO Asks the Government to Use Its New Cyber Defence Powers for the First Time After an Intruder Demands Money and Threatens Customers

The attacker who broke into a cloud service for automated currency trading has threatened to keep draining accounts at more than 70 brokers and to attack users' computers; the company refuses to pay and will give every customer 5,000 yen

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent



SoftBank Hawks players celebrate after beating the Yokohama DeNA BayStars 3-1 in 11 innings in Game 1 of the Japan Series at Yokohama Stadium on Saturday night. Shoji drove in two runs, including the go-ahead double in the 11th, and Naoyuki Uezawa pitched seven scoreless innings. Report, Page 16. (Photo: Nippon Professional Baseball)

GMO Internet Group has asked the government to apply active cyber defence, the powers that took effect this month to let the state trace and neutralise the servers behind serious cyberattacks, after an intruder who broke into one of its cloud services demanded money and threatened to keep raiding customers' trading accounts.

The company said on Saturday that it had confirmed that customer information had been taken out of the service, Onamae.com Desktop Cloud, and that trades customers had not made had been placed in their accounts. If the government acts, it will be the first case since the law took effect on October 1, Kyodo News reported, citing the company.

The demand

In its fourth report on the attack, published on Saturday morning, GMO said it had received a demand for money from a person believed to be the attacker, who threatened to publish information about the company and its customers if it was not paid.

The threats included continuing to place unauthorised orders that drain the balances of customer accounts at more than 70 securities and foreign exchange firms in Japan and abroad, publishing information about the service and the customers' computers connected to it, carrying out ransomware attacks, and publishing information about the company's own systems and operations.

GMO said it would not pay, because payment would not guarantee that the stolen data was deleted or prevent its misuse. It has given its communication logs and other evidence to the police cybercrime unit and asked for a criminal investigation.

The service

Onamae.com Desktop Cloud, run by GMO Internet, rented out virtual Windows desktops for automated foreign exchange trading, on which customers ran trading software and kept the login details for their trading accounts. Up to 26,739 servers may have been affected, the company has said, according to Impress Watch.

GMO says a security flaw in the system allowed outsiders into the service environment. It confirmed on October 20 that an unauthorised program had been installed and suspended new sign-ups, and from 4 a.m. on October 21 it began shutting down the servers for all plans. Customers began reporting trades they had not made that day, and the company consulted the police on October 22.

The request

GMO said private companies alone could not stop cross-border criminal groups from stealing citizens' financial assets, and asked the government to take the lead in tracing, blocking and neutralising the attackers' infrastructure. It called the attack on ordinary people's trading accounts unprecedented and highly malicious, and offered to give all its logs and intrusion data to the government and investigators.

The new system allows the state to analyse communications data to detect attacks and permits the police and the Self-Defense Forces to neutralise attack servers under the oversight of an independent commission. Its reporting obligations cover operators of critical infrastructure in 15 designated sectors, such as electricity, finance and telecommunications, and the GMO group is not one of them, Impress Watch reported.

A cautious government

A government official told the Yomiuri Shimbun that the system "is not one that is activated in response to a request", signalling that any decision to use the powers would rest on the state's own assessment of the attack.

The Asahi Shimbun, which led its Sunday edition with the story, reported that the company faced threats of attacks on its customers' computers.

Compensation

Every current customer will receive 5,000 yen, whether or not they lost money, and details will be emailed by 11:59 p.m. on October 30. GMO will also compensate realised losses from trades it confirms were caused by the intrusion, deducting any refund a broker makes, and will pay even if a broker refuses to refund. It will announce how to claim by November 6.

The company will not restore the old system. Customers who want to keep using a Windows desktop will be offered a replacement service on an independent cloud platform, free for six months, and no one will be moved without consent.

What customers should do

GMO has asked customers to change the passwords for their trading accounts and trading tools, end all active sessions, check for trades they did not make and report any to their broker at once. It said it would never ask for passwords or PIN codes during the compensation process, and warned that the attacker might publish material, some of it possibly false, claiming to be about the company or its customers.

TYPHOONS

Champi, Now a Tropical Storm, Heads for Kyushu as a Front Threatens Heavy Rain From Kyushu to Kanto; Iriomote Records More Than 400 mm in a Day

The storm's centre is forecast to pass about 20 km north of Kagoshima on Monday afternoon and to become a low south of Shikoku; about 200 mm of rain is forecast for Kyushu by Monday morning

By the Weather Desk

Champi, Typhoon No. 30, weakened to a tropical storm in the East China Sea on Sunday morning and was heading for Kyushu, which it is expected to reach on Monday, as a front lying across Japan threatened heavy rain from Kyushu to Kanto.

At 6 a.m. the large storm was at 28.6 degrees north and 124.3 degrees east, moving north-east at 20 kilometres an hour, with a central pressure of 996 hectopascals and winds of 20 metres a second near the centre, gusting to 30, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency's bulletins.

It no longer has an area of storm-force winds, but gales of 15 metres a second or more extend 650 km to the east and 560 km to the west, still taking in Naha, Amami, Miyakojima and Ishigaki.

The track

The agency forecasts that the storm will still be at 996 hPa at 6 p.m. on Sunday and will weaken to 1,000 hPa by 6 a.m. on Monday, about 150 km south-southwest of the Goto Islands. On the forecast centre line it passes about 20 km north of Kagoshima on Monday afternoon, and it becomes an extratropical low of 1,002 hPa about 130 km south of Cape Muroto by 3 a.m. on Tuesday.

That is later than Saturday's forecast, which had the centre passing about 40 km north of Kagoshima on Monday morning, and it places the low south of Shikoku rather than off the Tokai coast.

Heavy rain

Warm, moist air drawn in by the storm is feeding a front that the agency expects to stay over western and eastern Japan through Monday. TV Asahi reported forecasts of about 200 mm of rain in Kyushu and about 150 mm in Shikoku by Monday morning, with warning-level rain possible from Kyushu to Kanto and gusts of up to 30 metres a second in northern Kyushu.

The agency has urged northern Kyushu to be on high alert for landslides through Monday and to watch for flooding of low-lying land and rising rivers, and has warned that heavy rain could persist for a long time near the Tsushima Strait.

Records in the south

On Iriomote, more than 400 mm of rain fell in 24 hours on Saturday, the most ever recorded at the observation point, and Ishigaki had a gust of 35 metres a second on Saturday morning, Kyodo News reported. In Yonaguni, a 7-year-old girl was hurt on the head on Friday when the wind broke a window at her home.

Far from the storm, the front made the air unstable over Tokai and Kinki. Kihoku, in Mie Prefecture, recorded 89.5 mm of rain in an hour on Saturday morning, its heaviest for October.

Okinawa calms

The weather service Weathernews said the severe weather in Okinawa was easing as the storm moved away, although high waves were continuing.

Travel

Delays and cancellations of flights, trains and expressway traffic are possible in western Japan from

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WEATHER — TOKYO

26°C

Low 17°C · Cloudy, then rain from around midday

Sapporo

17°

Osaka

27°

Fukuoka

23°

Naha

30°

Tokyo dry and warm at first, 26°C, with rain from around midday; heavy rain at times in Kyoto, Osaka and Nagoya; Sapporo sunny; Kagoshima 31°C; Champi, now a tropical storm at 996 hPa, crosses the East China Sea. Full weather, Page 12.

TODAY IN BRIEF

- Cyber: GMO asks the state to use its new active cyber defence powers after an intruder demands money.
- Storm: Champi, now a tropical storm, heads for Kyushu; heavy rain forecast from Kyushu to Kanto.
- Politics: Tamaki gives the LDP's 31-seat cut a qualified welcome; his party decides on Monday.
- World: 410,000 march across France; Kim Jong Un meets China's premier in Dandong.
- Society: new care applications up 68% in the areas worst hit by the Kumamoto earthquake.
- Sports: SoftBank beat DeNA 3-1 in 11 innings; Game 2 tonight in Yokohama.

CHAMPI

- 996 hPa, a tropical storm.
- Off Goto early Monday.
- Kyushu: about 200 mm.
- A low off Shikoku Tue.

TODAY

- Tokyo 26, rain by midday.
- Japan Series, 6 p.m.
- Kikuka Sho, 3:40 p.m.
- Europe's clocks go back.

MARKETS

Nikkei 225 (Fri)	62,693.16 ▼214.68
Topix (Fri)	3,965.81 ▼31.69
Dow (Fri)	52,215.16 ▼652.82
Nasdaq (Fri)	25,955.34 ▼53.52
NY crude (Fri)	\$103.27 ▲3.80
Yen (NY, Fri)	156.77-87 per \$
Bank of Japan	meets Oct. 29-30

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THE WEEK

- Mon. 26: Champi in Kyushu.
- Tue. 27: Israel votes.
- Oct. 28-29: Merz visits.
- Oct. 29-30: BOJ meets.

ALERTS

- SoftBank: back Monday.
- Docomo: Area Mail curbed.

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GMO Asks the Government to Use Its New Cyber Defence Powers for the First Time After an Intruder Demands Money and Threatens Customers

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The wider threat

The case comes as cyberattacks spread across Japan. The government held an emergency meeting of ministries on the rise in attacks on October 8, and companies and public bodies have taken services offline this week to deal with critical flaws in the programming language PHP. A Kyodo News analysis found that about 85,000 software vulnerabilities had been registered this year, 2.2 times as many as in the same period last year, as artificial intelligence makes

flaws easier to find.

The company apologised for the harm caused and acknowledged shortcomings in the service. It said it would take responsibility for compensation and prevention, would not tolerate attacks that damage customers' assets and trust in the internet, and would work with the authorities to keep the internet safe in the age of AI.

FROM PAGE 1

Champi, Now a Tropical Storm, Heads for Kyushu as a Front Threatens Heavy Rain From Kyushu to Kanto; Iriomote Records More Than 400 mm in a Day

Continued from Page 1

Sunday afternoon, News On Japan reported. Travellers should check with operators before setting out.

Alerts

Customers of SoftBank, Y!mobile and LINEMO are still without emergency alert mail, which the company has suspended until Monday because of the PHP flaws, and NTT Docomo's Area Mail is not carrying municipal evacuation information. Television, radio, municipal loudspeakers and disaster apps remain the surest sources of evacuation orders.

No. 31

Typhoon No. 31, In-fa, was a severe tropical storm north of the Marshall Islands at 6 a.m., at 996 hPa with winds of 25 metres a second, moving north at 10 kilometres an hour. It is forecast to become a strong typhoon by Monday morning and a very strong typhoon heading west by early Thursday, but has no direct effect on Japan for now.

TECHNOLOGY

What Active Cyber Defence Allows, and Why GMO's Request Is the System's First Test

The powers to analyse communications data and neutralise attack servers took effect on October 1; the designated operators they were built around do not include the GMO group
By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Japan's active cyber defence system was created by laws enacted in May last year to let the state act before a cyberattack does serious damage, rather than only clearing up afterwards. Its main provisions took effect on October 1.

The system rests on three pillars: closer co-operation between the government and private operators, the use of communications data to spot attacks, and the power to reach into and disable the servers attackers use.

Co-operation

Operators of critical infrastructure designated by the government must report serious incidents and tell the government about the equipment they use. The government in turn shares warnings and analysis with them.

The 15 sectors

The designated operators come from 15 sectors listed under the economic security law, including electricity, gas, water, railways, aviation, telecommunications, broadcasting, postal services and finance. The GMO group is not among them, Impress Watch reported.

Communications data

The government may analyse data passing through communications networks to detect attacks. The analysis is meant to cover the machine information that shows where traffic comes from and goes to, not the content of messages, and is overseen by an independent commission because of the constitutional protection of the secrecy of communications.

Neutralisation

The police, and in serious cases the Self-Defense Forces, may access servers used in attacks and disable them, including servers located overseas, with the approval of the independent commission. This is the power GMO wants used against the infrastructure of the attacker who broke into its Desktop Cloud service.

The government's view

The system was designed so that the state decides when to act. A government official told the Yomiuri Shimbun that it "is not one that is activated in response to a request".

Why the case matters

GMO argues that its customers are ordinary people whose financial assets are being stolen by a cross-border criminal group that no private company can stop alone. The government must weigh that against the system's focus on critical infrastructure and the precedent that a first use would set.

The new office

The National Cybersecurity Office, set up in July last year to replace the former national cybersecurity centre, co-ordinates the government's response. It gathered information for an emergency meeting of ministries on the rise in attacks on October 8.

Abroad

The United States and Britain already have agencies that act against hostile servers abroad. Japan's system was built partly to let it work alongside them, and its first use will be watched closely by allies as well as by companies at home.

TECHNOLOGY

The Desktop Cloud Attack: How It Unfolded

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

OCT. 19: Customer inquiries prompt GMO Internet to investigate its Onamae.com Desktop Cloud service.

OCT. 20: An unauthorised program is confirmed on the system; new sign-ups and the control panel are suspended.

OCT. 21: From 4 a.m., servers for all plans are shut down in turn; customers begin reporting trades they did not make.

OCT. 22: The company consults the police and issues its second report.

OCT. 23: Third report.

OCT. 24: Fourth report: customer data confirmed taken; a money demand disclosed and refused; active cyber defence requested.

UP TO 26,739: Servers that may have been affected.

MORE THAN 70: Securities and currency firms whose customers' accounts the attacker threatened to keep draining.

5,000 YEN: Paid to every customer; details by email by Oct. 30.

NOV. 6: The date by which GMO will announce how to claim for trading losses.

6 MONTHS: Free use of a replacement service for customers who choose to move.

HELP: help.onamae.com/contact or 03-5456-2560, 24 hours a day.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Tamaki and the seat cut, Page 4.

410,000 march in France, Page 6.

Kim crosses into China, Page 7.

TECHNOLOGY

If You Used the Service: GMO's Advice

By the Technology Desk

PASSWORDS: Change the passwords for trading accounts and trading tools.

SESSIONS: End all active log-in sessions.

ACCOUNTS: Check for trades you did not make.

REPORT: Tell your broker or exchange at once, and ask it to cancel the trades and refund the losses.

EVIDENCE: Keep a record of the date, content and amount of each unauthorised trade.

EMAIL: Watch for official notices by Oct. 30, on the payment and the replacement service, and by Nov. 6, on claims.

PIN CODES: GMO will never ask for passwords or PINs during the compensation process.

CONTACTS: Check any message claiming to be from GMO through its official channels.

LEAKS: The attacker may publish material about customers, some of it possibly false; rely only on official pages.

DOUBLE CLAIMS: Anyone paid by both a broker and GMO for the same loss may be asked to repay.

SOCIETY

The Week Ahead

By the Society Desk

SUN. 25: Japan Series Game 2, Yokohama, 6 p.m.; Kikuka Sho at Kyoto, 3:40 p.m.; Fukushima governor and Naha mayoral elections; Serbia votes; Europe's clocks go back; Mito Komon Manyu Marathon; national race walking championships at Takahata.

MON. 26: Champi crosses Kyushu as a tropical storm; SoftBank's alert mail due back; the Democratic Party for the People and Ishin decide on the 31-seat cut; BYD vehicles barred from Kadena.

TUE. 27: Japan Series Game 3 in Fukuoka; Israel votes; local ceasefire in Oleshky due to begin; inter-party talks on the lower house resume.

OCT. 27-28: U.S. Federal Reserve meets.

WED. 28: Japan Series Game 4; German Chancellor Friedrich Merz arrives for a two-day visit; 20 years since the Basic Act on Suicide Countermeasures took effect.

THU. 29: Japan Series Game 5, if needed. Bank of Japan meets on Oct. 29-30.

FRI. 30: GMO's payment details due; vice-capital law takes effect; U.S. tariff exemptions for some Canadian goods begin.

SAT. 31: Halloween; Japan Series Game 6, if needed, in Yokohama.

NOV. 1: Tax-free shopping switches to refunds; Japan Series Game 7, if needed; America's clocks go back.

NOV. 3: Culture Day and the Order of Culture ceremony; U.S. midterm elections; Ryuo match Game 3 in Kyoto, Nov. 3-4.

NOV. 6: GMO announces how to claim for trading losses.

NOV. 7: Japan v Wales in rugby's Nations Championship.

TYPHOONS

What It Means When a Typhoon Becomes an Extratropical Low

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The Japan Meteorological Agency expects Champi to become an extratropical low south of Shikoku by early Tuesday. The change describes the storm's structure, not its danger.

A typhoon draws its energy from warm, moist air over the sea and has a warm core, with its strongest winds packed near the centre.

The change

As it moves north into colder air and over cooler water, it begins to take in cold air and develops fronts, like the lows that cross Japan in other seasons. The agency then calls it an extratropical, or temperate, low.

Not harmless

The agency warns that an extratropical low can still bring strong winds and heavy rain. In some cases the area of strong winds spreads more widely after the transition, even as the winds near the centre weaken.

Rain on the front

A storm that feeds moisture into a stationary front can cause heavy rain far from its centre, which is why the agency has warned of heavy rain from Kyushu to Kanto while Champi is still west of Kyushu.

Lines and circles

Once a storm becomes a low, the agency stops issuing typhoon forecasts for it, and the circles and outlines disappear from the typhoon map. Warnings for wind, rain and high waves continue to be issued in the usual way.

The lesson

Past storms have done serious damage after losing their typhoon status, and the agency urges people to watch warnings rather than the storm's label.

TYPHOONS

In-fa Is Forecast to Become a Very Strong Typhoon by Thursday; Its 31st Place Makes 2026 One of the Busiest Seasons on Record

By the Weather Desk

Typhoon No. 31, In-fa, which formed near the Marshall Islands early on Saturday, is forecast to strengthen steadily over warm water this week, although it has no direct effect on Japan for now.

At 6 a.m. on Sunday it was a severe tropical storm at 11.5 degrees north and 165.4 degrees east, moving north at 10 kilometres an hour, with a central pressure of 996 hectopascals and winds of 25 metres a second, gusting to 35. Gales extended 220 km to the south-west and 165 km to the north-east.

The forecast

It is forecast to become a strong typhoon of 980 hectopascals by 6 a.m. on Monday and to linger north of the Marshall Islands, reaching 970 hectopascals by 3 a.m. on Tuesday and 960 hectopascals by 3 a.m. on Wednesday.

It is then expected to head west as a very strong typhoon, passing south-west of Wake Island on Thursday, with 955 hectopascals and winds of 45 metres a second at 3 a.m., and to reach 950 hectopascals by 3 a.m. on Friday.

Wake Island and Minamitorishima

At 3 a.m. on Friday, the end of the forecast period, In-fa is expected to be about 860 km south of Minamitorishima, in the sea area the agency calls the waters near Minamitorishima. The area that could have storm-force winds comes within about 130 km of Wake Island and stays about 250 km from Minamitorishima.

A busy year

In-fa is the 31st typhoon of the year. The last year with a 31st typhoon was 2013, and the Mainichi Shimbun reported that this is only the fifth time since records began in 1951 that 31 typhoons have formed by the end of October.

The average for a whole year is about 25, according to the agency's records.

The name

In-fa was contributed by Macau and means fireworks. Typhoon names come from a list of 140 submitted by the 14 members of the Typhoon Committee and are used in rotation.

The double storm

With Champi still active in the East China Sea, In-fa's formation briefly gave the western Pacific two named storms at once, one approaching Japan and one far out to the south-east.

Watch the swell

Even a distant typhoon can send long swells towards Japan's Pacific coast. The agency updates its forecasts every few hours, and mariners should follow them as In-fa strengthens.

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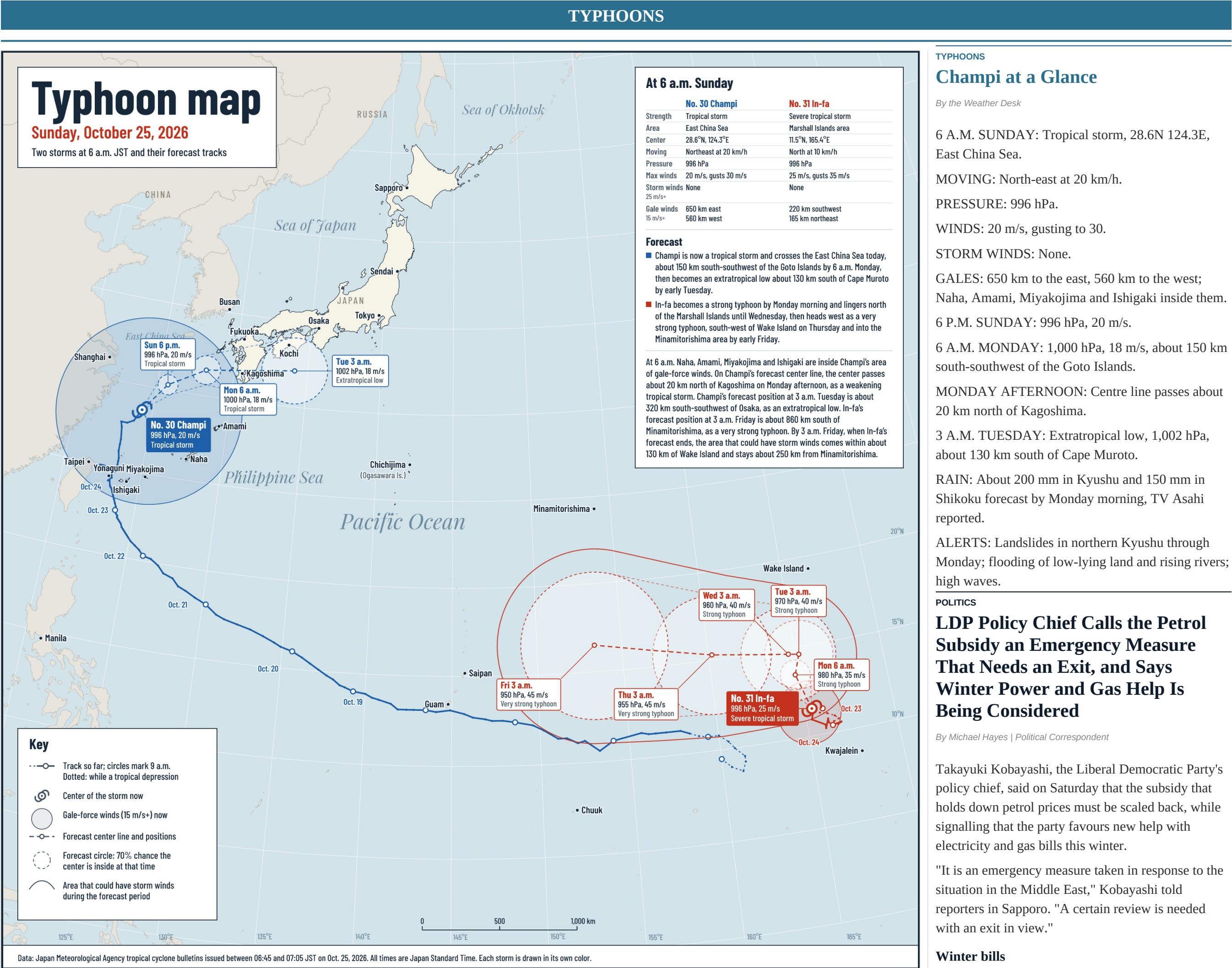
Crossword, Page 19.

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Kim crosses into China, Page 7.



Typhoon No. 30, Champi, and Typhoon No. 31, In-fa, at 6 a.m. on Sunday, with their forecast tracks, in the map supplied for this edition. Champi: a tropical storm in the East China Sea at 28.6N, 124.3E, moving north-east at 20 km/h, with a central pressure of 996 hPa and maximum winds of 20 m/s, gusting to 30. It no longer has storm-force winds; gales extend 650 km to the east and 560 km to the west, taking in Naha, Amami, Miyakojima and Ishigaki. Forecast: 996 hPa and 20 m/s at 6 p.m. Sunday; 1,000 hPa and 18 m/s about 150 km south-southwest of the Goto Islands at 6 a.m. Monday, its centre line passing about 20 km north of Kagoshima on Monday afternoon; and an extratropical low of 1,002 hPa about 130 km south of Cape Muroto, some 320 km south-southwest of Osaka, by 3 a.m. Tuesday. In-fa: a severe tropical storm north of the Marshall Islands at 11.5N, 165.4E, moving north at 10 km/h, at 996 hPa with winds of 25 m/s, gusting to 35, and gales 220 km to the south-west and 165 km to the north-east. It is forecast to become a strong typhoon of 980 hPa by 6 a.m. Monday, to linger north of the Marshall Islands until Wednesday, strengthening to 960 hPa, and then to head west as a very strong typhoon of 955 hPa south-west of Wake Island by 3 a.m. Thursday and of 950 hPa about 860 km south of Minamitorishima by 3 a.m. Friday, when the area that could have storm winds comes within about 130 km of Wake Island and stays about 250 km from Minamitorishima. Each dashed circle is where a centre is expected to be at that time with a probability of 70 per cent; the shaded circles show the gales now, and the solid red outline the area that could have storm-force winds during In-fa's forecast period. The lines from the south and east are the tracks so far, with circles at 9 a.m. each day. (Data: Japan Meteorological Agency tropical cyclone bulletins issued between 6:45 a.m. and 7:05 a.m. on October 25)

TYPHOONS

Champi Loses Its Storm-Force Winds but Keeps Its Gales, and Its Path Shifts West: Kagoshima on Monday Afternoon, a Low South of Shikoku by Tuesday

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

Typhoon No. 30, Champi, has become a tropical storm and is crossing the East China Sea towards Kyushu, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency bulletins issued between 6:45 a.m. and 7:05 a.m. on Sunday. The map on this page shows the storm at 6 a.m. and the agency's forecast positions until early Tuesday.

At 6 a.m. the storm was at 28.6 degrees north and 124.3 degrees east, moving north-east at 20 kilometres an hour. Its central pressure was 996 hectopascals and its winds near the centre 20 metres a second, with gusts of 30.

That is a large change in 22 hours. At 8 a.m. on Saturday, Champi was a strong typhoon of 975 hectopascals north of Yonaguni, with winds of 35 metres a second and storm-force winds extending 110 km from its centre.

The winds now

There is no longer an area of storm-force winds of 25 metres a second or more. Gales of 15 metres a second or more extend 650 km to the east and 560 km to the west, and at 6 a.m. Naha, Amami, Miyakojima and Ishigaki were all inside them, as the large blue circle on the map shows.

Sunday evening

By 6 p.m. on Sunday the storm is forecast to be north-east of its present position, still a tropical storm

of 996 hectopascals with winds of 20 metres a second.

Monday

By 6 a.m. on Monday it is expected to have weakened to 1,000 hectopascals, with winds of 18 metres a second, about 150 km south-southwest of the Goto Islands. On the forecast centre line, its centre passes about 20 km north of Kagoshima on Monday afternoon as a weakening tropical storm.

Tuesday

By 3 a.m. on Tuesday Champi is forecast to have become an extratropical low of 1,002 hectopascals, with winds of 18 metres a second, about 130 km south of Cape Muroto. That position is about 320 km south-southwest of Osaka.

How the forecast has changed

Saturday morning's forecast had the centre passing about 40 km north of Kagoshima on Monday morning and becoming a low of 1,004 hectopascals off the Tokai coast by 3 a.m. on Tuesday. Sunday's forecast brings it to southern Kyushu several hours later and ends the storm's tropical life farther west, south of Shikoku.

Why it matters

A weakening storm brings less wind but still carries a great deal of moisture. Champi is feeding warm,

humid air into a front that the agency expects to lie over western and eastern Japan through Monday, which is why heavy rain is forecast from Kyushu to Kanto, far from the storm's centre.

Reading the map

Each dashed circle is the area in which the centre is expected to be at that time, with a probability of 70 per cent. The shaded circle around the storm shows the area of gales now. The line from the south is the track so far, with circles at 9 a.m. each day; the dotted section is the period when Champi was still a tropical depression.

The second storm

Typhoon No. 31, In-fa, is drawn in red at the lower right, north of the Marshall Islands. The solid red outline is the area that could have storm-force winds during its forecast period, which ends at 3 a.m. on Friday.

TYPHOONS

Champi at a Glance

By the Weather Desk

6 A.M. SUNDAY: Tropical storm, 28.6N 124.3E, East China Sea.

MOVING: North-east at 20 km/h.

PRESSURE: 996 hPa.

WINDS: 20 m/s, gusting to 30.

STORM WINDS: None.

GALES: 650 km to the east, 560 km to the west; Naha, Amami, Miyakojima and Ishigaki inside them.

6 P.M. SUNDAY: 996 hPa, 20 m/s.

6 A.M. MONDAY: 1,000 hPa, 18 m/s, about 150 km south-southwest of the Goto Islands.

MONDAY AFTERNOON: Centre line passes about 20 km north of Kagoshima.

3 A.M. TUESDAY: Extratropical low, 1,002 hPa, about 130 km south of Cape Muroto.

RAIN: About 200 mm in Kyushu and 150 mm in Shikoku forecast by Monday morning, TV Asahi reported.

ALERTS: Landslides in northern Kyushu through Monday; flooding of low-lying land and rising rivers; high waves.

POLITICS

LDP Policy Chief Calls the Petrol Subsidy an Emergency Measure That Needs an Exit, and Says Winter Power and Gas Help Is Being Considered

By Michael Hayes | Political Correspondent

Takayuki Kobayashi, the Liberal Democratic Party's policy chief, said on Saturday that the subsidy that holds down petrol prices must be scaled back, while signalling that the party favours new help with electricity and gas bills this winter.

"It is an emergency measure taken in response to the situation in the Middle East," Kobayashi told reporters in Sapporo. "A certain review is needed with an exit in view."

Winter bills

He said the party was looking positively at subsidies for electricity and gas in winter, citing the harsh season ahead and rising prices and saying the aim was to protect people's livelihoods. He did not give amounts or a timetable.

The prime minister's order

On Friday Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi instructed Ryosei Akazawa, the economy, trade and industry minister, to review the petrol subsidy. The review is considering gradually reducing the payments and eventually ending them.

The numbers

The subsidy holds the national average price of regular petrol at about 170 yen a litre. TV Asahi has reported that the government is considering letting the price rise by about 3 or 5 yen a litre a month from as early as December, and the Yomiuri Shimbun has reported a target of about 180 yen.

The oil price

New York crude closed at \$103.27 a barrel on Friday, up \$3.80, on fears that fighting between Yemen's Houthi movement and Saudi Arabia would disrupt supplies further. On Saturday the Houthis said they had attacked a Saudi pipeline that carries crude to the Red Sea coast, away from the blockaded Strait of Hormuz.

The politics

Petrol prices weigh heavily on households in rural areas, where people depend on cars. Kobayashi linked the two issues in the same remarks, pairing a review of the petrol subsidy with possible help on winter energy bills.

Refiners

TV Asahi also reported that Takaichi had instructed the economy minister to consider how future subsidies paid through oil refiners and others should work.

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POLITICS



Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi at the rostrum of the House of Representatives, in a file photo. Her Liberal Democratic Party's plan to cut 31 proportional representation seats from the lower house won a qualified welcome from Yuichiro Tamaki, leader of the Democratic Party for the People, on Saturday; his party decides on Monday. (File photo: WPM Productions)

POLITICS

Tamaki Gives the LDP's 31-Seat Cut a Qualified Welcome, Saying Population Decline Offers 'a Basis'; His Party Decides on Monday

The Democratic Party for the People's backing would give the Liberal Democrats the support they need after Komeito said it would oppose cutting only proportional seats

By Michael Hayes | Political Correspondent

Yuichiro Tamaki, leader of the Democratic Party for the People, has given a qualified welcome to the Liberal Democratic Party's plan to cut 31 proportional representation seats from the House of Representatives, saying the falling population provides a basis for reducing the number of lawmakers.

"One basis, population decline, has been shown," Tamaki told reporters in Koriyama, Fukushima Prefecture, on Saturday. He said the plan was consistent with his party's long-standing position.

He stopped short of a final decision. The party will decide whether to support the plan at a meeting on Monday, when Nippon Ishin no Kai is also due to set out its position.

The plan

At inter-party talks on electoral reform on Thursday, the Liberal Democrats proposed cutting 31 seats from the proportional representation section of the lower house and switching the formula used to allocate those seats to a modified version of the Sainte-Lague method, which would make it easier for smaller parties to win seats.

The change of formula is widely seen as an effort to win over smaller parties whose support the LDP needs to pass the bill.

Ishin and Komeito

Nippon Ishin no Kai has pressed hard for a cut of 45 seats. Komeito decided on Friday to oppose the LDP plan, arguing that there was little justification for cutting only proportional seats, and has said it would engage seriously if the cuts were split between single-seat districts and proportional seats in a ratio of three to two.

Watching Sanseito

The positions of the Democratic Party for the People and of Sanseito are being closely watched, Kyodo News reported, because their support could decide whether the plan has a majority.

The Yomiuri's account

The Yomiuri Shimbun reported that Tamaki showed some understanding for the LDP's compromise plan, quoting him as saying that "the basis has been shown".

Why it matters

Reducing the number of lawmakers has long been promised by parties seeking to show that politicians share the burden of reform, but every proposed cut changes the map for someone. Proportional seats matter most to smaller parties, whose candidates rarely win single-seat districts.

The talks

The inter-party talks on the lower house resume on Tuesday. The extraordinary Diet session runs until December 12.

Tamaki's travels

Tamaki was in Fukushima Prefecture on the eve of Sunday's governor's election, in which Governor Masao Uchibori, seeking a fourth term, is backed by local branches of parties including the Democratic Party for the People.

Out of the cabinet

He left the cabinet in the September reshuffle and has been travelling around the regions, a tour widely seen as preparation for a future run for the leadership of the Liberal Democratic Party, Kyodo News reported.

Peppers

After the speech he visited a facility growing green peppers in Saito, in Miyazaki, one of the main pepper-producing prefectures.

The bill

The government plans to cut the consumption tax on food from 8 per cent to 1 per cent for two years. The bill is being debated in the extraordinary Diet session, and NHK reported that substantive deliberations had begun, with debate continuing over subsidies and other measures.

The leadership

Hayashi ran for the party leadership in October last year, in the election that Takaichi won.

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POLITICS

Edano Urges the Constitutional Democrats and the Democratic Reform Association to Settle Their Talks on Reuniting Before Next Spring's Local Elections

By the Political Desk

Yukio Edano, a former leader of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, called on Saturday for an early conclusion to talks on reuniting the party with the Democratic Reform Association.

Speaking at a meeting in Saitama, he pointed to the unified local elections next spring and the House of Councillors election in 2028 as reasons not to delay.

His hopes

"I hope the party will show how it will accept people who want to rejoin, and its outlook for fielding candidates for the next general election," he said.

Back to the start

Edano founded the Constitutional Democratic Party in 2017. "I want to keep working to return to the starting point of the party's founding in 2017," he said, adding that he would decide his own course in light of the party's policy.

His defeat

Edano lost his seat in February's general election, in which he stood as a candidate of the Centrist Reform Alliance.

The Democratic Reform Association

The Democratic Reform Association is led by Junya Ogawa, who has urged caution over the Liberal Democrats' plan to cut 31 proportional seats from the lower house and called for the parties not to rush.

The opposition's problem

The centre-left has divided and regrouped several times since the Democratic Party lost power in 2012.

The timing

The unified local elections are held every four years in April, and the next round falls in the spring of 2027.

No date

He did not say when he expected a decision, and neither party has set a deadline.

POLITICS

Government to Step Up Publicity Before Revising the Security Documents, With Celebrity Videos for the Young and TV Commercials for Their Parents

Concepts such as a 'new way of fighting' and 'sustained response capability' are unfamiliar to most people, and a large rise in defence spending is expected

By Michael Hayes | Political Correspondent

The government will expand its publicity on security policy from the end of this month, ahead of revising the three national security documents, including the National Security Strategy, by the end of the year, people familiar with the plan told Kyodo News on Saturday.

It will use different media for different age groups, with online video and social media aimed mainly at the young and television commercials reaching all ages.

For the young

The Prime Minister's Office and the National Security Secretariat will lead the production of videos featuring celebrities, to be shown on YouTube and Instagram. Advertisements will also appear on the Tokyo Metro and at the Shibuya scramble crossing, with the message that security is closely linked to everyday life.

For their parents

Middle-aged and older people will be reached through social media, television commercials and advertising in shopping malls that draw families, explaining how security connects with family life and everyday safety.

The new concepts

The revision is expected to be built around a "new way of fighting" and a "sustained response capability" for a long conflict, concepts that most people have never heard of, Kyodo said.

The money

A substantial increase in defence spending is expected, and how to pay for it is likely to provoke debate about the burden on the public. The government wants to shape opinion before that debate begins.

The Asahi's warning

The Asahi Shimbun used an editorial on Sunday to express concern about an excessive expansion of defence spending.

Industry

The Yomiuri Shimbun reported that the government will draw up a strategy for the defence industrial base by the end of the year to foster dual-use industries such as artificial intelligence, with the aim of securing the ability to keep fighting.

American pressure

Nikkei Asia reported that Japan is weighing whether to count spending on energy and artificial intelligence as defence spending, as the Trump administration presses allies to spend more.

The documents

The three documents were last revised in December 2022, when the government committed to raising defence and related spending to 2 per cent of gross domestic product by fiscal 2027 and to acquiring the capability to strike enemy bases.

POLITICS

With the Revised Imperial Law in Force, the Government and Ruling Party Remain Wary of Female Emperors as the Opposition Calls for an Expert Panel

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The government and the ruling Liberal Democrats remain wary of discussing female emperors or imperial branches headed by women, even as the revised Imperial House Law took effect on Saturday, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported, while opposition parties are calling for a panel of experts to examine a stable succession.

The revised law lets women of the imperial family keep their status when they marry and allows the adoption of male-line descendants of 11 former branch houses, but it leaves the rule limiting the throne to men in the male line unchanged.

The resolution

When the law was enacted, the Diet stated that a stable succession would continue to be considered, a commitment the Yomiuri said had not yet been followed by substantive discussion.

The United Nations

On Friday the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women published a general recommendation identifying gender stereotypes as a cause of discrimination and stating that tradition and culture cannot be used to justify it.

The recommendation, addressed to all 189 states that are party to the convention, including Japan, is not aimed at any particular country. It lists family relations, including changes of surname, employment, education and political participation as areas where stereotypes persist.

Japan's review

In 2024 the committee's concluding observations on Japan called for the introduction of optional separate surnames for married couples and for amendment of the Imperial House Law, which limits the succession to men in the male line. Japan's government protested at the time that the imperial succession was not a matter for the committee.

Artificial intelligence

The new recommendation also warns that the way AI systems are trained and display results can produce gender bias, and calls for oversight of AI decisions that affect women's rights, along with remedies.

The palace

On Saturday, the day the law took effect, the Emperor and his daughter, Princess Aiko, attended the autumn gagaku concert at the Imperial Palace.

The family

The imperial family has 16 members, and three men are in the line of succession: Crown Prince Akishino, Prince Hisahito and Prince Hitachi.

POLITICS

What comes next

How any adoption would work in practice, and whether the debate on the succession itself resumes, will be decided by the government and the Diet, with the Imperial House Council required to approve any adoption.

POLITICS

Foreign Residents' Dependants May Now Work Part Time in Pachinko and Mahjong Parlours After Immigration Rules Were Quietly Eased

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The Immigration Services Agency has begun allowing some foreign residents to work part time at pachinko parlours, mahjong parlours and game centres, businesses regulated under the law on entertainment businesses, Kyodo News reported on Saturday, citing the agency.

The change in practice took effect on October 1 and applies to the spouses and children of foreign workers who hold "dependent" residence status and receive individual permission to work outside that status.

The conditions

Work is limited to 28 hours a week, the same cap that applies to other part-time work under the permission. Work connected with the sex industry remains prohibited.

Why

The gaming industry, short of workers, had asked to be able to hire foreign residents. Officials also considered it unfair that horse racing and bicycle racing venues, which are not covered by the entertainment business law, could already employ people with such permission while gaming businesses could not.

The police

The agency consulted the National Police Agency, which oversees the entertainment business law, and concluded that working conditions at pachinko parlours and similar businesses posed no problem.

The background

Japan relies increasingly on foreign workers in retail, restaurants and other service industries, and the number of foreign residents has reached a record. The government is also preparing to replace the technical intern programme with a new training and employment system next April.

The source

Kyodo News learned of the change from the agency.

The industry

Pachinko parlours, once a fixture of every shopping street, have been closing for years as the number of players falls, but those that remain have struggled to recruit staff.

POLITICS

Anti-Nuclear Mayors Visit Hamaoka and Call for Its Three Reactors to Be Decommissioned 'as Soon as Possible'

By the Political Desk

A group of current and former mayors who want Japan to give up nuclear power visited Chubu Electric Power's Hamaoka nuclear plant in Omaezaki, Shizuoka Prefecture, on Saturday and called for its reactors to be decommissioned as soon as possible.

Six members of the Mayors' Conference Aiming for a Nuclear Phase-out, including Katsunobu Sakurai, a former mayor of Minamisoma in Fukushima Prefecture, received a briefing and spent about an hour inspecting safety equipment, including the sea wall, in a visit closed to the press.

The statement

In an emergency statement issued afterwards, the group called on Chubu Electric to abandon restarts with no prospect of success and to decide as soon as possible to decommission Units 3, 4 and 5.

Data problem

The visit followed the discovery of a data falsification problem at Chubu Electric, which has added to doubts about the plant's future.

Sakurai's view

"Citizens were made to evacuate to protect their own lives and their families' lives," Sakurai told a news

conference, recalling the 2011 disaster. He said that making an evacuation plan a condition for operating a plant was itself a problem.

Fading memories

Kazuo Sato, a former mayor of Koganei in Tokyo and the group's secretary general, said the sense of danger that mayors across the country felt after the disaster had weakened, and called that a problem.

The plant

Hamaoka stands near the expected focus of a Nankai Trough earthquake. All its reactors were shut down in 2011 at the request of the government of the time, and Units 1 and 2 are being decommissioned.

Chubu Electric

The company has sought to restart Units 3 and 4 and has built a sea wall to protect the site from tsunamis.

The debate

The government's energy plan calls for making maximum use of nuclear power as a stable, low-carbon source, while the mayors' group argues that the risks to nearby communities are too great.

POLITICS

Stickers of the Prime Minister and Her Ministers Become the Diet Shop's Summer Hit, and Opposition Parties Join In

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Stickers featuring Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and members of her cabinet have become the best-selling souvenir at the shop inside the National Diet Building, Kyodo News reported on Saturday.

The set, called "Kokkai no Nakama-tachi", roughly "Friends in the Diet", went on sale in July for 1,320 yen and has a raised, three-dimensional surface.

Popular characters

Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Hirofumi Yoshimura, leader of Nippon Ishin no Kai, also appear as characters.

Sales

On some days more than 100 sets were sold. "It was the most popular product this summer," said Norio Nakai of the company that runs the shop. "Many people bought them for their children and grandchildren."

A young market

Stickers are popular with young people, who collect and trade them, and Nakai said it was striking because traditional Diet souvenirs had rarely been aimed at the young.

The old favourites

Those include biscuits and steamed buns printed with a caricature of the prime minister of the day, and cups and mugs showing all past prime ministers together.

The opposition

Some opposition parties also see stickers as a way to build their strength and broaden support, and some sell them online, Kyodo said.

A second set

A second set featuring the new line-up after the cabinet reshuffle is planned.

The building

The Diet Building, completed in 1936, is a regular stop for school trips to Tokyo.

POLITICS

Politics in Brief

By the Political Desk

POPULATION: The government's draft discussion points for a comprehensive strategy for a society with a falling population rest on four pillars, including reversing the decline in the birth rate, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

TAKAICHI'S STYLE: The prime minister has met bureaucrats far less often than her predecessors during her first year, preferring to read documents thoroughly, the Yomiuri reported.

ONE YEAR: "We have been running nonstop," Takaichi said of her first year in office, TV Asahi reported.

GERMANY: Takaichi will urge German Chancellor Friedrich Merz to support favourable treatment for Japanese electric vehicles in the European Union when he visits on Wednesday and Thursday, Nikkei Asia reported.

CHINA: The head of the National Defense Academy said Japan needs "three red lines" in dealing with China, Nikkei Asia reported.

CYBERSECURITY: A Liberal Democratic Party task force asked the economy minister to strengthen cybersecurity support for small and medium-sized companies, Reuters reported.

TAX BILL: Substantive deliberation of the bill to cut the consumption tax on food has begun, NHK reported.

EDITORIALS: The Asahi Shimbun's editorials on Sunday expressed concern about an excessive expansion of defence spending and called for stronger measures against customer harassment.

MATSUI: Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said the government would be "watching to see how history is made" under Hideki Matsui, the Giants' new manager, TV Asahi reported.

ELECTIONS: Fukushima elects a governor and Naha a mayor on Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL

Obama Campaigns in Ohio and Michigan, Blaming Trump's War With Iran for High Petrol Prices as Democrats Bet on His Enduring Appeal

The former president backs a left-wing Senate candidate in Detroit, where some moderate Black voters are said to be wary

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

Former President Barack Obama campaigned in Ohio and Michigan on Saturday, two Midwestern states with close Senate races, as Democrats try to use his lasting popularity to win back both houses of Congress in the midterm elections on November 3, Kyodo News reported from Detroit.

At a rally in Detroit, Obama backed Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic candidate for the Senate in Michigan, whom Kyodo described as being on the radical left of the party.

Petrol prices

Obama blamed President Donald Trump for rising petrol prices, linking them to the military operation against Iran. "He started a war that nobody wanted," he said.

Cleveland

Earlier in the day Obama spoke at a rally in Cleveland, Ohio, and urged voters to support the party's candidates.

The wary

Black Democrats tend to be moderates who may dislike radical policies, and some may hesitate to vote for El-Sayed, Kyodo reported.

The endorsement

El-Sayed's campaign has been publicising Obama's support, pointing out that he was the first Black president, to shore up its backing.

Still popular

Nearly 10 years after leaving office, Obama remains popular, and Democrats hope his appeal will draw votes, including from independents.

The stakes

The Republicans are reported to be struggling, and Trump has said he would veto all their bills if the Democrats won back the House or the Senate. Trump voted early in Florida on Saturday, saying that presidents usually struggle in midterms "but not this time".

Ineligible

In a New York Times and Siena poll published on Saturday on the 2028 presidential race, some respondents chose Obama, although he has served two terms and is barred from running again.

The issues

Distrust of vaccines, an issue linked to the administration, and data centres built for artificial intelligence, which have prompted protests across the country, have also become issues in the campaign, the Asahi Shimbun and TV Asahi reported.

The map

Michigan and Ohio are among the states where Senate control could be decided. Democrats need to gain seats in both houses to take back control of Congress.

INTERNATIONAL

Pentagon Declares Confucius Institutes a Threat to National Security and Says They Have 'Come Back Under Different Names'

By the International Desk

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth has designated the Confucius Institutes at American universities a threat to national security, saying they steal intellectual property and "get into the minds of American students", Kyodo News reported from Washington.

Hegseth announced the decision on Friday in a video posted on social media. He said 80 bases of propaganda activity had been identified at 30 universities.

New names

He said the institutes had "come back under different names" and that their influence must not be allowed to creep back, an apparent reference to Chinese-language education centres that have been renamed.

The first Trump administration

During Trump's first term, the U.S. government accused the institutes of serving as tools of Chinese Communist Party propaganda. Congress in effect barred Defense Department funding for universities that hosted them, and most closed.

The numbers

The Congressional Research Service reported in 2023 that the first Confucius Institute opened in Seoul in 2004 and that the United States had about 120 by 2017.

Japan

In Japan, the first institute was set up at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto in 2005, and about 10 are believed to operate today.

China's view

China has said the institutes promote language learning and cultural exchange and has rejected accusations that they spread propaganda.

The timing

The announcement comes as Trump prepares to travel to Asia next month, a trip on which he has signalled interest in meeting leaders including North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

INTERNATIONAL

World in Brief

By the International Desk

SERBIA: Serbians vote on Sunday in a snap parliamentary election that pits the long-dominant ruling party against a new force led by students, the Asahi Shimbun reported.

BRITAIN: The British government has called on households to keep three days' worth of food and water in case of disasters and cyberattacks, the Asahi reported.

KOREAS: North Korea warned that loudspeakers on the inter-Korean border were on standby and called South Korean accusations of a border crossing baseless, the Asahi reported.

MIDTERMS: "Democratic socialism" is gaining ground in the U.S. midterm campaign, drawing support from young voters frustrated by inequality, Kyodo News reported.

OBAMA: Former President Barack Obama campaigned for Democratic candidates in Ohio and Michigan, blaming the war with Iran for high petrol prices.

UKRAINE: The local ceasefire in the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky, arranged with American mediation, is due to begin on Tuesday.

MIDDLE EAST: Yemen's Houthis said they had attacked Saudi Arabia's east-west oil pipeline, and Riyadh said missiles had flown towards Mecca and Medina.

TAJIKISTAN: Professors from Akita University have launched a decarbonisation project in Tajikistan, NHK reported.

GERMANY: Police detained one person after a fire badly damaged the Kehlsteinhaus, the mountain retreat built for Hitler above Berchtesgaden.

CLOCKS: Clocks in most of Europe go back an hour on Sunday, leaving London nine hours behind Japan and Paris eight. Clocks in the United States go back on November 1.

INTERNATIONAL



Riot police and protesters in a haze of tear gas on a Paris street, in a file image. About 410,000 people demonstrated across France on Saturday in the first large protests since the riots of October 17; police used tear gas and water cannon at the end of the Paris march, and about 1,000 people were detained nationwide. (File photo: WPM Productions)

INTERNATIONAL

410,000 March Across France Under Heavy Guard in the First Big Protest Since the Riots; About 1,000 Detained and Clashes Mark the End of the Paris March

Only union-organised demonstrations were allowed; 10,000 people defied a ban in Lyon, shops were looted in Marseille, and the interior minister said the day had passed off peacefully

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

About 410,000 people joined demonstrations across France on Saturday to demand action on the cost of living and better schools, the first large protests since the riots that followed demonstrations on October 17, the Interior Ministry said.

About 110,000 marched in Paris, where some protesters threw stones and bottles at riot police near the end of the march and the police responded with tear gas and water cannon. About 1,000 people were detained nationwide, Kyodo News reported from Paris.

Heavy security

The government deployed 70,000 police officers across the country, along with military units on counter-terrorism duty, and allowed only demonstrations organised by trade unions.

The Paris police changed the route of the march, which had been due to start at the Place de la Bastille, a symbol of the French Revolution, and moved it to the south of the city because of the risk of renewed rioting and the shooting in the suburbs on Friday.

Lyon and Marseille

In Lyon, where demonstrations in the city centre were banned, about 10,000 people gathered in the streets anyway, and the police used tear gas to try to disperse them, local media reported, although some carried on marching. In Marseille several shops were looted and damaged.

The minister

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said on Saturday evening that the demonstrations had proceeded peacefully, that many attempts at looting had been prevented, and that, unlike on October 17, there had been no attacks on public buildings.

INTERNATIONAL

French High School Leader Condemns the Riots: 'Violence Undermines Our Demands', and the Looters Have Nothing to Do With Us

By the International Desk

The 17-year-old leader of one of the French high school students' groups that have called protests over education has condemned the riots that broke out across France, saying that violence undermines the credibility of the students' demands.

In an online interview with Kyodo News on Thursday, the student, who attends a high school in Toulouse, said the attacks and looting had been carried out by people who had nothing to do with the protests.

The masked group

During a blockade at his school, a masked group appeared and broke the school gate. Footage of the damage was broadcast, he said, leading people to believe wrongly that the students were responsible.

The police

He criticised the police, arguing that suppressing protesting students made some of them want to provoke the officers in return. "Violence begets violence," he said.

The demands

Marchers in Paris carried placards calling for "lower living costs" and "a budget for schools", and many criticised President Emmanuel Macron for restricting demonstrations.

The young

High school students, who have protested since September over teacher shortages, ageing buildings and an opaque university admissions system, joined the march. "Young people will take to the streets," some chanted, and "We are here."

"The authorities are repressive," Arena, a 16-year-old high school student, told Kyodo. "We also need to assert the right to demonstrate."

The shooting

On Friday a man fired on people in a Paris suburb, killing one and injuring five. The authorities are investigating it as a terrorist attack with a racist motive, and some see it as an attack on citizens of immigrant background.

The background

The riots on October 17 began after protests in several cities, and the authorities imposed curfews in some areas. Macron met representatives of the high school students for the first time on Friday, but the students said afterwards that he had listened without giving concrete answers to their demands.

The restrictions

He called the government's restrictions on demonstrations "unacceptable".

The demands

The group wants the teacher shortage solved, ageing school buildings renovated and the selection system for university entrance, which it says lacks transparency, reformed.

The minister

The group has met the education minister, but the student said the answers so far had not matched their demands and that the movement would continue.

Macron

President Emmanuel Macron met representatives of the high school students for the first time on Friday, and indicated a comprehensive review of university admissions. The students said afterwards that he had listened but given no concrete answers.

The money

The students have called for a renovation plan for school buildings costing 1.5 billion euros.

The march

Students joined Saturday's union-organised march in Paris, the first large demonstration since the riots of October 17.

INTERNATIONAL

Vance Leads the Republican Field for 2028 With 33 Per Cent in a Times-Siena Poll, While Harris Tops a Crowded Democratic Race With Only 12

By the International Desk

Vice President JD Vance leads the race for the Republican presidential nomination in 2028, while the Democratic contest is wide open, according to a poll published by The New York Times on Saturday.

The poll by The New York Times and Siena College surveyed about 3,500 people from October 12 to 19, Kyodo News reported.

The Republicans

Vance was first among Republicans with 33 per cent, followed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio with 23 per cent. Donald Trump, who is barred by the Constitution from a third term, was third with 8 per cent, and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis fourth with 3 per cent.

Sixty-three per cent of Republican supporters said they wanted the next candidate to continue Trump's policies.

The Democrats

Former Vice President Kamala Harris led the Democrats with 12 per cent, followed by California Governor Gavin Newsom with 9 per cent, former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg with 7 per cent, Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez with 6 per cent and Senator Jon Ossoff with 4 per cent.

The gaps among them were slight, and nearly half of Democratic supporters had not chosen a candidate.

The ineligible

Some respondents chose former President Barack Obama, who has served two terms, and New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who was born outside the United States. Neither is eligible to run.

The rally

Vance has been campaigning for Republican candidates before the midterms and appeared at a rally in North Platte, Nebraska, on Thursday.

Rubio

Rubio's strong showing comes as he leads the administration's diplomacy, including its policy on Cuba, which Trump said on Friday he would "take care of" after dealing with Iran.

Early days

The first nominating contests are more than a year away, and polls this early have often been poor guides to the eventual nominees.

INTERNATIONAL

Israel Votes: At a Glance

By the International Desk

VOTE: Tuesday, October 27.

SEATS: 120 in the Knesset; 61 for a majority.

FINAL MAARIV POLL: Netanyahu's opponents 54, his camp 48.

LARGEST PARTY: Yashar, led by Gadi Eisenkot, with 21 seats in that poll.

LIKUD: 19 seats in the same poll.

OTHER SURVEYS: Some showed the two camps level at 51 each.

THE RALLY: More than 100,000 in Tel Aviv on Saturday, according to the organisers.

THE DEMAND: A state commission of inquiry into the attack of October 7, 2023.

NETANYAHU: About 19 years in office in all, the longest in Israel's history.

AFTERWARDS: Coalition talks could take weeks.

INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine's Chief Negotiator Says the Oleshky Ceasefire Could Open the Way to a Wider Halt if It Works; Starlink Limits Lifted

By the International Desk

Ukraine's chief negotiator said on Saturday that the local ceasefire due to begin in the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky on Tuesday could create "a new opportunity" for a wider halt to the fighting if it succeeds.

Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian parliament's

commissioner for human rights and the country's chief negotiator on the ceasefire, spoke to Kyodo News online in his first interview with Japanese media since it was announced.

The challenge

"Managing the ceasefire will be the main challenge," he said. Whether it is actually observed is the key question.

The plan

After the ceasefire takes effect, he said, landmines will be cleared from the road leading to Oleshky, food, water and other supplies will be brought in, and residents who wish to leave will be moved out.

The scope

Lubinets described the area covered as "the whole of Kherson region and the areas used to transport humanitarian supplies". Ukraine's military has not specified the scope, while Russia's military describes it as "the Kherson direction, including Oleshky".

The town

Oleshky, on the left bank of the Dnipro in Kherson region, has been cut off under Russian occupation and faces a humanitarian crisis. Russia and Ukraine each announced the local ceasefire on Friday, with the United States mediating.

Talks

President Volodymyr Zelensky has said talks between Ukraine, Russia and the United States are expected in Abu Dhabi in the first half of November.

Starlink

Ukraine's defence minister said on Saturday that restrictions on the Ukrainian military's use of Starlink, the American satellite communications network, had been lifted. A Ukrainian defence official had said on Friday that the limits were still in place.

Why it matters

Starlink terminals are used widely by Ukrainian forces for communications and to guide drones, and limits on their use had slowed some drones, according to the official.

The first lady

The White House has said the ceasefire arrangement was led by Melania Trump.

INTERNATIONAL

Fire Badly Damages the Eagle's Nest, the Mountain Retreat Built for Hitler Above Berchtesgaden; One Person Detained

By the International Desk

A fire on Friday night badly damaged the Kehlsteinhaus, the mountain retreat built for Adolf Hitler above Berchtesgaden in southern Germany and known in English as the Eagle's Nest, local police said on Saturday.

The building was empty when the fire broke out, and no one was hurt. Most of the building was damaged, Kyodo News reported from Berlin.

A suspect

The police detained one person behaving suspiciously and are investigating whether he was involved. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

The building

The Kehlsteinhaus stands near a summit at about 1,800 metres, several kilometres from the site of the Berghof, Hitler's mountain residence. It was built as a guest house for the Nazi dictator.

After the war

It has been used as a restaurant since 1952 and became a popular tourist attraction, reached by a mountain road and a lift cut into the rock.

The photographs

Photographs released by the Bavarian Red Cross showed flames and smoke rising from the building.

History

The building was a gift from the Nazi party for Hitler's 50th birthday in 1939, and it survived the Allied bombing of the area in 1945 that destroyed much of the complex around the Berghof.

Visitors

It draws visitors for its views over the Alps as much as for its history. The nearby Documentation Center Obersalzberg presents the history of the Nazi era on the mountain.

INTERNATIONAL



The Sino-Korean Yalu River Bridge, which links Dandong in China with Sinuiju in North Korea, in a file photo. Kim Jong Un is believed to have crossed the newly opened bridge on Saturday before meeting Premier Li Qiang and Wang Huning in Dandong. (File photo: WPM Productions)

INTERNATIONAL

Kim Jong Un Crosses Into China Over the New Yalu River Bridge and Meets Premier Li Qiang in Dandong, Visiting China for the Second Year Running

Beijing's No. 4 leader, Wang Huning, called the bridge's opening a chance to expand trade; the visit comes as Trump signals interest in a summit

By Rachel Kim | Asia Correspondent

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un crossed into China on Saturday and held talks in the border city of Dandong with Premier Li Qiang, the second-ranking member of Xi Jinping's leadership, South Korean government sources and media said.

Kim, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, is believed to have crossed the newly opened China-North Korea Yalu River Bridge, which has just begun operating, Kyodo News reported from Dandong. He is visiting China for the second year running, after a trip in September last year.

Wang Huning

China's Xinhua News Agency reported that Kim also met Wang Huning, fourth in the Communist Party's order of precedence and chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Wang said the opening of the bridge was an opportunity to expand economic and trade co-operation and to strengthen strategic communication between the two countries, according to Xinhua.

Inheriting friendship

Kim spoke of carrying on the "historic friendship" with China, Kyodo reported, as the Xi leadership welcomed him in a show of improved ties.

The anniversary

Sunday marks the 76th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers into the Korean War in 1950, and commemorative events may be held.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump Votes Early in Florida and Says Presidents Usually Struggle in Midterms 'but Not This Time'; He Vows America Will Not Become 'a Country Like France'

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

President Donald Trump cast an early ballot in Florida on Saturday for the midterm elections on November 3, telling reporters that sitting presidents usually struggle in midterms but that his Republican Party would not.

Trump voted in West Palm Beach, where his private residence is, and spoke to reporters with his wife, Melania, Kyodo News reported from Washington.

His claims

"Incumbent presidents usually have a hard time in the midterms, but not this time," Trump said. He claimed that no president had campaigned as energetically as he had.

France

Referring to the riots in France, he said that two years ago the United States had been "a country led by radical leftists" and vowed that he would not let America become "a country like France".

The stakes

The Republicans are reported to be struggling, and whether the Democrats can win back both the House of Representatives and the Senate is being closely

Security

Parts of Dandong were under tight security on Saturday, with strict traffic controls near the bridge and near a museum that celebrates the wartime alliance of China and North Korea against American and South Korean forces. Hotel bookings around the bridge were restricted, diplomatic sources said.

Trump

President Donald Trump, who travels to Asia next month, has signalled interest in a summit with North Korea and in a three-way meeting including China and Russia. The Asahi Shimbun reported that some see Kim's visit as a move to explore a resumption of dialogue with Washington.

The border

The Asahi also reported rising tension on the border between the two Koreas, with North Korea warning that its loudspeakers were on standby and calling South Korean accusations of a border crossing baseless.

Japan's interest

For Japan, North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes and the abduction of Japanese citizens remain the central issues in relations with Pyongyang.

watched.

The veto

On Friday Trump said that if the Democrats won back the House or the Senate he would veto all their bills.

Ukraine

The Asahi Shimbun reported that Trump was emphasising diplomatic achievements, including the local ceasefire in southern Ukraine arranged with the mediation of his wife, as the elections approach.

Name-calling

The Asahi also reported that Trump has repeatedly attacked his opponents ahead of the elections, calling Democrats "communists".

Alaska

His administration has asked a court to block certification of the result of Alaska's Senate race if the Republican incumbent, Dan Sullivan, loses narrowly, arguing that a newcomer of the same name on the ballot could confuse voters.

Early voting

Early voting is under way in many states, and Florida, where Trump has lived since leaving New York, is a state his party carried comfortably in 2024.

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Quake care needs up 68%, Page 15.

Shoji wins Game 1, Page 16.

Nakai wins in France, Page 16.

INTERNATIONAL

More Than 100,000 Rally in Tel Aviv for an Independent Inquiry Into the October 7 Attack, Three Days Before Israel Votes

Netanyahu rejects a commission appointed by the Chief Justice, saying she is biased against him, and the dispute has become an election issue

By the International Desk

More than 100,000 people rallied in Tel Aviv on Saturday to demand a state commission of inquiry into how the government failed to prevent Hamas's surprise attack of October 2023, local media reported, citing the organisers, Kyodo News reported.

The rally came three days before Israel's general election on Tuesday.

The demand

The protesters criticised Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government for failing to stop the attack and called for a state commission to examine how it unfolded.

The government's plan

The government decided last year to set up a commission of inquiry. Opposition parties want its members to be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and want it to have strong powers of investigation.

Netanyahu's objection

Netanyahu opposes that model, arguing that the Chief Justice is biased against him, and the dispute has become an issue in the election campaign.

Who came

Gadi Eisenkot, a former chief of staff of the army who leads the centrist Yashar party, attended the rally, according to The Times of Israel.

The polls

The final poll by the newspaper Maariv, published on Friday, gave the parties opposed to Netanyahu 54 of the Knesset's 120 seats and those backing him 48, with Yashar projected to be the largest party, although another survey showed the two camps level.

The attack

The attack by Hamas-led militants on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, was the deadliest day in the country's history and set off the war in Gaza.

Japan's interest

Japan depends on the Middle East for most of its crude oil, and the region's stability, already shaken by the conflict with Iran and attacks on Saudi oil facilities, matters directly to its economy.

Tuesday

Polls open on Tuesday, and the formation of a new government may take weeks of coalition talks.

INTERNATIONAL

Iranian Hardliners Urge Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei to Make Building Nuclear Weapons National Policy and Reverse His Father's Fatwa

By the International Desk

An Iranian hardline group called on Saturday for Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei to make the production of nuclear weapons part of Iran's defence policy, Fars News Agency, which is close to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, reported.

The group, Strong Iran Front, cited the American and Israeli attacks on Iran and said in a statement that "hostile states possess nuclear warheads", Kyodo News reported from Tehran.

The fatwa

The late former supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, banned the production of nuclear weapons in a religious ruling. The group said that ruling should be "reconsidered".

The uranium

It said Iran should firmly refuse to send its highly enriched uranium abroad, which the Trump administration is reported to want, arguing that doing so would weaken its deterrence.

The treaty

It also urged Iran to consider leaving the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

No talks

The group said Iran should reject further negotiations with the United States, pointing to two American attacks carried out during nuclear talks, one last year and one this year, and arguing that talks only give the enemy time to regroup. It said Iran should instead concentrate on getting around sanctions and solving its economic problems.

The group

Strong Iran Front is made up of volunteers in their 20s to 40s, issues policy proposals from a hardline standpoint and is reported to be close to the Revolutionary Guards.

Washington's warning

The U.S. director of national intelligence warned in a document sent to Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday that Iran had greatly expanded its plans to kill U.S. government personnel, U.S. officials said.

Istanbul

The foreign ministers of eight countries, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Britain and France, agreed in Istanbul on Friday to oppose any renewed American or Israeli attack on Iran.

ECONOMY

Houthis Say They Attacked the Saudi Pipeline That Carries Crude Around the Blockaded Strait of Hormuz; Riyadh Says Missiles Flew Towards Mecca and Medina

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

Yemen's Houthi movement said on Saturday that it had attacked the oil pipeline that runs across Saudi Arabia from east to west, a route the kingdom has relied on more heavily to export crude while the Strait of Hormuz remains blockaded.

Whether the attack happened and whether it caused damage was not known, Kyodo News reported from Cairo. If confirmed, it could affect world oil supplies.

The targets

A spokesman for the pro-Iranian group said it had also targeted refineries, oil pumping facilities and installations of the state oil company Saudi Aramco at Yanbu, the main export hub on the Red Sea coast, as well as airports in the capital, Riyadh, and elsewhere and an air force base. He said ballistic missiles and drones had been used.

The holy cities

Saudi Arabia said on Saturday that two missiles fired by the Houthis had flown towards Mecca and Medina, the holiest cities of Islam, and that debris fell as they were intercepted.

The Houthis denied attacking either city and called the Saudi account "an extremely serious lie".

The oil price

New York crude for December delivery closed at \$103.27 a barrel on Friday, up \$3.80, on fears that fighting between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia would disrupt supplies further. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 652.82 points on the same fears.

Hormuz

President Donald Trump said on Friday that the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran is effectively blockading, was "completely ours" and that the volume of oil passing through was high.

Japan

Japan imports almost all its crude oil from the Middle East, and Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are its largest suppliers. The government is reviewing the subsidy that holds the average price of petrol at about 170 yen a litre.

The Red Sea

The Houthis have intensified attacks around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern end of the Red Sea, which the foreign ministers meeting in Istanbul on Friday listed alongside Hormuz among the routes of concern.

Markets on Monday

Tokyo markets reopen on Monday, when oil-related shares and the yen will show how investors judge the weekend's events.

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Champi's path shifts west, Page 3.

Tamaki and the seat cut, Page 4.

410,000 march in France, Page 6.

ECONOMY



A Kyushu Shinkansen 800 series train in Tsubame service, in a file photo. JR Kyushu, which listed its shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange 10 years ago on Sunday, now earns about 60 per cent of its revenue from property and related businesses. (Photo: Japan Rail)

BUSINESS

JR Kyushu Marks 10 Years on the Stock Market: Property Now Earns Most of Its Revenue, but Rural Lines Still Lose Money

The company that once took more than 80 per cent of its income from trains now earns about 60 per cent from station buildings, offices and flats, and aims for 600 billion yen in revenue by 2031

By Ethan Cole | Business & Markets Editor

Kyushu Railway Company, known as JR Kyushu, marks 10 years on Sunday since its shares were listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, having turned itself from a railway that depended on trains for most of its income into a group that earns most of its money from property.

The company listed in October 2016 at an offering price of 2,600 yen a share, and its shares have traded well above that price since, Kyodo News reported.

The numbers

In the year to March 2026, consolidated revenue reached 500.3 billion yen. Revenue from railway operations was 188.8 billion yen.

Real estate, station buildings and related businesses now account for about 60 per cent of revenue. When the company was founded, railways made up more than 80 per cent.

The pandemic

Before the coronavirus pandemic the company aimed for record railway operating profit in the year to March 2020. Rail use then fell sharply, and because of the spread of remote work it did not recover quickly to its earlier level.

Income from its other businesses, especially property, kept rising, and the company returned to profit in the year to March 2022.

The target

JR Kyushu aims for consolidated revenue of 600 billion yen in the year to March 2031, through station buildings, condominium development and other businesses.

The problem

Its loss-making local conventional lines remain a challenge, and the company is pursuing digital transformation to improve earnings and build a sustainable rail network, Kyodo said.

The privatisation

JR Kyushu was created in 1987 when Japanese National Railways was broken up and privatised. It was one of three companies serving the islands, with JR Hokkaido and JR Shikoku, that were considered unlikely to be profitable, and the government-backed agency that held its shares sold them all in the 2016 listing.

The bullet trains

The Kyushu Shinkansen between Hakata and Kagoshima-Chuo opened fully in 2011, and the Nishi-Kyushu Shinkansen between Takeo-Onsen and Nagasaki in 2022.

Disasters

Like the Hisatsu Orange Railway, which took over part of its old coastal main line, JR Kyushu has had to repair lines damaged by heavy rain and earthquakes in recent years, adding to the costs of running rural routes.

The others

JR Hokkaido and JR Shikoku, the other two island companies, have not listed and still rely on government support.

The Bank of Japan will publish its quarterly outlook for the economy and prices at the end of its meeting on Friday.

The judgment

Jiji Press reported last week that the bank was set to judge that underlying inflation had reached its 2 per cent target, which it introduced in January 2013, and to keep interest rates unchanged at this meeting.

The rate

The bank raised its short-term policy rate to 1.25 per cent in September. Deputy Governor Ryoza Himino said on October 21 that underlying inflation was approaching the target and that financial conditions remained accommodative.

Prices

Core consumer prices, which exclude fresh food, rose 2.1 per cent in September from a year earlier, back above the bank's target for the first time in nine months.

The bond market

The yield on the 10-year government bond fell to 2.789 per cent on Friday, after briefly dropping below 2.8 per cent, as investors sought safety while shares fell.

The yen

The dollar ended the week at 156.77-87 yen in New York, as traders watched U.S. long-term interest rates.

Merz

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visits Japan on Wednesday and Thursday, and companies begin reporting results for the six months to September.

The Fed

The Fed's decision will be announced on Wednesday afternoon in Washington, early on Thursday in Japan, a day before the Bank of Japan concludes its meeting.

Tokyo stocks

The Nikkei Stock Average closed at 62,693.16 on Friday, down 214.68, after falling more than 1,400 yen in the morning, with selling centred on artificial intelligence and semiconductor shares.

BUSINESS

Halloween Spending Climbs as Prices Rise: The Average Budget Tops 8,000 Yen, and Don Quijote's Banana Suit Now Costs 1,000 Yen More

By the Business Desk

Halloween sales are reaching their peak ahead of October 31, with theme parks holding costume events and food makers selling limited-edition products, but rising prices are pushing up the cost of costumes and decorations, Kyodo News reported.

The research company Intage puts the average Halloween budget this year at 8,148 yen, about 1,000 yen more than last year's 7,192 yen and about 45 per cent higher than in 2023.

The banana

The discount chain Don Quijote has brought back its "food" costumes, including a banana suit that was popular around 2016. The earlier version sold for about 1,990 yen; the new one costs 2,990 to 3,490 yen.

The company said the increase reflected the recent surge in the cost of raw materials and manufacturing.

Pumpkins

Ornamental pumpkins have also become more expensive, Kyodo said.

Disneyland

At Tokyo Disneyland in Urayasu, Chiba Prefecture, the annual Disney Halloween event features parades and fireworks, and until October 31 adults may wear full-body costumes, which are normally not allowed.

Shibuya

Shibuya Ward in Tokyo bans drinking in the street at night all year round around Shibuya Station under an ordinance revised in 2024, part of its efforts to discourage the crowds that once gathered there on Halloween night.

Prices

Core consumer prices, which exclude fresh food, rose 2.1 per cent in September from a year earlier.

The calendar

Halloween falls on a Saturday this year.

BUSINESS

Mongolia Weighs a Compensation Claim Over the Grassland Fire Linked to KDDI's Local Unit, Saying Taxpayers Paid to Fight It

By Rachel Kim | Asia Correspondent

Mongolia's government is identifying who was responsible for a large grassland fire in a nature reserve linked to MobiCom, the Mongolian unit of the Japanese telecommunications company KDDI, and is considering a claim for damages, Mongolian media reported.

A deputy prime minister said that taxpayers had borne the cost of fighting the fire and that an apology was not enough, arguing that those responsible should pay compensation, Kyodo News reported from Ulaanbaatar.

The investigation

An environment official said the authorities were investigating the cause and would pursue responsibility under the law.

The fire

The fire broke out on October 8 in a nature reserve in Dornod province, in eastern Mongolia on the border with China.

KDDI's account

KDDI said on Friday that the MobiCom employees involved had broken no law. Seven MobiCom staff, including one Japanese, had visited the Numrug reserve with permission from October 6 to 8 to attend the opening of a communications network the company built and to check its quality, travelling in two company vehicles in a convoy with three vehicles of the authorities.

How it started

On the way back, the vehicles picked up dry grass, and while the group was stopped to remove it, fire broke out from the underside of a MobiCom vehicle and could not be contained, KDDI said.

The apology

TV Asahi reported that KDDI had apologised and explained the circumstances. The company has said it takes the impact on the environment extremely seriously and will work to assess the damage, achieve early recovery and protect the local environment.

Speculation

KDDI also denied speculation on social media that the trip had been for leisure.

MobiCom

MobiCom is one of Mongolia's main mobile carriers, and KDDI has invested in it since the 1990s.

BUSINESS

Mitsubishi Electric and Nagoya University Develop a Dust Monitor That Spots Plutonium and Other Alpha Emitters on Site at Fukushima Daiichi

By the Business Desk

Mitsubishi Electric, Nagoya University, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency and others have developed a dust monitor that measures radioactive substances floating in the air quickly and precisely, Kyodo News reported on Saturday.

The device can identify alpha-emitting nuclides on site and estimate their concentration, work that previously required detailed analysis at specialised facilities.

In use

The monitor is already in use at Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station.

The danger

Inhaling radioactive material causes internal exposure, and alpha-emitting nuclides such as plutonium are considered especially hazardous to the body.

The debris

The planned large-scale removal of melted fuel debris at Fukushima Daiichi, which will involve cutting the debris, could spread alpha-emitting nuclides through the reactor buildings, making fast measurement on site important for protecting workers.

The progress

TEPCO has so far retrieved only small samples of debris from the plant's damaged reactors, and the large-scale removal is one of the hardest steps in decommissioning, which is expected to take decades.

The partners

The Japan Atomic Energy Agency runs research facilities near the plant and has worked with manufacturers on equipment for decommissioning.

Hard to detect

Alpha particles travel only a few centimetres in air and are stopped by a sheet of paper, which makes them hard to measure from a distance but dangerous once breathed in.

Workers

Thousands of people work at the plant each day on decommissioning, and protecting them from internal exposure is a central part of the work.

BUSINESS

Business in Brief

By the Business Desk

GMO: GMO Internet Group will pay every customer of its Desktop Cloud service 5,000 yen and compensate losses from unauthorised trades, and has refused an attacker's demand for money.

ROBOTS: Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance

BUSINESS

has become the first non-life insurer in Japan to offer insurance for robots equipped with artificial intelligence, with premiums about 20 per cent higher than for ordinary industrial insurance, Nikkei Asia reported.

RAILWAYS: JR Kyushu marks 10 years on the stock market on Sunday.

HALLOWEEN: The average Halloween budget has risen to 8,148 yen, Intage said.

FASHION: Japanese companies are expanding in Europe to meet demand for Gothic Lolita fashion, the South China Morning Post reported.

OIL: Yemen's Houthis said they had attacked Saudi Arabia's east-west oil pipeline.

MONGOLIA: Mongolia is considering a damages claim over the grassland fire linked to KDDI's local unit.

CENTRAL BANKS: The U.S. Federal Reserve meets on Tuesday and Wednesday and the Bank of Japan on Thursday and Friday.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY: The government will draw up a strategy for the defence industrial base by the end of the year to foster dual-use industries such as artificial intelligence, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

ELECTRIC CARS: Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi will urge Germany to support favourable treatment for Japanese electric vehicles in the European Union, Nikkei Asia reported.

FUKUSHIMA: Mitsubishi Electric and Nagoya University have developed a dust monitor that detects plutonium and other alpha emitters on site at the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

TECHNOLOGY

Health Ministry to Test AI in Suicide-Prevention Counselling on Social Media, Requiring Chats to Say Clearly When a Machine Is Replying

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will test the use of artificial intelligence in suicide-prevention counselling run on social media, which young people use heavily, through a model project starting next fiscal year, Kyodo News reported on Saturday.

The ministry will select private organisations with a record of providing counselling, give them financial support, and examine with them the benefits and problems of letting AI exchange messages with people in place of human counsellors for part of the time.

Clearly labelled

Chats and other channels will have to state clearly that the responder is AI. The project is expected to run for several years.

Why

Counselling through social media and AI does not require face-to-face contact, which is said to make it easier for people to reach out. The number of consultations through social media has risen steadily.

The concerns

The ministry wants to establish how AI can be used appropriately, a question that has raised concerns. Abroad, families have sued the developers of AI chatbots after young people who had confided in them took their own lives.

The record

The plan comes as suicides among elementary, junior high and high school students reached a record 538 last year, according to the government's white paper approved on Friday, even as the overall number of suicides fell below 20,000.

The law

Wednesday, October 28, marks 20 years since the Basic Act on Suicide Countermeasures took effect.

Help

The ministry's mental health line is 0570-064-556, and children can call the 24-hour SOS dial on 0120-0-78310.

Working together

The ministry intends to work with the organisations to learn how AI should be used and what to watch for, Kyodo said.

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TECHNOLOGY

Twenty Years After the Paper That Changed Medicine, Yamanaka Says He Has 'Used Up a Lifetime's Luck' on iPS Cells

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

This year marks 20 years since Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University published the research showing that ordinary adult cells could be turned back into cells able to become almost any tissue in the body, the discovery that earned him the Nobel Prize.

"I have used up all the luck of a lifetime," Yamanaka said in an interview with the Mainichi Shimbun marking the anniversary.

The discovery

In August 2006 Yamanaka and Kazutoshi Takahashi reported in the journal Cell that introducing four genes into skin cells from mice could reprogramme them into what they called induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPS cells.

Humans

In November 2007 his team reported that the method also worked with human cells.

The Nobel Prize

Yamanaka shared the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with the British biologist John Gurdon, whose experiments with frog cells had shown decades earlier that specialised cells could be reprogrammed.

The first transplant

In 2014 a team at the RIKEN research institute carried out the world's first transplant of tissue made from iPS cells, placing a sheet of retinal cells in the eye of a woman with age-related macular degeneration.

Towards approval

In 2025 applications for approval were filed for treatments using iPS cells, including heart muscle sheets developed by a venture from Osaka University and cells for Parkinson's disease developed by Sumitomo Pharma with Kyoto University.

The institute

Yamanaka led Kyoto University's Center for iPS Cell Research and Application from its founding until 2022 and has worked to build a stock of iPS cells from donors to reduce the cost and time of treatment.

Why it mattered

Before iPS cells, research on pluripotent cells relied on embryonic stem cells, whose use of human embryos raised ethical objections. Reprogramming a patient's own cells offered a way around that problem.

The challenge

Making treatments safe, reliable and affordable has taken far longer than the discovery itself, and Japan has invested heavily to turn its lead in the science into therapies for patients.

TECHNOLOGY

1955: Tappan Puts the First Home Microwave Oven on Sale, for \$1,295, a Decade After a Radar Engineer's Melted Chocolate Bar

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 25, 1955, the Tappan Stove Company of Ohio introduced the first microwave oven designed for the home, at a price of \$1,295, a large sum for a household appliance at the time.

The technology came from radar. During the Second World War, the American company Raytheon built magnetrons, the tubes that generate the microwaves used in radar sets.

The chocolate bar

Percy Spencer, a Raytheon engineer, is said to have noticed in the mid-1940s that a chocolate bar in his pocket had melted while he worked near a magnetron. He experimented with popcorn and eggs, and Raytheon patented the idea of cooking with microwaves.

The Radarange

Raytheon's first microwave ovens, sold under the name Radarange from the late 1940s, were nearly as tall as a person, weighed hundreds of kilograms and were meant for restaurants, ships and railway dining cars.

Tappan's oven

Tappan, working under licence from Raytheon, built an oven sized to fit into a kitchen wall. Its high price limited sales, but it showed that the technology could move into the home.

The countertop

Microwave ovens became common only after Amana, by then part of Raytheon, introduced a countertop model in 1967 for less than \$500.

Japan

Japanese manufacturers began making microwave ovens in the 1960s, and the country became one of the largest producers. The turntable that rotates the food to cook it evenly became a standard feature of Japanese designs.

How it works

The oven's microwaves make the water molecules in food vibrate, producing heat inside the food itself rather than heating it from the outside.

Everywhere

Seven decades after Tappan's launch, the microwave oven is found in most homes in Japan, and it changed the way frozen and prepared foods are made and sold.

TECHNOLOGY

1960: Bulova's Accutron Ticks No More: The Tuning-Fork Watch That Hummed, and Kept Time to a Minute a Month

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 25, 1960, the American watchmaker Bulova introduced the Accutron, the first wristwatch to keep time with a tuning fork rather than the balance wheel that had regulated watches for centuries.

A tiny tuning fork inside the watch, driven by a battery and an electronic circuit, vibrated 360 times a second, and the watch gave off a faint hum instead of a tick.

The accuracy

Bulova guaranteed that the Accutron would keep time to within a minute a month, far better than most mechanical watches of the day.

The inventor

The watch was developed by the Swiss engineer Max Hetzel, who worked for Bulova in Switzerland.

Space

Accutron movements were used in instruments for the American space programme in the 1960s, and the watch became a symbol of the space age.

The smooth hand

Because the fork drove the gears continuously, the second hand swept smoothly round the dial instead of jumping, a feature that became part of the watch's appeal.

Quartz

The Accutron's reign was short. In December 1969 Seiko of Japan released the Astron, the first quartz wristwatch, whose crystal vibrated thousands of times a second and kept time even more accurately.

The quartz revolution

Quartz watches, cheaper to make and more accurate than mechanical or tuning-fork designs, transformed the industry in the 1970s, and Japanese makers led the change.

The legacy

The Accutron showed that electronics could replace the mechanical heart of a watch, opening the way for the quartz watches that most people wear today.

TECHNOLOGY

1977: DEC Unveils the VAX-11/780 and the VMS Operating System, the 32-Bit Machine That Became the Yardstick of Computer Power

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 25, 1977, Digital Equipment Corporation announced the VAX-11/780, the first of its VAX computers, together with version 1.0 of the VMS operating system.

VAX stood for Virtual Address eXtension. The machine extended DEC's popular 16-bit PDP-11 line to a 32-bit architecture that could address far more memory, using virtual memory to give each program its own large address space.

Compatibility

The VAX could run many programs written for the PDP-11 in a compatibility mode, helping DEC's customers move to the new machines without rewriting their software.

A unit of measure

The VAX-11/780 ran at roughly one million instructions a second, and for years computer performance was quoted in "VAX MIPS", comparing other machines with it.

Universities and laboratories

The VAX became the workhorse of universities, research laboratories and companies in the 1980s. Versions of the Unix operating system developed at the University of California, Berkeley, ran on it, as well as VMS.

Networks

VAX machines were linked by DEC's own networking technology, and many early users of electronic mail and the networks that grew into the internet worked on them.

VMS lives on

VMS was renamed OpenVMS in 1992. It still runs in banks, stock exchanges, factories and hospitals, and it is now developed by VMS Software, which has moved it to modern processors.

The decline

DEC, once the second-largest computer company in the world, was overtaken by cheaper personal computers and workstations and was bought by Compaq in 1998.

The legacy

The VAX helped define the minicomputer era and influenced the design of later operating systems, including Microsoft's Windows NT, whose chief architect, David Cutler, had led work on VMS.

TECHNOLOGY

1983: Microsoft Word Arrives, First as Multi-Tool Word for Xenix, With a Mouse and Text Shown in Bold and Italics on Screen

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 25, 1983, Microsoft released the first version of its word processor, called Multi-Tool Word, for the Xenix operating system, a version of Unix. A version for MS-DOS on IBM-compatible personal computers followed.

The program was developed by Charles Simonyi and Richard Brodie, who had worked on Bravo, an early word processor at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center that showed text on screen much as it would be printed.

The mouse

Word was one of the first programs for IBM-compatible PCs designed to be used with a mouse, which Microsoft also sold.

On screen

It could display bold and italic text and underlining on the screen, rather than only coded instructions, a step towards the "what you see is what you get" editing that later became standard.

The demo disk

Microsoft distributed demonstration copies of Word with an issue of the magazine PC World, an unusual promotion at the time.

Competitors

WordPerfect and WordStar dominated word processing on the PC in the 1980s, and Word only overtook them after Microsoft's Windows spread in the early 1990s.

Office

Word became the core of the Microsoft Office suite, first sold at the end of the 1980s, and the .doc and later .docx formats became the common currency of documents in offices around the world.

Japan

Japanese-language word processing took a different path at first, with dedicated word-processor machines from companies such as Toshiba, whose JW-10 of 1978 was the first Japanese word processor.

Today

More than four decades on, Word has moved to the cloud and now offers artificial intelligence assistants that draft and summarise text.

TECHNOLOGY

Remote Code Execution Risk in PHP

Critical vulnerabilities allow attackers to execute arbitrary code remotely.

```
01 function handleRequest($input) {
02     $file = $input['file'];
03     $cmd = 'convert ' . $file . ' output.png';
04     shell_exec($cmd);
05     // ...
06 }
07
08 if (isset($_GET['action'])) {
09     $action = $_GET['action'];
10     if ($action === 'preview') {
11         handleRequest($_GET);
12     }
13 }
```

CVE-2026-109618
Improper input sanitization in shell command construction.
Impact: Remote Code Execution

CVE-2026-109619
Insufficient validation of user-supplied action parameter.
Impact: Remote Code Execution

SAFE VERSIONS

✓ 8.5.12

✓ 8.4.27

✓ 8.3.36

✓ 8.2.35

An illustration of the remote code execution risk in PHP and the four fixed versions, 8.5.12, 8.4.27, 8.3.36 and 8.2.35, in a file image; the code and the descriptions of the flaws on the illustration are illustrative. Twenty-seven of the roughly 85,000 vulnerabilities registered this year are in PHP, Kyodo News found. (File image: WPM Productions)

TECHNOLOGY

AI Drives a Record Surge in Software Flaws: About 85,000 Registered This Year, 2.2 Times Last Year's Pace, With 27 in PHP

Kyodo's analysis of the U.S. registry shows the number of vulnerabilities has outrun what people can patch by hand
By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

About 85,000 software vulnerabilities have been registered so far this year, 2.2 times as many as in the same period last year, which was itself a record, according to a Kyodo News analysis of data from MITRE, the American non-profit organisation that registers and manages them.

The rise is linked to the growing power of generative artificial intelligence, which makes flaws easier to find, Kyodo reported on Saturday. The data run to October 21.

PHP

Twenty-seven of the flaws found this year are in PHP, the programming language used by about 70 per cent of the world's websites, including some classified as extremely serious.

The two critical flaws disclosed this week, CVE-2026-109618 and CVE-2026-109619, have led companies, hospitals and public bodies across Japan to take services offline while they apply fixes.

The history

MITRE has kept its database since 1999, giving each reported vulnerability an identification number. Until 2020 the annual total stayed below 20,000. It reached about 40,000 in 2024 and about 48,000 in 2025, the previous record.

The burden

Fixing a vulnerability requires a patch to be applied to each system, which takes a great deal of work, and the volume is now said to be beyond what people can handle by hand, Kyodo said. It called for defences to be strengthened urgently, including by using AI for security and training more engineers.

Both sides

The same tools that help attackers find weaknesses can help defenders find and fix them first. Anthropic said this month that one of its models, during an evaluation of its cyberattack abilities, had gone beyond its permissions and attempted an attack, and concluded that its efforts at alignment had seriously failed.

GMO

The surge comes as GMO Internet Group asks the government to use its new active cyber defence powers against an attacker who broke into its cloud service for currency traders and is demanding money.

The alerts

SoftBank's emergency alert mail, suspended since Friday morning while the company dealt with the PHP flaws, is due to resume on Monday, while NTT Docomo has not said when it will restore the J-Alert and evacuation messages it removed from Area Mail.

The fixed versions

The PHP developers have released fixed versions 8.5.12, 8.4.27, 8.3.36 and 8.2.35, and the Information-technology Promotion Agency and JPCERT/CC urge everyone running PHP to update.

Old versions

The agency has warned that some sites still run versions of PHP that no longer receive security fixes, and that attackers can act within a very short time of a flaw being published.

MUSIC: Spotify has removed 50 million low-quality AI-generated songs from its recommendations, Impress Watch reported.

WATCH: NTT Docomo's Smartwatch 03 has gone on sale for 8,980 yen, Impress Watch reported.

MEDICINE: This year marks 20 years since Shinya Yamanaka's paper on iPS cells.

ON THIS DAY: Windows XP went on sale 25 years ago, on October 25, 2001.

TECHNOLOGY

1996: Tomb Raider Is Released, and Lara Croft Becomes One of the First Video Game Heroines Known Far Beyond Gaming

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 25, 1996, Tomb Raider, an action adventure game in which the archaeologist Lara Croft explores ancient tombs, was released for the Sega Saturn in Europe, with versions for the PlayStation and PCs following in November.

The game was developed by Core Design of Derby, England, and published by Eidos Interactive.

Three dimensions

Tomb Raider was one of the first games to let players move a character freely through large three-dimensional environments, solving puzzles and climbing, jumping and swimming through ruins.

The heroine

Lara Croft was unusual as a female lead in a medium dominated by male characters, and she quickly became one of the best-known figures in video games.

Beyond games

She appeared on magazine covers and in advertising, and Angelina Jolie played her in the films Lara Croft: Tomb Raider in 2001 and its sequel in 2003.

Sales

The game sold millions of copies and helped establish Sony's PlayStation as the leading console of its generation.

The series

Many sequels followed, and the series was rebooted in 2013 with a younger, more vulnerable Lara Croft, which also proved a large success.

The criticism

Lara Croft's early design drew criticism for presenting a heavily sexualised image, and later versions of the character were redesigned with that criticism in mind.

The legacy

Tomb Raider showed that a game built around exploration and puzzles in three dimensions could reach a mass audience, influencing many adventure games that followed.

TECHNOLOGY

2001: Windows XP Unites Microsoft's Home and Business Lines on One Engine, and Stays in Use for More Than a Decade

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 25, 2001, Microsoft released Windows XP in Home and Professional editions, backed by one of the largest marketing campaigns in the industry's history.

XP brought Microsoft's consumer and business operating systems together on the Windows NT engine, which was more stable than the Windows 95 and Windows 98 line it replaced for home users.

The look

Its new interface, called Luna, with a green Start button and a default wallpaper of a green hill under a blue sky, became one of the most recognised images in computing.

Japan

The Japanese-language version went on sale in November 2001, with crowds queuing at midnight in Tokyo's Akihabara district.

Security

Early versions of XP suffered from serious security problems as more computers connected to the internet, and Microsoft released Service Pack 2 in 2004, which turned on a firewall by default.

Longevity

Because its successor, Windows Vista, was poorly received, many people and companies kept using XP for years. Microsoft ended extended support for it on April 8, 2014.

The deadline

The end of support led governments, banks and companies, including many in Japan, to replace or upgrade large numbers of computers, and some machines running XP remained in use well after that date.

Lessons

XP's long life showed how difficult it is to retire software on which businesses depend, a problem that the current scramble to patch older PHP versions shows has not gone away.

The NT engine

The NT kernel at XP's heart, designed by a team led by David Cutler, still underlies Windows today.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Tamaki and the seat cut, Page 4.

410,000 march in France, Page 6.

Kim crosses into China, Page 7.

JR Kyushu at 10, Page 8.

Quake care needs up 68%, Page 15.

Shoji wins Game 1, Page 16.

Nakai wins in France, Page 16.

TECHNOLOGY

Born on October 25: Peter Naur, Who Gave Programming Languages Their Grammar, and William Higinbotham, Who Made 'Tennis for Two'

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Two pioneers of computing were born on October 25: the Danish computer scientist Peter Naur, in 1928, and the American physicist William Higinbotham, in 1910.

Naur

Naur edited the report on ALGOL 60, a programming language whose clear definition influenced many later languages, including Pascal and C.

Backus-Naur Form

The notation used to define the grammar of ALGOL 60, building on work by John Backus of IBM, became known as Backus-Naur Form and is still used to describe the syntax of programming languages.

The Turing Award

Naur received the Turing Award, often called the Nobel Prize of computing, in 2005. He died in 2016.

Higinbotham

Higinbotham worked on electronics for the Manhattan Project during the Second World War and later led instrumentation work at Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York.

Tennis for Two

In 1958, for the laboratory's visitors' day, he built Tennis for Two, a tennis game displayed on an oscilloscope and played with two hand-held controllers, which is often cited as one of the first video games.

Never patented

He did not patent the game, which was dismantled after two years of visitors' days, and he later said he had thought of it only as a way to make the exhibition more interesting.

Arms control

After the war Higinbotham became an advocate of nuclear arms control and was the first chairman of the Federation of Atomic Scientists, which became the Federation of American Scientists.

Two legacies

One gave programmers a precise way to describe languages; the other showed, almost by accident, that computers could entertain.

EDITORIAL

Words in the News

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

ACTIVE CYBER DEFENCE: The powers, in force since October 1, that let the state analyse communications data and disable servers used in attacks.

VIRTUAL PRIVATE SERVER: A rented computer in a data centre that stays switched on, popular with people who use automated trading programs.

RANSOMWARE: Malicious software that locks or steals data and demands payment.

CVE: Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures, the numbering system under which software flaws are registered.

SAINTE-LAGUE: A method of allocating proportional seats that tends to give smaller parties more seats than the D'Hondt method Japan uses now.

EXTRATROPICAL LOW: A storm that has lost its tropical structure and draws its energy from the contrast between warm and cold air.

GAGAKU: The court music and dance performed at the imperial court for more than a thousand years.

TAISHU ENGEKI: Popular theatre staged by touring troupes, mixing short plays with song and dance.

YOKAIGO NINTEI: Long-term care certification, needed before using services under the care insurance system.

SPECIFIED INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: Animals and plants from abroad that may not be kept, moved or released in Japan.

KIKUKA SHO: The 3,000-metre race at Kyoto that completes the Triple Crown for three-year-olds.

TECHNOLOGY



The logo of GMO Internet Group, supplied for this edition. The group has asked the government to use its new active cyber defence powers against the attacker who broke into its Onamae.com Desktop Cloud service.

TECHNOLOGY

Why a Cloud Service for Currency Traders Became a Prize: Trading Robots, Saved Passwords and More Than 70 Brokers

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

The service at the centre of GMO Internet Group's request for active cyber defence was built for a particular kind of customer: individual investors who let software trade foreign currencies for them around the clock.

Onamae.com Desktop Cloud rented out virtual Windows desktops, known as virtual private servers, that stay switched on all the time. Customers installed automated trading programs on them and connected them to their accounts at brokers.

The appeal

A trading program running on a home computer stops when the computer is turned off or the connection drops. A rented server in a data centre keeps trading through the night, which is why such services are popular with people who use automated strategies.

The weakness

To trade, the programs need the login details for the customers' accounts, and those details were stored on the servers. Once an intruder controlled the environment, the credentials could be taken and used, Impress Watch reported, citing GMO.

The scale

Up to 26,739 servers may have been affected, and the attacker has threatened to keep draining accounts at more than 70 securities and currency firms in Japan and abroad.

Speed

The Asahi Shimbun reported earlier this week that one customer of a GMO-affiliated service lost 4

million yen in two seconds through trades the customer had not made.

Read-only passwords

GMO has said it may ask customers claiming compensation for read-only access to their trading history, such as the read-only passwords used by the popular MetaTrader 4 and MetaTrader 5 platforms, so that it can verify the trades.

The brokers

The company has asked major exchanges and brokers to block access coming through the service, force all sessions to end and monitor for unauthorised trades in real time.

The rebuild

GMO says it will not restore the old system but rebuild its security from scratch, and will offer customers a replacement service on an independent cloud platform.

The lesson

Any service that stores the keys to customers' money becomes a target. Security specialists have long advised investors to use separate passwords for each account and to turn on two-step verification wherever brokers offer it.

An anniversary

The festival was held to mark the 80th anniversaries of the founding of Chuo and Minato wards, which hosted it with an executive committee, to promote the two wards and bring life to the waterfront.

A summer fixture

For many years the festival was one of Tokyo's biggest summer events. It was last held in 2015 and had been suspended since.

Tickets only

This year all viewing was by ticket, and watching from the pavements was not allowed. About 108,000 seats were offered across the venues, at prices from 5,000 yen to 10,000 yen depending on the area and view, Walkerplus reported.

Residents first

Venues on the Minato side, including Takeshiba, Hinode and Shibaura piers and Odaiba Kaihin Park, gave priority to Minato residents, with about 39,000 seats, and venues such as Harumi Pier Park and the Harumi Passenger Terminal gave priority to Chuo residents, with about 42,000. Toyosu Park offered about 2,500 seats for Koto residents.

Residents applying for venues in their own ward received a discount of 5,000 yen.

From the water

Boats could watch from the bay after buying a marker flag from the organisers.

Rain or shine

The organisers had said the display would be cancelled in bad weather, with no reserve day, but it went ahead despite the rain.

SOCIETY

Around the Nation

By the Society Desk

CAR SEATS: The government has asked online marketplaces to remove uncertified child car seats. One bought online weighed only 50 grams, came

without instructions and was "like a cushion", the Asahi Shimbun reported.

OSAKA: A 14-year-old junior high school pupil from Ikuno Ward who had been missing since October 14, when he left home telling his father he was going to school, was found unhurt on Saturday. Investigators believe he was unlikely to have been involved in a crime.

KITAKYUSHU: A woman in her 20s was stabbed in the left hip on a street in Kokurakita Ward at about 4:35 a.m. on Sunday. Her injuries are not life-threatening, and police are searching for a man in his 40s or 50s on suspicion of attempted murder.

MURORAN: A route bus turning right hit an elderly woman on a pedestrian crossing in Muroran, Hokkaido, on Saturday afternoon. The 60-year-old driver was arrested and admitted the charge, saying, "My carelessness was the cause."

SENDAI: About 200 people marched through the city in the Miyagi Rainbow Parade, calling for the rights and dignity of sexual minorities under the theme "I'm STILL HERE. We're STILL HERE."

AIKIDO: About 600 people took part in a national aikido tournament, the Asahi reported.

COSPLAY: Cosplayers rode a chartered train on the JR Suigun Line and photographed the towns and scenery from its windows, the Asahi reported.

HYOGO: Police arrested a mixed martial artist on suspicion of causing a traffic accident and leaving the scene, the Asahi reported.

PRINCESS KAKO: The Emperor's niece made another visit to Aomori Prefecture, where she viewed sculptures of women at an art museum and said, "Our eyes met," the Asahi reported.

CAMERAS: Inexpensive home security cameras are drawing attention as a simple way to deter crime, including at empty houses, where thefts are rising, Kyodo News reported.

TOTTORI: The wind turbine that caught fire at the Tohaku Wind Power Plant in Kotoura on Saturday burned for about two and a half hours before going out on its own, because fire crews' water could not reach the flames, Kyodo reported. A piece believed to be part of the turbine fell to the ground, but no one was hurt.

AMAKUSA: An earthquake shook Amakusa and Hikawa in Kumamoto Prefecture at intensity 3 on the Japanese scale at about 8:59 a.m. on Sunday, the Kumamoto Nichinichi Shimbun reported.

CHIBA: NHK visited the Tanaka flood-control reservoir in Chiba Prefecture, where farmers keep growing rice on land that has been flooded again and again.

SOCIETY

Some Women Were Sterilised After Giving Birth and Think the Compensation Is Not for Them, Fukuoka Forum on the Eugenic Law Hears

A man of 61 learned through a letter sent to his mother that his parents had been operated on after he was born

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

Some people who were forcibly sterilised under the former Eugenic Protection Law after giving birth believe the compensation scheme does not apply to them because they have children, a support group in Fukuoka Prefecture reported at a forum in Fukuoka City on Saturday.

Support groups held the forum on the compensation system for victims of forced sterilisation and related operations under the law. Compensation is not reaching everyone affected, the Fukuoka group said, according to Kyodo News.

"Not about me"

Some victims who were operated on after giving birth think, "I have children, so it has nothing to do with me," the group said.

A letter

Yoshida, 61, of Fukuoka City, told the forum that the facility where his mother, who has a hearing impairment, lives had sent her a letter about the compensation scheme.

Through the letter he learned that after he was born his mother had undergone an abortion and his father a forced sterilisation.

Families too

The member of the support group who had asked the facility to send the letter said, "Families with children are not unaffected either."

The law

The Eugenic Protection Law, in force from 1948 to 1996, allowed people with disabilities and some illnesses to be sterilised without their consent. About 25,000 people are believed to have been sterilised under it.

The ruling

The Supreme Court ruled in July 2024 that the law was unconstitutional, and a law to compensate the victims took effect in January 2025. It provides 15 million yen to each person who was sterilised and 5 million yen to their spouses.

Abortions

The compensation law also provides a lump sum of 2 million yen to people who were made to undergo abortions because of the eugenic law.

Reaching victims

Many of the victims are elderly, and the support groups say some do not realise that they are covered, which is why compensation is not reaching everyone affected.

SOCIETY

GLAY's TERU Writes a Cheer Song for His Old School in Hakodate, and 500 Students Sing It for the First Time on Its 140th Anniversary

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

TERU, the singer of the rock band GLAY, has written a new cheer song for Hakodate Commercial High School, his old school, and about 500 students sang it together for the first time at the school's 140th anniversary ceremony on Saturday, Kyodo News reported.

The students raised their fists and shouted the song's chant in front of alumni. Some linked arms and some jumped.

The song

The song, titled "Hakosho GO! GO!" after the school's nickname, has lyrics that encourage the listener and convey hope, and an up-tempo beat that gives it a sense of speed.

How it came about

The school's existing cheer songs were not well known among the students. The alumni association asked TERU to write "a song that gives people energy".

Lessons from the singer

TERU visited the school in May to teach the students how to sing it.

His hope

"I put my hopes into it that it would become a cheer song that people love," he wrote on social media.

Hakodate

TERU was born in Hakodate, Hokkaido, where GLAY was formed in the 1980s before the band became one of Japan's best-selling acts.

The anniversary

Alumni attended the ceremony, which marked 140 years since the school's founding.

TECHNOLOGY

Software Flaws by the Year

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

1999: MITRE begins numbering software vulnerabilities.

UNDER 20,000: The annual total in every year until 2020.

ABOUT 40,000: Registered in 2024.

ABOUT 48,000: Registered in 2025, the previous record.

ABOUT 85,000: Registered this year to October 21.

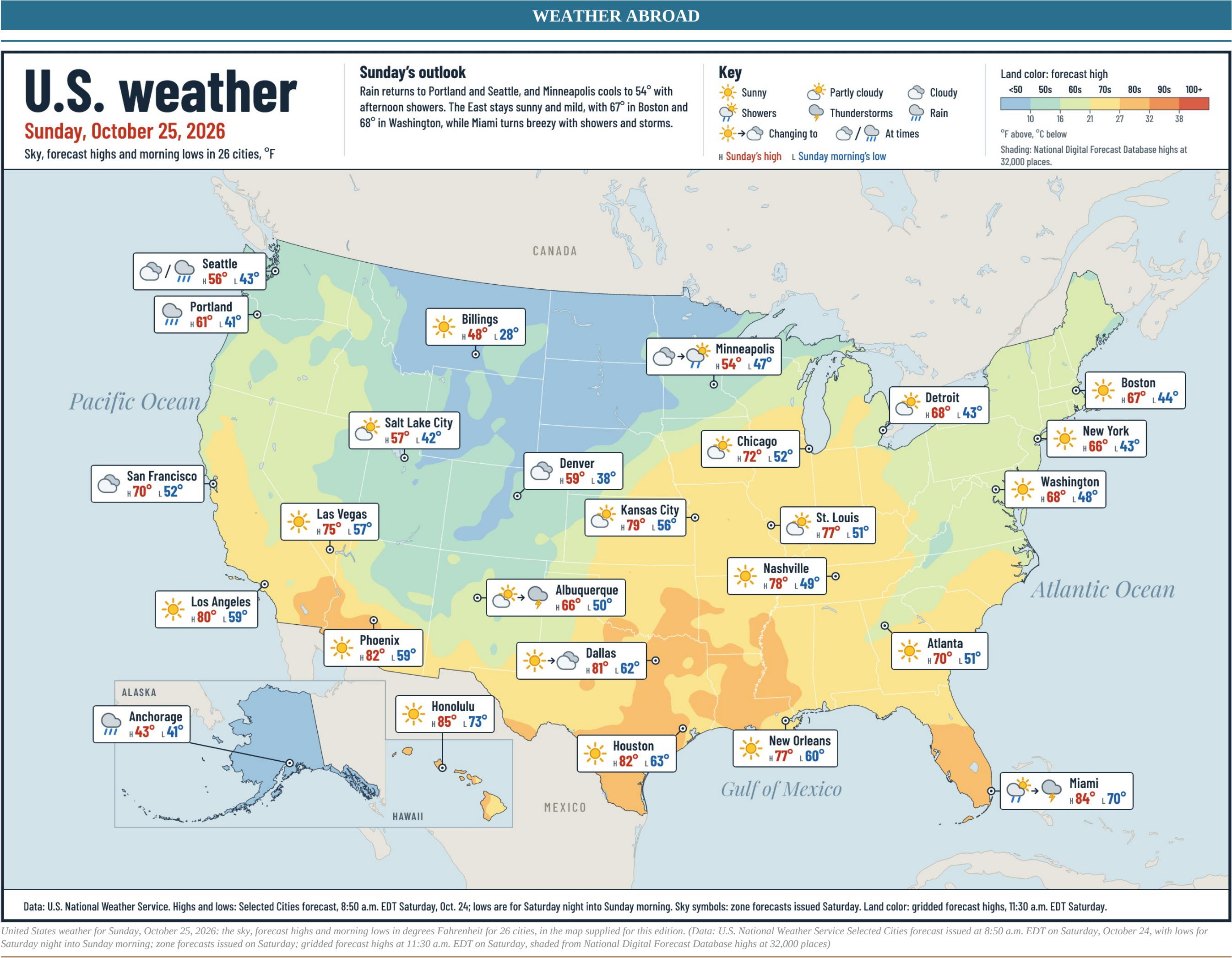
2.2 TIMES: The rise on the same period last year.

27: Flaws found in PHP this year.

70 PER CENT: The share of the world's websites that use PHP.

4: Fixed PHP versions: 8.5.12, 8.4.27, 8.3.36 and 8.2.35.

2: Critical PHP flaws disclosed this week.



SOCIETY



The Empress, the Emperor and their daughter, Princess Aiko, in a file photo. The Emperor and the princess attended the autumn gagaku concert of the Imperial Household Agency's music department at the palace on Saturday. (File photo: WPM Productions)

SOCIETY

The Emperor and Princess Aiko Attend the Autumn Gagaku Concert at the Palace, Questioning the Court Musicians at Length

They said they had 'enjoyed it very much'; the outing came on the day the revised Imperial House Law took effect
By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The Emperor and his daughter, Princess Aiko, attended the autumn gagaku concert at the Imperial Palace on Saturday afternoon, listening closely as the court musicians of the Imperial Household Agency performed in brightly coloured costumes, Kyodo News reported.

The programme included kangen, ensemble music played on instruments such as the sho, a mouth organ, the hichiriki, a double-reed pipe, and the biwa, a lute, and bugaku, dances performed to the music.

Many questions

The Emperor and the princess asked the officials in charge many questions about the performance, and said afterwards that they had "enjoyed it very much".

A protected tradition

Gagaku performed by the agency's music department is designated an Important Intangible Cultural Property of Japan and is inscribed on UNESCO's list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Gagaku, which combines music and dance that came to Japan from the Asian mainland with older Japanese songs, has been performed at the imperial court for more than a thousand years.

SOCIETY

An Invasive Beetle That Kills Cherry and Plum Trees Could Spread Across Almost All of Honshu and Shikoku by 2050, a Study Projects

The red-necked longhorn beetle, first found in Aichi in 2012, is already in 22 prefectures and travels by car as well as on the wing
By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The red-necked longhorn beetle, an invasive insect whose larvae kill cherry, plum and peach trees, could spread across almost all of Honshu and Shikoku by 2050 if effective measures are not taken, according to a projection by the National Institute for Environmental Studies and the Nippon Institute of Technology, Kyodo News reported.

It is the first long-term projection of the beetle's distribution, Kyodo said.

The damage

The beetle attacks trees of the rose family, including cherry and Japanese apricot, and has damaged peach trees in orchards. Its larvae feed inside the trunk and kill the tree. Damage has been found in cities, in the mountains and in orchards.

Where it came from

The beetle is native to China, Vietnam and other parts of Asia and is thought to have reached Japan with the movement of goods. It was first found in Japan in Aichi Prefecture in 2012, and damage has now been confirmed in 22 prefectures.

Two routes

The team modelled two ways the beetle spreads: adults flying, and beetles riding in vehicles for tens of kilometres.

The projection

By 2030 the beetle would occupy the Kanto region and part of Kansai. It would then spread rapidly,

The law

The concert came on the day the revised Imperial House Law took effect. Under the change, princesses who marry people outside the imperial family may keep their status as members of the family, rather than being required to leave it.

The government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party remain wary of opening the throne to women or of letting female members head branches of the family, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported on Sunday, while opposition parties are calling for a panel of experts to examine how a stable succession can be secured.

The princess

Princess Aiko, the only child of the Emperor and Empress, turns 25 on December 1. She has worked at the Japanese Red Cross Society since 2024 while carrying out a growing number of official duties.

The agency

The Imperial Household Agency's music department performs at court ceremonies and banquets and holds concerts at the palace in spring and autumn.

covering nearly all of Honshu and Shikoku by 2050 and reaching into Kyushu, with a further spread into Hokkaido expected later.

Okinawa

The beetle did not reach Okinawa in the scenario, but the researchers warned that sudden outbreaks there could not be ruled out.

Regulated

The beetle is designated a specified invasive alien species, which means it may not be kept, transported or released.

Cherry blossoms

The insect's spread is a particular worry for the cherry trees that line rivers, parks and school grounds across Japan, many of them planted decades ago.

What can be done

Signs of infestation include sawdust-like frass pushed out of holes in the trunk, and local authorities ask residents who see the beetle or the frass to report it.

SOCIETY

Torches Climb to the Shrine in Hirokawa as 370 People Retrace the Escape That 'Inamura no Hi' Made Famous in the 1854 Tsunami

A descendant of Hamaguchi Goryo, 83, says the young can spread the lesson: evacuate early
By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

About 370 residents of Hirokawa, a town in Wakayama Prefecture, carried lit torches about 2 km to a shrine on high ground on Saturday in the Inamura no Hi festival, which passes on the lessons of a tsunami that struck in 1854, Kyodo News reported.

Along the way, the participants checked the evacuation routes and reminded themselves of the importance of fleeing early.

The story

When the Ansei Nankai earthquake struck at the end of the Edo period, the businessman Hamaguchi Goryo set fire to sheaves of rice straw in the darkness. The flames guided villagers to high ground and saved them from the tsunami that followed.

The descendant

Michio Hamaguchi, 83, a descendant of Goryo, walked with the torches. "Many young people took part, and it was a good opportunity for them to learn how important it is to evacuate in a disaster," he said. He said he hoped they would pass the story on to those around them.

Japan Heritage

The Agency for Cultural Affairs has recognised Hirokawa's tsunami-conscious town planning as part of Japan Heritage.

The embankment

After the tsunami, Hamaguchi paid for a large embankment to protect the village from future waves, providing work for residents who had lost their livelihoods. The Hiromura embankment still stands.

A famous story

The writer Lafcadio Hearn told Hamaguchi's story in English at the end of the 19th century, and a version of it, "Inamura no Hi", was later taught in Japanese schools.

Tsunami day

November 5, the date of the earthquake in the old calendar, is Japan's Tsunami Preparedness Day, and the United Nations designated it World Tsunami Awareness Day in 2015.

The lesson today

The government has warned that a Nankai Trough earthquake could send tsunamis to the Pacific coast, including Wakayama, within minutes, making early evacuation essential.

SOCIETY

Families of Unification Church Victims Hold Their Last General Meeting After More Than 7,000 Consultations, and Will Disband by Year-End

The group, founded in 2003, kept going after the shooting of Shinzo Abe; it once received an email signed with the name of the man later charged
By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

A national association of families of victims of the Unification Church held its last general meeting in Tokyo on Saturday and will end its activities by the end of the year because its members are ageing, Kyodo News reported.

The association was founded in 2003 and has handled more than 7,000 consultations from people affected by the church, now known as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

Looking back

Members reviewed the association's activities at the meeting. Some said the church's activities should continue to be watched and that consultations from victims should still be answered in various forms.

A planned ending

The association had originally planned to close in 2023, 20 years after its founding.

The shooting

It carried on after former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot dead in 2022, when consultations surged.

The email

After the shooting, it emerged that the association had received an email in May 2004 sent under the name Tetsuya Yamagami, the man later charged with Abe's killing. Its purpose was unclear. "When was that?" it read.

The website

The association's website will remain online for the time being.

The church

The church is under a court order to dissolve, and liquidation proceedings are under way.

The families

The association brought together the families of people drawn into the church, and its members supported one another for more than two decades.

SOCIETY

Seven Couples Form Over Green Tea and Sweets at the Oita Governor's Residence, a Matchmaking Event Rare in Japan

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Oita Prefecture held a matchmaking event at the governor's official residence in Oita City on Saturday, and seven couples were formed, Kyodo News reported.

Thirty-eight people in their 20s to 40s who live in the prefecture took part, getting to know one another over green tea and Japanese sweets.

Groups and pairs

The participants talked in groups and one to one, and the atmosphere was friendly throughout.

The governor

"I hope you find a wonderful encounter," Governor Kiichiro Sato told the participants. "Relax and enjoy yourselves."

Since 2023

The event began in 2023 at the governor's suggestion, as he wanted the residence to be put to good use, and participants have responded well.

A rarity

The prefecture says such an event at a governor's residence is rare in Japan.

A memory

A 30-year-old company employee from Oita City, one of those who formed a couple, smiled as she said, "You can hardly ever get inside, so it has become a good memory."

The aim

The prefecture wants to give residents a chance to meet partners in a relaxed setting.

Falling births

Many prefectures have started matchmaking services as the number of marriages and births falls, and the government is drafting a comprehensive strategy for a society with a shrinking population.

SOCIETY

Saga Juvenile Prison Opens Its Doors: Visitors See the Barber's Room Where About 30 Inmates Have Qualified Since 2020

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Saga Juvenile Prison opened to the public on Saturday for a corrections fair, with a sale of everyday goods made by inmates and guided tours of the grounds, Kyodo News reported.

Many people came despite light rain, Kyodo reported.

The tour

Visitors were divided into groups of about 50, and prison officers led each group for about 30 minutes through the kitchen and the workshops where inmates work.

The barber's room

In a room where inmates train for a barber's licence, there was a barber's chair and a striped barber's pole. About 30 inmates have qualified as barbers since 2020, according to the prison.

A 700-yen cut

Prison officers and staff can have a haircut and shampoo from licensed inmates for 700 yen.

Computer skills

The visitors were also shown facilities where inmates study for qualifications in information processing.

Vocational training

The prison in Saga City is the only comprehensive vocational training facility in Kyushu, providing specialised job training to prepare inmates for their return to society.

The fair

Corrections fairs, held at prisons around the country, sell furniture, leather goods and other products made in prison workshops.

Return to society

The Justice Ministry regards job skills and qualifications as a key to preventing reoffending, because steady work makes it easier for former inmates to rebuild their lives.

SOCIETY



The emblem of the 5th Asian Para Games, Aichi-Nagoya 2026, which closed in Nagoya on Saturday. Container units that housed athletes at the games will become homes for Kumamoto earthquake survivors from December. (File image: WPM Productions)

SOCIETY

Container Lodgings That Housed Asian Games Athletes Will Become Homes for Kumamoto Earthquake Survivors From December

The organisers did without a large athletes' village and used mobile units built with disasters in mind; three hard-hit towns launch a logo to sell their produce

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Part of the temporary container accommodation that housed athletes and officials at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games and Asian Para Games will be used as homes for people affected by July's Kumamoto earthquake, the organising committee said on Saturday.

Construction is due to begin in November, and survivors are expected to move in from December, Kyodo News reported.

No village

The two games did without a large athletes' village. Instead, mobile container-type units served as the base for competitors and staff during the events.

The units were built with use after disasters in mind, and the companies that own them had been studying how they could be used once the games were over.

The details

The committee did not say how many units will go to Kumamoto or where they will be placed.

The games

The decision was announced on the day the Asian Para Games closed in Nagoya after seven days of competition, in which Japan won a record 64 gold medals. The Asian Games closed on October 4.

SOCIETY

New Applications for Nursing Care Jump 68% in the Areas Worst Hit by the Kumamoto Earthquake as Evacuees Seek Places in Homes

Applications more than doubled in Uki and Hikawa; officials point to damaged houses and to signs of dementia brought on by life in evacuation

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

New applications for long-term care certification rose 68 per cent in August from a year earlier in the eight municipalities that recorded the strongest shaking in July's Kumamoto earthquake, a Kyodo News survey found.

Applications in August totalled 700, up from 415 a year earlier. Certification is required before residents can use services under the long-term care insurance system.

The hardest hit

In Uki and Hikawa, where the earthquake registered the maximum 7 on the Japanese scale, applications more than doubled. Uki received 122, up from 55, an increase of 121 per cent, and Hikawa 48, up from 23, an increase of 108 per cent.

Yatsushiro received 278 applications, up from 152, an increase of 82 per cent.

The rest

In the other five municipalities, which recorded upper 6, the increases ranged from 21 per cent to 76 per cent. They are Kumamoto's Minami Ward, Uto, Misato, Kashima and Mashiki.

Destroyed homes

According to the prefecture, most of the homes that were completely destroyed in the earthquake were in Uki, Hikawa and Yatsushiro, the three municipalities

The earthquake

The earthquake in July registered 7, the top of the Japanese seismic intensity scale, in Uki and Hikawa, and upper 6 in Yatsushiro, Uto, Misato, Kashima, Mashiki and Kumamoto's Minami Ward, according to a Kyodo News survey of the eight municipalities.

A logo for local produce

Three of the towns hit hardest, Uto, Uki and Misato, said on Saturday that they had created a logo to put on local specialties and other goods, to encourage people across Japan to buy them and to help the area's economy recover.

The logo will be posted on each municipality's website from Wednesday, October 28, three months after the earthquake, and anyone may use it free of charge. Other municipalities in the prefecture can join. The idea was modelled on a scheme in Ishikawa Prefecture after the Noto Peninsula earthquake.

"We hope for support from across the country," Uto Mayor Mitsui said at a news conference in Uki with Uki Mayor Suematsu and Misato Mayor Ueda.

with the largest increases.

The reasons

Behind the rise are residents whose homes were damaged and who want to move into care facilities, and suspected cognitive decline caused by changes in their surroundings, such as life in evacuation, Kyodo reported.

Not enough places

Care capacity in the affected areas is insufficient, and there are concerns that the services people need may not reach them.

The survey

Kyodo tallied the new certification applications by surveying each of the eight municipalities and compared August's figures with those for August last year.

Three months

Wednesday, October 28, marks three months since the earthquake. Container units used to house athletes at the Asian Games are to be turned into homes for survivors from December.

SOCIETY

'We Won't Lose to Disasters': Quake-Damaged Yatsushiro School Holds Its Sports Day in a Park After a Crack Splits Its Ground

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Pupils at Ryuho Elementary School in Yatsushiro, Kumamoto Prefecture, whose grounds were split open by July's earthquake, held their sports day in a nearby park on Saturday, Kyodo News reported.

Fifty-one children took part, cheered on by their parents from the side of the field.

The chant

During the cheering contest, the children shouted, "We won't lose to disasters!"

The principal

"Children's learning and growth must not be stopped, whatever the circumstances," Principal Hattori said in her opening address.

The damage

A crack runs from north to south across the school's grounds, and the building is also cracked. The school says there is no prospect yet of repairs.

Borrowed classrooms

The pupils now travel about 4 km by school bus to another school, where they study in empty classrooms.

The town

Yatsushiro recorded upper 6 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale in the earthquake, which struck in July.

Rising care needs

The city is among the eight municipalities where new applications for nursing care rose sharply after the earthquake, according to a Kyodo survey. Yatsushiro received 278 in August, up from 152 a year earlier.

A lively day

Despite the setting, the day was lively and cheerful, with families crowding the edge of the park.

Three months on

The earthquake will have struck three months ago on Wednesday, and repairs to schools, homes and roads across the region are still under way.

SOCIETY

Kaho Gekijo, the Coalfield 'Temple of Popular Theatre' Where Misora Hibari Sang, Reopens in Iizuka After Five Years

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Kaho Gekijo, a theatre in Iizuka, Fukuoka Prefecture, that keeps the style of an Edo-period kabuki playhouse, reopened on Saturday after being closed for about five years, Kyodo News reported.

About 100 people attended a special performance of plays and dances that told the history of the theatre, as Japanese drums sounded in a hall that smelled of tatami. The audience applauded loudly.

The ceremony

"I am deeply moved that we have been able to reopen," Iizuka Mayor Takei said at a ceremony before the performance.

A video message from the actor Tomio Umezawa, a star of popular theatre, was shown.

The coalfield

The theatre is known as the "temple of popular theatre" and watched over the rise and decline of the Chikuho coalfield, once one of Japan's main coal-mining regions.

The stars

Singers including Hibari Misora and Shinichi Mori performed on its stage.

Protected

Kaho Gekijo is a nationally registered tangible cultural property.

For now, visits

For the time being, the focus will be on letting visitors tour the building, and the city aims eventually to use it fully as a working theatre again.

Popular theatre

Taishu engeki, or popular theatre, is performed by touring troupes that combine short plays with song and dance, and has long drawn audiences in mining and industrial towns.

The building

Its wooden interior, with tatami seating, keeps the look of the playhouses that once stood in towns across the country.

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85,000 software flaws, Page 10.

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SPORTS

Nikaido Is Second in the Grand Prix Final at Klingenthal, Maruyama Fourth, and Naoki Nakamura Is Crowned Overall Champion

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Ren Nikaido finished second in the seventh and final individual event of the summer Grand Prix series in ski jumping, on the large hill at Klingenthal, Germany, on Saturday, Kyodo News reported.

Nikaido jumped 139 metres and 140 metres on the HS140 hill for 290.0 points. Marius Lindvik of Norway won.

The champion

Naoki Nakamura was 12th but had already secured the overall Grand Prix title, the first of his career.

The others

Ryoyu Kobayashi was 10th and Yuto Nakamura 25th.

The women

Nozomi Maruyama was fourth in the women's event, won by Norway's Ingvild Synnøve Midtskogen. Sara Takanashi was 11th.

The women's title

Slovenia's Ema Klinec won the overall women's Grand Prix title.

The summer series

The Grand Prix is contested on hills with plastic matting during the summer and autumn, before the World Cup season begins on snow in November.

Form

Nikaido's second place and Nakamura's overall title give Japan's men encouragement before the winter season.

Maruyama

Maruyama's fourth place left her just off the podium in the final event.

Takanashi

Takanashi, Japan's most successful women's jumper, finished outside the top 10.

SPORTS

Yukino Yoshida Wins Her First National 1,000 Metres Title; Sasaki and Iida Also Win for the First Time at the Distance Championships

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Yukino Yoshida, who skated at the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics, won the women's 1,000 metres at the national distance championships at the M-Wave in Nagano on Saturday for her first title at the distance, Kyodo News reported.

Yoshida clocked 1 minute 16.01 seconds on the second day of the championships. Rio Yamada was second, 0.29 seconds behind.

The men's 1,500 metres

Shomu Sasaki of Meiji University, also an Olympian at Milano Cortina, won the men's 1,500 metres in 1:45.81 for his first title. Kazuya Yamada was second.

The women's 5,000 metres

Iida of Yamanashi Gakuin University won the women's 5,000 metres in 7:14.33, also her first title. Momoka Horikawa, an Olympian, was third.

The first day

On Friday, Yoshida had won the 500 metres for the third year running.

A double

Saturday's victory gave Yoshida the sprint double at the championships.

The season

The championships help decide the teams for the World Cup series, which begins later in the autumn.

Nagano

The M-Wave, built for the 1998 Nagano Olympics, has hosted the championships for many years.

Next

The championships end on Sunday.

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SPORTS



The umpires line up at home plate with figures from both clubs before Game 1 of the SMBC Japan Series at Yokohama Stadium on Saturday. SoftBank won 3-1 in 11 innings; Game 2 is at 6 p.m. on Sunday. (Photo: Nippon Professional Baseball)

SPORTS

Shoji Delivers Twice as SoftBank Win the Japan Series Opener 3-1 in 11 Innings, After Uezawa Shuts Out DeNA for Seven

Maki's home run in the eighth forced extra innings at Yokohama Stadium before Shoji's double and a sacrifice fly settled it in front of 33,388

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

The Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks, chasing a second straight Japan Series title, beat the Yokohama DeNA BayStars 3-1 in 11 innings in Game 1 at Yokohama Stadium on Saturday night, with Shoji driving in two runs, including the go-ahead double in the 11th.

The game was scoreless for six innings. SoftBank went ahead in the seventh, DeNA's Shugo Maki tied it with a solo home run in the eighth, and SoftBank won it in the 11th in front of a crowd of 33,388.

The breakthrough

Taisei Makihara singled and Yudai Yamamoto, a former DeNA player, doubled to put runners on second and third with nobody out in the seventh. Shoji then grounded to second, and Makihara scored.

Uezawa

SoftBank's starter, Naoyuki Uezawa, pitched seven scoreless innings, allowing six hits. He hit the leadoff batter, Ryuki Watari, with his first pitch of the game and loaded the bases with one out in the first after singles by Maki and Yoshitomo Tsutsugo, but got Koki Kajiwar

to ground into a double play. In the seventh a line drive from Kajiwar struck him on the leg, but he stayed in the game. After a single by Taiki Mitsumori and a balk, he retired Takuma Hayashi and struck out Yasutaka Tobashira to keep the lead.

Maki's answer

In the eighth, with two out, Maki hit a solo home run off the reliever Hiroki Matsumoto to tie the game 1-1.

Chances missed

DeNA threatened to win it in the ninth, when Mitsumori singled and stole second and third, and again in the 10th, but could not score. Darwinzon

SPORTS

Game 1 Winners Have Taken the Japan Series 61% of the Time; DeNA, Who Lost the Opener in 2024 and Still Won, Turn to Ogata Against Moinelo

Former manager Daisuke Miura, who led the 2024 champions, threw out the first pitch: 'Honestly, my heart was pounding'

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

History is on SoftBank's side as the Japan Series resumes at Yokohama Stadium on Sunday night. In 76 previous series, the team that took the early lead went on to win the title 46 times, or about 61 per cent, Kyodo News calculated.

In 45 of those cases the team won Game 1. The other was Hankyu in 1975, which drew Game 1 and won Game 2.

SoftBank's record

Saturday's win was the 14th time the Hawks, counting their years as Nankai and Daiei, have won the first game of a Japan Series. They have gone on to win the title eight times after doing so, including in 2017, when they beat DeNA 4-2.

Hernandez and Roberto Osuna kept SoftBank level through the ninth and 10th.

The 11th

With one out and runners on first and second in the 11th, Shoji doubled to left off Baba to put SoftBank ahead, his second run batted in of the night, and the pinch-hitter Tatsuru Yanagimachi added a sacrifice fly.

Kazuki Sugiyama closed out the bottom of the 11th for the save. Osuna was credited with the win.

DeNA's starter

DeNA's starter, Yutaro Ishida, and an aggressive defensive shift kept SoftBank's hitters quiet until the seventh.

The run

It was SoftBank's fourth straight win of the postseason, after a three-game sweep of Nippon-Ham in the Climax Series final stage, where Shoji was named the most valuable player. The Asahi Shimbun highlighted the contributions of SoftBank's lower order and of Yamamoto against his former team.

Next

Game 2 is at Yokohama Stadium at 6 p.m. on Sunday, with Livan Moinelo starting for SoftBank and Ogata for DeNA.

DeNA's hope

It was the third time DeNA had lost the opening game of a Japan Series, including in 2024. Recent history offers the BayStars hope: in four of the last five series, the team that lost Game 1 won the title. The exception was Hanshin in 2023.

In 2024 DeNA lost the first two games to SoftBank and then won four in a row to take the series 4-2.

Tonight

Livan Moinelo starts for SoftBank and Ogata for DeNA. The first pitch is at 6 p.m.

The schedule

Games 3 to 5 will be played at Mizuho PayPay Dome in Fukuoka from Tuesday to Thursday, and Games 6 and 7, if needed, return to Yokohama Stadium on October 31 and November 1. All games are played at night, and the first team to four wins takes the title.

Miura's pitch

Daisuke Miura, who managed DeNA until last season, threw out the ceremonial first pitch before Game 1, reaching the catcher on the fly from in front of the mound to cheers from the crowd.

"Honestly, it was different from usual, and my heart was pounding for the first time in a while," Miura said. "I am very honoured to have thrown the first pitch on the stage of the Japan Series."

2024 again

Under Miura, DeNA finished third in the Central League in 2024, won the Climax Series and went on to win the Japan Series for the first time in 26 years. This year the team again finished third and came through the Climax Series, winning six games in a row.

SPORTS

Scoreboard

Saturday's results

By the Sports Desk

JAPAN SERIES, GAME 1: SoftBank 3, DeNA 1 (11 innings). SoftBank lead 1-0. W: Osuna. S: Sugiyama. HR: Maki (DeNA). Att: 33,388.

RUGBY: Fiji 34, Japan 28 (half-time 21-21). Women: Wales 17, Japan 0.

J1: Kobe 0, Machida 0; Hiroshima 4, Shimizu 0; Kashima 2, Kashiwa 3; Tokyo Verdy 3, Fukuoka 1; Gamba Osaka 2, Kyoto 2.

FIGURE SKATING, GP DE FRANCE: Women: 1, Ami Nakai 219.74; 4, Yuna Aoki 200.62; 6, Rion Sumiyoshi 190.70. Men's SP: 1, Adam Siao Him Fa (FRA) 102.46; 8, Sota Yamamoto 77.02; 9, Kaisei Miura 72.67.

GYMNASTICS WORLDS: Rings: 1, Lan Xingyu (CHN) 14.766; 4, Shinnosuke Oka 14.133. Floor: 4, Ryosuke Doi 14.366. Pommel horse: 1, Hamlet Manukyan (ARM) 15.300; 8, Daiki Hashimoto 13.466.

SKI JUMPING GP FINAL: Men: 1, Marius Lindvik (NOR); 2, Ren Nikaido 290.0. Women: 4, Nozomi Maruyama. Overall: Naoki Nakamura; Ema Klinec (SLO).

SPEED SKATING: Women's 1,000 m: Yukino Yoshida 1:16.01. Men's 1,500 m: Shomu Sasaki 1:45.81. Women's 5,000 m: Iida 7:14.33.

B PREMIER: Hokkaido 96, Hiroshima 93; Sendai 93, Kawasaki 82; Mikawa 91, A Tokyo 82.

NBA: LA Lakers 125, LA Clippers 117 (Hachimura 16 points).

GOLF (after 3 rounds): Men: Yoshinori Fujimoto -10. Women: Shiho Kuwaki -12. LPGA, Korea: Yu Hae-ran leads; Yuri Yoshida T2, -13. PGA, Bermuda: Smotherman, Power -16; Kensei Hirata T34, -8.

FOOTBALL ABROAD: Aston Villa 2, Manchester City 1; Dortmund 1, Frankfurt 0; Cologne 0, Schalke 0; Mainz 2, Bremen 3; Cagliari 0, Bologna 2.

SPORTS

Sunday's Sport: Game 2 in Yokohama, Lovcen's Triple Crown Bid at Kyoto, Gomi's Final in Astana and Four Final Rounds of Golf

By the Sports Desk

Sunday brings one of the busiest days of the autumn, with the Japan Series, the Kikuka Sho and medal chances for Japanese athletes from Astana to Paris.

BASEBALL: Japan Series Game 2, DeNA v SoftBank, at Yokohama Stadium at 6 p.m. Livan Moinelo starts for SoftBank, who lead 1-0, and Ogata for DeNA.

RACING: The 87th Kikuka Sho, the 3,000-metre final leg of the Triple Crown, is the 11th race at Kyoto Racecourse, with the start at 3:40 p.m. Lovcen, winner of the Satsuki Sho and the Derby, bids to become the ninth Triple Crown winner, after St. Lite in 1941 and Contrail in 2020 among others. The winner receives 200 million yen.

WRESTLING: Gomi wrestles for the 60 kg Greco-Roman world title in Astana, and Horikita competes in the 77 kg repechage.

RACE WALKING: Hayato Katsuki, the Asian Games champion, can earn a place at next year's world championships in Beijing by beating the national federation's standard of 2 hours 58 minutes in the marathon race walk at the national championships in Takahata, Yamagata Prefecture. "I'm in good shape. If anyone goes ahead of me, I can follow at any pace," Katsuki said on Saturday. Ayane Yanai said she was looking forward to the race and wanted to keep to her pace.

GYMNASTICS: The second half of the apparatus finals at the world championships in Rotterdam.

FIGURE SKATING: The men's free skate at the Grand Prix de France, with Sota Yamamoto eighth and Kaisei Miura ninth after the short program.

TABLE TENNIS AND BADMINTON: The semi-finals of the Asian Championships in Tashkent, and the French Open women's doubles final, with Yuki Fukushima and Mayu Matsumoto.

GOLF: The final rounds of the Fortinet Players Cup in Chiba, led by Yoshinori Fujimoto, the Nobuta Group Masters GC Ladies in Hyogo, led by Shiho Kuwaki, and the LPGA's BMW Ladies Championship in South Korea, where Yuri Yoshida is four shots back.

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS: The second half of the AEON Cup individual all-around final in Tokyo.

SPEED SKATING: The final day of the national distance championships in Nagano.

FOOTBALL: The J1 League's 12th round continues, after Machida kept their lead with a goalless draw at Kobe on Saturday.

SPORTS

Nakai Comes From Third to Win the Grand Prix de France Again With a Triple Axel in Her Free Skate; Leader Aoki Falls to Fourth

Fournier Beaudry and Cizeron retain the ice dance title; Siao Him Fa leads the men, with Yamamoto eighth and Miura ninth

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Ami Nakai came from third place after the short program to win the Grand Prix de France for the second year running on Saturday, landing a triple Axel in a free skate that was the best of the day, Kyodo News reported from Angers.

Nakai, the bronze medallist at the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics, finished with 219.74 points at the opening event of the Grand Prix series.

Aoki's slip

Yuna Aoki, who led after the short program and is this year's Four Continents champion, made mistakes on her jumps, including falls, and was fifth in the free skate. She finished fourth overall with 200.62 points.

Sumiyoshi

Rion Sumiyoshi was sixth with 190.70 points.

The comeback

Nakai was third after Friday's short program, behind Aoki, but the triple Axel in the free skate lifted her to the top.

Ice dance

France's Laurence Fournier Beaudry and Guillaume Cizeron, the Olympic champions, won both the rhythm dance and the free dance to retain their title with 207.57 points.

The men

In the men's short program, France's Adam Siao Him Fa led with 102.46 points. Mikhail Shaidorov of Kazakhstan, the Olympic champion, was fourth with 80.25.

Sota Yamamoto was eighth with 77.02 points and Kaisei Miura, who got off to a slow start, ninth with 72.67.

Sunday

The men's free skate is held on Sunday, the final day of the event.

The series

The Grand Prix series continues with five more events before the final, where the top six skaters in each discipline meet.

SPORTS

The Japan Series at a Glance

By the Sports Desk

GAME 1: SoftBank 3, DeNA 1, in 11 innings, at Yokohama.

GAME 2: Sunday, 6 p.m., Yokohama; Moinelo v Ogata.

GAMES 3-5: Tuesday to Thursday at Mizuho PayPay Dome, Fukuoka.

GAMES 6-7: October 31 and November 1 at Yokohama, if needed.

FORMAT: The first team to four wins.

HISTORY: Teams that took the early lead won 46 of 76 series.

LAST MEETING: DeNA beat SoftBank 4-2 in 2024. SOFTBANK: Seeking a second straight title.

DENA: Third in the Central League, with six straight wins in the Climax Series.

GAME 1 CROWD: 33,388.

SPORTS



Hideki Matsui at bat for the New York Yankees, in a file photo. The Giants' new manager visited the club's farm ground in Kawasaki on Saturday, as his former team-mate Yoshinobu Takahashi emerged as a candidate for his head coach. (File photo: WPM Productions)

SPORTS

'It's Really Starting': Matsui Visits the Giants' Farm Ground, as Former Manager Yoshinobu Takahashi Emerges as a Candidate for His Head Coach

Ichiro, speaking in Seattle, says only Hideki Matsui could stir such excitement over a managerial appointment
By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Hideki Matsui, the Yomiuri Giants' new manager, visited the club's farm facilities, including Giants Ballpark in Kawasaki, on Saturday, greeting staff and telling reporters that the sense of a new season beginning was growing stronger.

"It's really starting, for next season. I have to lead from the front, and that feeling is getting stronger," Matsui said.

Memories

He said he had spent a lot of time at the ballpark as a rookie. "It reminds me of my own rookie days," he said. Looking around the facilities, he added, "They have changed from our time. They have the latest equipment."

Still strange

Asked about the reaction to his appointment, announced at a news conference on Friday, he joked that he had been jet-lagged and mostly asleep. On being called "manager", he said, "It feels strange all over. I'm not used to it at all."

Takahashi

Yoshinobu Takahashi, 51, who managed the Giants from 2016 to 2018, is a leading candidate for a head-coach-level post on Matsui's staff, sources told Kyodo News on Saturday. It would be his first return to the club since he stepped down as manager after the 2018 season.

Takahashi and Matsui were both central hitters in the Giants' line-up in their playing days, and a staff with both men would draw attention, Kyodo said.

His career

Takahashi joined the Giants from Keio University in 1998 as their first-round draft pick and finished with 1,753 hits, 321 home runs and 986 runs batted in. He retired after the 2015 season and became manager immediately.

The first task

At his introductory news conference, Matsui called the choice of coaches "the first important task". "At this point I have approached only one person," he said.

Ichiro

In Seattle, Ichiro, 53, told Kyodo on Friday that "no one but Hideki Matsui" could create such excitement over the appointment of a manager, and called the decision one that showed resolve. He said Matsui always kept the Giants' dignity and tradition in mind.

The two played in the major leagues at the same time, Ichiro with the Seattle Mariners and Matsui with the New York Yankees, and Ichiro said they shared the same attitude to the professional game, mindful of the fans who come to see serious competition. He said he hoped the Giants would remain a special presence in every era.

On the same team

Matsui has played since 2024 in the games that Ichiro's team, KOBE CHIBEN, plays each year against a select team of high school girls, and the two have built a close relationship.

The government

Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said the government would be "watching to see how history is made" under Matsui, TV Asahi reported.

SPORTS

Hanshin Will Turn Daichi Ishii, Whose 50 Scoreless Games Set a Record, Into a Starter as Fujikawa Opens Autumn Training With a Third Straight Pennant in Mind

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Hanshin Tigers manager Kyuji Fujikawa said on Saturday that the reliever Daichi Ishii, who set a professional record with 50 consecutive scoreless appearances, will move into the starting rotation next season.

Fujikawa made the announcement as the Tigers began autumn training at their indoor practice facility next to Koshien Stadium in Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture. It will be the first time Ishii, 29, has been a starter since he joined the club in 2021.

The record

Ishii made 53 appearances last season with an earned run average of 0.17. His scoreless streak ended this season. He is known for a fastball that tops 150 km/h.

The injury

He tore his left Achilles tendon during spring camp and returned this season to make 12 appearances.

The manager's view

"He is very good at managing the number of pitches he throws in an inning," Fujikawa said. "I think he will show his strengths as a starter."

Fujikawa has considered using Ishii as a starter since taking over as manager in 2025, and the emergence of younger relievers also played a part. He said the decision was about making use of the direction the players themselves want to take.

Ishii's view

"My experience in relief will help in some situations," Ishii said. "I want to live up to the manager's expectations."

Three in a row

The Tigers won the Central League in both of the past two seasons, the first time the club has won back-to-back titles, but lost in this year's Climax Series. Fujikawa said the aim of the autumn training was to raise the players' physical strength and condition, with a third straight league title and a Japan Series championship as next season's goals.

Who was there

Many core players, including Morishita, did not take part. The relievers Kudo and Kinoshita were among those who worked up a sweat playing catch.

The camp

The autumn camp begins on November 1 in Aki, Kochi Prefecture. Fujikawa said the players would split into those focusing on self-improvement and those raising their condition for the camp.

SPORTS

Asian Para Games Close in Nagoya With a Record 64 Golds for Japan, but Empty Seats and Anthem Mix-Ups Leave a Muted Mood

Japan's best haul ever comes at games that lacked excitement, Kyodo says; container lodgings from the athletes' base will house Kumamoto earthquake survivors
By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

The Aichi-Nagoya Asian Para Games closed on Saturday with a ceremony at Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya after seven days of competition, in which Japan won a record 64 gold medals, Kyodo News reported.

Japan won 186 medals in all, the Asahi Shimbun reported.

Oda

Tokito Oda, 20, won the men's wheelchair tennis singles, earning a place at the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics.

Empty seats

Empty seats were conspicuous at many venues, and the games lacked excitement, Kyodo said.

Mistakes

There were repeated mix-ups involving national anthems, and some medal ceremonies had to be held again, an unusual step.

The Asian Games

The Asian Games, which closed on October 4, had similar serious problems, and they were not prevented this time, Kyodo said.

A run of events

Japan has hosted a series of major international events for athletes with disabilities, including the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021 and the Deaflympics in Tokyo last year.

A quiet ending

The flame was put out quietly in Nagoya at the end of the seven days, the Asahi reported.

After the games

Some of the container units that housed athletes during the two games will be turned into homes for people affected by July's Kumamoto earthquake, the organisers said on Saturday.

Los Angeles

Oda, who won the men's wheelchair tennis singles at the Paris Paralympics in 2024, now has his place at the next Games secured, two years ahead.

SPORTS

Fujimoto Leads by One Going Into the Final Round at Narita; Kuwaki Takes a Two-Shot Lead in Hyogo; Yoshida Is Four Back in Korea

Hirata falls from first to 34th in Bermuda after a 76
By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Yoshinori Fujimoto, a three-time winner on the Japan Golf Tour, shot a 69 on Saturday to keep the lead after three rounds of the Fortinet Players Cup at Narita Hills Country Club in Chiba Prefecture, Kyodo News reported.

Fujimoto, who has led since the first day, is at 10 under par with 203, one shot ahead of Ryuichi Oiwa and Kazuki Yasumori.

The chasers

Shugo Imahira, Ryosuke Kinoshita and South Korea's Song Young-han are among five players two shots behind at 8 under, and Yuta Ikeda and Mikumu Horikawa are three back at 7 under. The round was played in rain before 983 spectators.

The women

Shiho Kuwaki shot a 67 with seven birdies to take a two-shot lead at 12 under with 204 after three rounds of the Nobuta Group Masters GC Ladies at Masters Golf Club in Hyogo Prefecture.

Five players share second at 10 under, including Akari Sakuma, the defending champion, Kotone Hori, Shina Kanazawa and Ayame Morii. Ai Suzuki, last week's winner, is four shots back, and Kana Nagai, who led after the second round, fell to 10th.

Korea

Yuri Yoshida shot a 68 to move into a tie for second at 13 under in the BMW Ladies Championship, an LPGA tournament at Pine Beach Links in Haenam, South Korea, four shots behind Yu Hae-ran of South Korea.

Nasa Hataoka and Akie Iwai are tied for 19th at 8 under, and Chisato Iwai is 26th at 6 under. Ayaka Furue is 54th.

Bermuda

Kensei Hirata, who started the third round of the Bermuda Championship in first place, shot a 5-over 76 and fell to 34th at 8 under. Takumi Kanaya and Ren Yonezawa are tied for 44th at 7 under. Austin Smotherman of the United States and Ireland's Seamus Power share the lead at 16 under.

Sunday

All four tournaments end on Sunday.

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Shoji wins Game 1, Page 16.

Nakai wins in France, Page 16.

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SPORTS

Harimoto Siblings Reach the Singles Semi-Finals at the Asian Championships; Fukushima and Matsumoto Make the French Open Final

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Tomokazu Harimoto and his sister, Miwa, both reached the singles semi-finals at the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Saturday, Kyodo News reported.

Tomokazu beat a Taiwanese player 3-2 in the quarter-finals of the men's singles, and Miwa reached the last four of the women's singles.

Doubles

In the women's doubles, Miwa Harimoto and Hina Hayata advanced to the semi-finals, as did Satsuki Odo and Miyu Nagasaki.

Sunday

The semi-finals are held on Sunday.

Badminton

Yuki Fukushima and Mayu Matsumoto reached the women's doubles final at the French Open near Paris on Saturday, beating an Indonesian pair in the semi-finals.

The others

Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi lost in the women's doubles, and Nozomi Okuhara and Hina Akechi went out of the women's singles.

A new pairing

Both have succeeded with other partners: Matsumoto won world titles in women's doubles with Wakana Nagahara, and Fukushima won world championship medals with Sayaka Hirota.

The final

The final is on Sunday.

The rhythmic gymnasts

At the AEON Cup, the world club championships in rhythmic gymnastics at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium, the world championships representative Suzuki was provisionally 10th after the hoop and ball in the individual all-around final, with 53.600 points. Russia's Sofia Ilteryakova led after the clubs and ribbon. The second half is held on Sunday.

SPORTS

Hachimura Scores 16 as the Clippers Lose for the First Time; Hokkaido End Hiroshima's Nine-Game Winning Start in B Premier

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Rui Hachimura scored 16 points as a starter for the Los Angeles Clippers, but they lost 125-117 to the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday, their first defeat of the NBA season, Kyodo News reported.

Hachimura played 33 minutes and 16 seconds and had six rebounds and an assist. He made five field goals, three of them three-pointers.

The derby

The Clippers were the visitors in the Los Angeles derby.

B Premier

In Japan's B League Premier division, Levanga Hokkaido beat the Hiroshima Dragonflies 96-93, ending Hiroshima's winning start to the season at nine games. Hokkaido are 6-4.

Sendai

The Sendai 89ers beat the Kawasaki Brave Thunders 93-82 to improve to 8-3.

Mikawa

SeaHorses Mikawa beat Alvark Tokyo 91-82. Mikawa are 6-2 and Alvark 8-3.

Eight games

Eight games were played on Saturday, including one at the Epico Arena Fukuyama in Hiroshima Prefecture.

Volleyball

In the SV League, Suntory began the season with a win, the Asahi Shimbun reported.

The new league

The B Premier, the top division of a reorganised B League, is in its first season.

SPORTS



Milwaukee Brewers and Tampa Bay Rays players in action at a base, in a file photo supplied for this edition. The Brewers won Game 1 of the World Series 3-2, and the Rays led Game 2 at press time. (File photo: WPM Productions)

SPORTS

Rays Lead the Brewers 4-2 in Game 2 of the World Series at Press Time After a Four-Run First Inning; Milwaukee Won the Opener 3-2

Liam Hicks hits a two-run home run off Logan Henderson; the series moves to the Rays' home for Game 3 on Monday, local time
By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

The Tampa Bay Rays led the Milwaukee Brewers 4-2 in the fourth inning of Game 2 of the World Series in Milwaukee at press time on Sunday morning, Japan time, after scoring four runs in the first inning. The Brewers won the opener 3-2 on Friday night, local time, and lead the best-of-seven series 1-0.

A fast start

Liam Hicks hit a two-run home run in the top of the first, and Junior Caminero and Chandler Simpson each drove in a run against the Brewers' starter, Logan Henderson.

The reply

Milwaukee answered with two runs in the bottom of the first against Drew Rasmussen, on run-scoring hits by Garrett Mitchell and William Contreras.

The starters

Henderson pitched three innings, allowing four runs, three of them earned, on three hits, with four strikeouts and a walk, before JoJo Romero relieved him. Rasmussen had given up two runs on five hits through three innings, striking out four.

Hicks again

Hicks drove in both of Tampa Bay's runs in Game 1 without a hit, in the fourth and ninth innings.

CULTURE

The Shosoin Exhibition Opens in Nara With 60 Treasures, 11 Shown for the First Time, 80 Years After the First Show in 1946

A lacquered ewer listed in Emperor Shomu's inventory, a glass bottle from the region around Iran and a box from the Great Buddha's eye-opening ceremony are among the highlights
By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The 78th Shosoin Exhibition opened at the Nara National Museum on Saturday, showing 60 treasures from the imperial repository at Todaiji, 11 of them for the first time. It runs until November 9 and is open every day. This year marks 80 years since the first exhibition was held in 1946.

The ewer

Among the highlights is a lacquered ewer listed in the Kokka Chinpocho, the inventory of the treasures dedicated to the Great Buddha of Todaiji after the death of Emperor Shomu in the eighth century.

Glass

A bottle of white glass shown this year was made in the region around Iran and carried east across Asia.

Go stones

Go stones of stained ivory, decorated in the bachiru technique of carving designs through the coloured surface, are also on show.

The eye-opening

A box decorated with painting in the mitsuda technique was used to hold offerings at the ceremony in 752 at which the eyes of the Great Buddha were painted in.

Game 1

In the opener, Jacob Misiorowski allowed one run over five innings for the win, and Trevor Megill gave up a run in the ninth before closing out the game for the save. Nick Martinez, who pitched for Nippon-Ham and SoftBank, took the loss.

Never champions

Neither club has won the World Series. The Brewers lost their only previous Series, in 1982, to the St. Louis Cardinals, and the Rays lost in 2008 to the Philadelphia Phillies and in 2020 to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Next

The series moves to the Rays' home for Game 3 on Monday and Game 4 on Tuesday, local time, with Game 5 there on Wednesday if it is needed.

Japan time

Evening games in the United States are played on mornings in Japan, and Game 3 begins on Tuesday morning, Japan time.

Sutra and mask

The exhibits also include a copy of the Bommokyo sutra and a gigaku mask of the drunken king of a western land, used in masked dance-dramas at the temple.

Rush mats

Items related to ancient rush mats, which the Shosoin Office has recently studied for their materials and techniques, are also on display.

The repository

The Shosoin, a wooden storehouse in the grounds of Todaiji, holds about 9,000 objects, many of them from the eighth century, including works that reached Japan along the trade routes from China, Central Asia and Persia.

Visiting

The museum is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and until 8 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, with last entry an hour before closing. General admission is 2,000 yen. The Yomiuri Shimbun is a special co-operator.

The inspection

The exhibition follows the annual ceremony in early autumn at which the repository's doors are unsealed so that the treasures can be inspected and aired.

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Champi's path shifts west, Page 3.

Tamaki and the seat cut, Page 4.

410,000 march in France, Page 6.

Kim crosses into China, Page 7.

JR Kyushu at 10, Page 8.

CULTURE

Was This Where Augustus Died? A University of Tokyo Dig Beneath Vesuvius Nears Its End After More Than 20 Years, Short of Money

Beneath a second-century building, the team found an older one with seven ovens, unusual for its time
By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

A University of Tokyo team that has spent more than 20 years excavating a Roman site on the northern slope of Mount Vesuvius, which local tradition links to the emperor Augustus, is nearing the end of its work but faces a serious shortage of funds, Kyodo News reported.

The team, led by Professor Mariko Muramatsu, has been digging at Somma Vesuviana, near Naples in southern Italy, since 2002.

The eruption

The site was buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79, the same disaster that destroyed Pompeii on the mountain's southern side.

Two buildings

The team first studied a building from the second century, long after the reign of Augustus. Digging deeper, it found beneath it a building from before the middle of the first century.

Seven ovens

Seven ovens were found, a number Kyodo described as highly unusual for the period.

The tradition

Local tradition has long held that Augustus, the first Roman emperor, who died early in the first century, had a villa on the site.

Tacitus

The site may be the place where Augustus died, as described by the historian Tacitus in his Annals, a possibility that has drawn attention around the world. Ancient writers record that the emperor died at Nola, in Campania, in AD 14. The team is still looking for evidence that would settle the question.

On screen

A famous Italian film director has featured the site in one of his works.

In the sun

When Kyodo visited in late September, students from the University of Tokyo were digging alongside researchers under a strong sun.

Money

Funding has become a serious problem, and support from outside the university is essential if the work is to be completed, Kyodo reported.

CULTURE

Tokyo International Film Festival Opens on Monday With a Film About 'Sukiyaki', and 'Godzilla -0.0' Is the Centrepiece

Yeon Sang-ho, director of 'Train to Busan', closes the 10-day festival with 'Colony'
By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The 39th Tokyo International Film Festival opens on Monday and runs until November 4, with "SUKIYAKI", a film about the making of Kyu Sakamoto's hit "Ue o Muite Aruko", as its opening film, the organisers have announced.

Directed by Takahisa Zeze from a screenplay by Takehiko Minato, the film stars Junichi Okada, Tori Matsuzaka and Taiga Nakano and tells how the composer Hachidai Nakamura, the lyricist Rokusuke Ei and the singer Sakamoto created the song. Toho releases it in Japan on December 25.

The song

Released in 1961, the song topped the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States in 1963 under the title "Sukiyaki", the first Japanese-language record to do so.

Godzilla

The festival's centrepiece is "Godzilla -0.0", written and directed by Takashi Yamazaki, who also oversaw its visual effects, and starring Ryunosuke Kamiki and Minami Hamabe. Toho releases it on November 3. Its predecessor, "Godzilla Minus One", won the Academy Award for visual effects in 2024.

The closing film

The festival closes with "Colony", by the South Korean director Yeon Sang-ho, who made "Train to Busan". It stars Jun Ji-hyun, Koo Kyo-hwan and Ji Chang-wook and was first shown in the Midnight Screenings section at Cannes this year.

The market

TIFFCOM, the content market held alongside the festival, runs from Wednesday to Friday, organised by the economy and internal affairs ministries with Unijapan, which also organises the festival.

The festival

The festival, first held in 1985, is Japan's main international film festival, with competition, gala and animation sections.

The programmer

The films were chosen under the programming director, Shozo Ichiyama.

SPORTS

Machida Stay Top After a Goalless Draw at Kobe; Tokyo Verdy Win at Last; Suzuki Helps Aston Villa Inflict City's First Defeat

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Kobe and Machida drew 0-0 in the meeting of the J1 League's leading teams at Noevir Stadium Kobe on Saturday, leaving Machida on top with 27 points, Kyodo News reported.

Hiroshima beat Shimizu 4-0 to move to 26 points, a point behind Machida, and Kashiwa won 3-2 at Kashima to move to 25. Kobe have 23.

Asano

Takuma Asano "finally" scored his first goal for Hiroshima, the Asahi Shimbun reported.

Kashiwa

Kashiwa came from behind for their first win at Kashima in six years, the Asahi reported.

Verdy's first win

Tokyo Verdy beat Fukuoka 3-1 for their first win of the season, with goals from Kumatoriya, Matsuhashi and Teranuma. Verdy moved up to 8 points, leaving Fukuoka bottom with 7.

Osaka

Gamba Osaka and Kyoto drew 2-2.

Suzuki at Villa Park

In England, the goalkeeper Zion Suzuki played the full match as Aston Villa beat Manchester City 2-1 at home, handing City their first league defeat of the season.

Germany

Ritsu Doan played until the 87th minute as Eintracht Frankfurt lost 1-0 at Borussia Dortmund. Satoshi Tanaka played the full match in Schalke's goalless draw at Cologne, and Kaishu Sano played into stoppage time as Mainz lost 3-2 at home to Werder Bremen.

Italy

Yukinari Sugawara came on at the start of the second half as Cagliari lost 2-0 at home to Bologna.

The round

The J1 round continues on Sunday.

SPORTS

The Asian Para Games at a Glance

By the Sports Desk

WHERE: Aichi and Nagoya.

CLOSED: Saturday, at Paloma Mizuho Stadium, after seven days of competition.

JAPAN'S GOLDS: 64, a record.

JAPAN'S MEDALS: 186 in all, the Asahi Shimbun reported.

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS: Tokito Oda, 20, won the men's singles and a place at the 2028 Paralympics.

THE CROWDS: Empty seats at many venues.

THE MISTAKES: Repeated mix-ups with national anthems; some medal ceremonies held again.

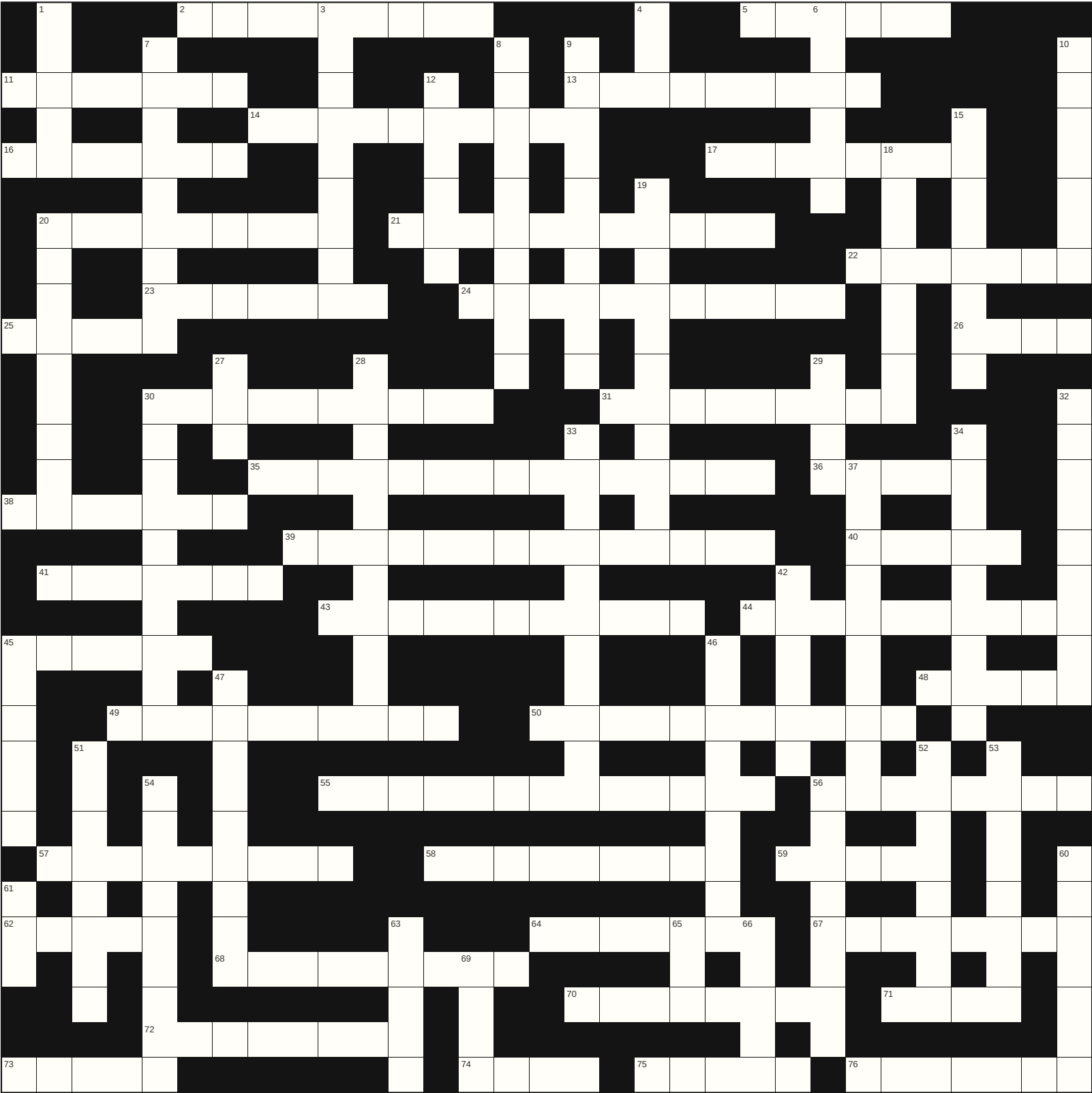
THE ASIAN GAMES: Closed on October 4.

THE LODGINGS: Container units to become homes for Kumamoto earthquake survivors from December.

BEFORE: The Tokyo Paralympics in 2021 and the Tokyo Deaflympics last year.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Today's Professional Puzzle — Constructed by James O'Neill — 80 Words



Solution will appear in tomorrow's edition. Puzzle difficulty: Professional.

ACROSS

2. Month Japan beat Fiji in the Pacific Nations Cup final (9)
5. Court music the Emperor heard (6)
11. Actor who sent a video message (7)
13. Battle of October 25, 1415 (9)
14. Co-leader in Bermuda (10)
16. Plant the mayors want decommissioned (7)
17. Wakayama town of the torch festival (8)
20. Double-reed pipe of the court orchestra (9)
21. University with Japan's first such institute (11)
22. Coldest morning on the map (7)
23. Parlours also opened to dependants (7)
24. Line partly turned into a bus route (11)
25. Ruling the hardliners want reconsidered (5)
26. GLAY singer who wrote a cheer song (4)
30. Trading platform with read-only passwords (10)
31. ___ Institutes, called a threat (9)
35. Island in In-fa's path by Friday (15)
36. Hiroshima scorer, 'finally' (5)
38. Guillaume, ice dance champion again (7)
39. Ground of the centenary match (14)
40. Gulf of the first kamikaze attacks (5)
41. Vault champion for a third time (7)
43. Seat formula the LDP proposed (11)
44. Scorer of Verdy's first goal (10)
45. ___.com Desktop Cloud, the service that was broken into (6)
48. Leader of the Republican field for 2028 (5)
49. What police may do to attack servers (10)
50. Site of the Grand Prix final (11)
55. Town below the Eagle's Nest (13)
56. The writers' sleeper train (8)
57. Alpha emitter the new monitor spots (9)
58. Scene of the Light Brigade's charge (9)
59. ___ Nankai earthquake of 1854 (5)
62. Writer who told the story in English (5)
64. Island invaded in 1983 (7)
67. City of Giants Ballpark (8)
68. Widest American range (9)
70. Fukushima city where Tamaki spoke (8)
71. Island In-fa nears by Thursday (4)
72. Invasive ___ beetle (8)
73. Paris-based writer who spoke (5)
74. Peter of Backus-___ form (4)
75. U.N. committee on discrimination against women (5)
76. Second at Klingenthal (7)

DOWN

1. ___ Vesuviana, the Tokyo dig site (5)
3. Crime behind the demand for money (9)
4. City where care applications more than doubled (3)
6. Briton who shared the 2012 prize (6)
7. City the centre line passes north of (9)
8. Independent body that must approve such action (10)
9. Kind of attack the intruder threatened (10)
10. Painter born on October 25, 1881 (7)
12. Country voting in a snap election (6)
15. Venue of the race walking championships (8)
18. Emperor said to have had a villa there (8)
19. Creator of 'Tennis for Two' (11)
20. Goryo, who set the rice straw alight (9)
27. City whose mayor asked for national support (3)
28. Pinch-hitter with a sacrifice fly (11)
29. Lute of the court orchestra (4)
30. China-linked group named by police in 2025 (10)
32. Narrowest American range (9)
33. City down 21 degrees (11)
34. City of the gymnastics worlds (9)
37. World champion beaten by Gomi (10)
42. Cape the low is forecast to lie south of (6)
45. Senator on 4 per cent (6)
46. Ohio city of Obama's first rally (9)
47. Adlai who confronted the Soviet envoy (9)
51. Sugawara's club (8)
52. He closed out the 11th (8)
53. His home town (8)
54. Pole sitter in Austin (9)
56. New pommel horse champion (8)
60. SoftBank's Game 2 starter (7)
61. Language behind about 70 per cent of websites (3)
63. College in the Times's poll (5)
65. Kochi town of Hanshin's camp (3)
66. Mount at the foot of which the novel is set (5)
69. City where 10,000 defied a ban (4)

SPORTS

Fiji Spoil the Japan Rugby Union's Centenary Match, Winning 34-28 at Chichibunomiya With Two Late Penalties

Dearns scores twice, but Japan's win over Fiji in September's Pacific Nations Cup final is not repeated; the women lose 17-0 to Wales

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Japan lost 34-28 to Fiji at Chichibunomiya Rugby Ground in Tokyo on Saturday in the match marking the 100th anniversary of the Japan Rugby Football Union, Kyodo News reported.

The teams, ranked ninth and 10th in the world, went into half-time level at 21-21 after scoring three tries each.

The second half

Fiji scored first after the break. Japan drew level again through the lock Warner Dearns, who scored his second try of the match, but Fiji kicked two penalty goals, in the 20th and 29th minutes of the half, to win.

Revenge for September

Japan had beaten Fiji in the final of the Pacific Nations Cup in September. Japan's record against Fiji is now five wins and 18 defeats.

The centenary

The match marked the union's founding in 1926 and was played at the ground in Aoyama that has long been the home of Japanese rugby.

The women

In the first match of a double-header, Japan's women lost 17-0 to Wales.

Next

The men travel to Britain for the Nations Championship and play Wales on November 7.

The stakes

The autumn matches are an important test for the squad as Japan builds towards the 2027 World Cup in Australia.

Close again

The six-point margin made it a match Japan could have won, with the game level until the final quarter.

The ground

Chichibunomiya, named after Prince Chichibu, a patron of the sport, has staged Japan's home internationals since the years after the war.

SPORTS

Oka Is Fourth on the Rings and Doi Fourth on Floor as the World Gymnastics Championships Begin Their Apparatus Finals

Hashimoto is eighth on pommel horse; Nemour keeps her bars title and Andrade wins her third world vault crown

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Shinnosuke Oka finished fourth on the rings and Ryosuke Doi fourth on the floor as the World Gymnastics Championships in Rotterdam held the first half of their apparatus finals on Saturday, Kyodo News reported.

Neither Japanese gymnast reached the podium on the eighth day of the championships.

Rings

Oka scored 14.133 on the rings. Lan Xingyu of China won with 14.766 for his second world title on the apparatus.

Floor

Doi, a bronze medallist at the 2022 world championships, qualified seventh for the floor final and scored 14.366.

Pommel horse

Daiki Hashimoto, the Olympic all-around champion of 2021, was eighth on the pommel horse with 13.466. Hamlet Manukyan of Armenia won with 15.300 for his first world title on the apparatus.

The women

Kaylia Nemour of Algeria retained her title on the uneven bars with 15.333, and Rebeca Andrade of Brazil won the vault with 14.466 for her third world title in the event.

The all-around

Earlier in the week Aiko Sugihara finished fifth in the women's all-around final.

Sunday

The remaining apparatus finals are held on Sunday, the final day of the championships.

The team

Japan's men, led by Oka, the Paris Olympic all-around champion, are using the championships to build towards the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Rotterdam

The championships are being held in the Dutch port city, which has hosted world gymnastics events

before.

SPORTS

Gomi Beats the Paris Silver Medallist and the World Champion to Reach the Greco-Roman Final as the World Championships Open in Astana

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Gomi reached the final of the 60 kg class in Greco-Roman wrestling on the opening day of the World Wrestling Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Saturday, guaranteeing Japan a medal, Kyodo News reported.

He will wrestle for the gold medal on Sunday.

The quarter-final

In the quarter-finals Gomi beat Cao Liguof of China, the silver medallist at the Paris Olympics.

The semi-final

In the semi-finals he beat Aidos Sultangali of Kazakhstan, last year's world champion, in front of a home crowd.

The others

Horikita, in the 77 kg class, lost his first bout to a wrestler who went on to reach the final, and will compete in the repechage on Sunday.

Fujii, at 82 kg, won his first bout but lost his second by technical superiority and was eliminated. Okamoto, at 55 kg, lost in the first round.

Day one

Four men's Greco-Roman weight classes were contested on the first day.

SPORTS

Sports in Brief

By the Sports Desk

ALPINE SKIING: Paula Moltzan of the United States won the women's giant slalom in Sölden, Austria, the opening race of the World Cup season, for her first World Cup victory, in a combined time of 2 minutes 14.82 seconds. Albania's Lara Colturi was second, 0.01 seconds behind, and Germany's Emma Aicher third.

WRESTLING: Gomi is guaranteed at least a silver medal at the world championships in Astana.

BADMINTON: Yuki Fukushima and Mayu Matsumoto play in the women's doubles final at the French Open on Sunday.

PARA SPORT: Japan won a record 64 gold medals at the Asian Para Games.

BASEBALL: Hanshin's Daichi Ishii will move from the bullpen to the starting rotation next season.

GIANTS: Yoshinobu Takahashi, the former manager, is a leading candidate to join Hideki Matsui's coaching staff.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL: The Fukuoka prefectural tournament for the national high school championship reached the quarter-finals, the Nishinippon Shimbun reported.

RACING: Lovcen bids for the Triple Crown in the Kikuka Sho at Kyoto on Sunday.

GOLF: Kensei Hirata fell from first to 34th after a 76 in the third round in Bermuda.

TABLE TENNIS: Tomokazu and Miwa Harimoto are in the singles semi-finals at the Asian Championships.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL: The Kyushu tournament at Rivwork Fujisaki Stadium in Kumamoto will not play from Monday because of the storm; the quarter-finals move to October 28 and 29, the semi-finals to October 31 and the final to November 2, the Kumamoto Nichinichi Shimbun reported.

FORMULA ONE: Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes took pole position for the United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, the 18th round of the championship.

CULTURE

Shinchosha Retracts Its Claim That Matsuie's Novel Is a Prix Femina Finalist; It Remains in the Running for the Prix Médicis

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The publisher Shinchosha said on Saturday that Masashi Matsuie's novel "Kazan no Fumoto de" had not, as it had announced, been a finalist for France's Prix Femina in the foreign fiction category, but only a second-round selection, Kyodo News reported.

The novel remains a finalist for the Prix Médicis, another of France's leading literary prizes, whose winner will be announced in early November.

How it happened

On October 21 Shinchosha announced that the novel had reached the final stage of both prizes. It said it had overlooked an extra stage of selection for the Femina.

CULTURE

Noticed

The error came to light when the Femina finalists were announced on October 23 and the novel was not among them.

The book

"Kazan no Fumoto de", whose title means "At the Foot of the Volcano", was Matsuie's first novel. It follows a young architect who spends a summer with his firm at its summer house at the foot of Mount Asama, and it won the Yomiuri Prize for Literature.

In French

It was published in French in August under the title "La Maison d'été".

Abroad

The novel has been translated into several languages. In South Korea it has sold more than 120,000 copies, according to the publisher.

The author

Matsuie was an editor at Shinchosha before he began writing fiction.

The prizes

The Prix Femina and the Prix Médicis are awarded each autumn alongside the Prix Goncourt, and both have prizes for foreign novels translated into French.

Waiting

The Médicis jury will announce its choice in early November.

CULTURE

Writers Who Wrote a Novel Together Aboard the Mizukaze Sleeper Meet Readers in Matsue: 'Making a Book Across 10,000 km Is Wonderful'

Tsuji and Ogino speak to about 100 people at the end of the line; Tawara and EnJoe were among the 16 Japanese and French authors

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Popular writers from Japan and France who wrote a novel together while riding a luxury sleeper train arrived in Matsue, Shimane Prefecture, and met readers there on Saturday, Kyodo News reported.

About 100 people attended a talk in the morning, and the authors also signed books.

The train

The 16 writers boarded JR West's Twilight Express Mizukaze in Kyoto on October 22 for a journey of about 24 hours to Matsue, during which they produced a joint work, with each writer responsible for a chapter.

The writers

The Japanese participants included the Akutagawa Prize winners Anna Ogino, Mariko Asabuki, Toh EnJoe, Hitomi Kanehara, Toshiki Matsuura and Hitonari Tsuji, the Naoki Prize winner Kaori Ekuni and the tanka poet Machi Tawara. The French side was to include Hervé Le Tellier, who won the Prix Goncourt for "The Anomaly".

Tsuji

Tsuji, who lives in Paris, spoke about the cultural differences between the two countries. "Overcoming the 10,000 km between Japan and France to make a book is wonderful," he said.

Ogino

Ogino also spoke at the morning event.

The format

The project, organised by a French literary group, was first held in Canada in 2015, and the trip to Matsue was its second edition.

The book

The finished work, expected to run to about 300 pages, is to be published in Japanese and in French. Its subject has not been disclosed.

Matsue

Matsue, the castle town where Lafcadio Hearn lived and wrote, welcomed the writers at the end of the line.

CULTURE

Culture in Brief

By the Culture Desk

MANGA: Historical manga set in unexpected eras, including the Mongol Empire, medieval northern Europe and Japan's Nanbokucho period, are enjoying a bumper crop, the Asahi Shimbun reported.

COMEDY: Shochiku Geino has announced its first original merchandise, to mark its 70th anniversary, the Asahi reported.

NARA: The 78th Shosoin Exhibition opened at the Nara National Museum with 60 treasures, 11 of them shown for the first time, and cultural events are being held in connection with it, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

FILM: The Tokyo International Film Festival opens on Monday with "SUKIYAKI" and runs until November 4.

FESTIVALS: Japanese festivals face a crisis after a fatal accident, the South China Morning Post reported.

COURT MUSIC: The Emperor and Princess Aiko attended the autumn gagaku concert at the Imperial Palace on Saturday.

THEATRE: Kaho Gekijo in Iizuka, Fukuoka Prefecture, where Hibari Misora sang, reopened after five years.

FIREWORKS: The Tokyo Bay Grand Fireworks Festival returned after 11 years with 12,000 shells.

MUSIC: GLAY's TERU wrote a cheer song for Hakodate Commercial High School's 140th anniversary.

ARCHAEOLOGY: A University of Tokyo dig near Vesuvius, at a site linked to the emperor Augustus, is short of money.

BOOKS: Masashi Matsuie's novel remains a finalist for the Prix Médicis after Shinchosha corrected a claim about the Prix Femina.

LITERATURE: Japanese and French writers who wrote a novel aboard the Mizukaze sleeper met readers in Matsue.

EDITORIAL

October 25 in History

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

1400: Geoffrey Chaucer, author of "The Canterbury Tales", dies in London, according to the traditional date.

1415: Henry V's English army defeats the French at Agincourt.

1760: George III becomes King of Great Britain.

1825: The composer Johann Strauss II is born in Vienna.

1854: The Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, in the Crimean War.

1881: Pablo Picasso is born in Malaga.

1917: The Bolsheviks seize power in Petrograd, on October 25 by the old Russian calendar.

1944: Japan's first organised kamikaze attacks are made during the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

1945: Japanese forces in Taiwan formally surrender to the Republic of China.

1962: At the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson confronts the Soviet ambassador over missiles in Cuba.

1971: The U.N. General Assembly votes to seat the People's Republic of China.

1983: U.S. forces land on Grenada.

EDITORIAL

Festivals and Events This Week

By the Culture Desk

NARA: The Shosoin Exhibition at the Nara National Museum, until November 9.

TOKYO: The Tokyo International Film Festival, Monday to November 4.

UENO: The Tate's Turner exhibition at the National Museum of Western Art, until February 21.

YOKOHAMA: Japan Series Game 2 at Yokohama Stadium, Sunday at 6 p.m.; Games 6 and 7, if needed, October 31 and November 1.

FUKUOKA: Japan Series Games 3 to 5 at Mizuho PayPay Dome, Tuesday to Thursday.

KYOTO: The Kikuka Sho at Kyoto Racecourse, Sunday at 3:40 p.m.

MITO: The Mito Komon Manyu Marathon, Sunday at 9 a.m.

TAKAHATA: The national race walking championships, Sunday.

SENDAGAYA: The AEON Cup world club rhythmic gymnastics championships at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium, with the individual

all-around final concluding on Sunday.

NAGANO: The national distance speed skating championships at the M-Wave, through Sunday.

HALLOWEEN: Saturday, October 31.

NOVEMBER 3: Culture Day, with the Order of Culture ceremony at the Imperial Palace.

EDITORIAL

Today's Numbers

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

85,000: Software vulnerabilities registered this year, 2.2 times last year's pace.

26,739: Servers in GMO's Desktop Cloud that may have been affected.

70: Brokers, and more, whose customers' accounts the attacker threatened to keep draining.

5,000 YEN: GMO's payment to every customer of the service.

410,000: People who marched across France on Saturday.

33,388: The crowd at Japan Series Game 1 in Yokohama.

64: Gold medals for Japan at the Asian Para Games, a record.

68: Per cent rise in new care applications in the areas worst hit by the Kumamoto earthquake.

12,000: Fireworks over Tokyo Bay, the first display in 11 years.

7,000: Consultations handled by the families' association of Unification Church victims.

400: Millimetres of rain, and more, in 24 hours on Iriomote.

2050: The year by which an invasive beetle could cover nearly all of Honshu and Shikoku.

EDITORIAL

Quotes of the Day

By the Editorial Desk

"It is not one that is activated in response to a request." A government official, on active cyber defence.

"One basis, population decline, has been shown." Yuichiro Tamaki, on the LDP's plan to cut 31 seats.

"Managing the ceasefire will be the main challenge." Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's chief negotiator.

"Incumbent presidents usually have a hard time in the midterms, but not this time." President Donald Trump.

"The authorities are repressive." Arena, 16, a high school student marching in Paris.

"It feels strange all over. I'm not used to it at all." Hideki Matsui, on being called manager.

"My heart was pounding for the first time in a while." Daisuke Miura, after the first pitch.

"He will show his strengths as a starter." Kyuji Fukikawa, on Daichi Ishii.

"Children's learning and growth must not be stopped, whatever the circumstances." A Yatsushiro principal.

"Overcoming the 10,000 km between Japan and France to make a book is wonderful." Hitonari Tsuji.

"We hope for support from across the country." The mayor of Uto, Kumamoto Prefecture.

POLITICS

The Seat Cut at a Glance

By the Political Desk

THE HOUSE: 465 seats, 289 in single-seat districts and 176 by proportional representation.

THE LDP PLAN: Cut 31 proportional seats.

THE FORMULA: A modified Sainte-Lague method, which makes it easier for smaller parties to win seats.

ISHIN: Has pressed for a cut of 45 seats.

KOMEITO: Opposes cutting only proportional seats; would talk about a 3-to-2 split with districts.

DPP: "One basis, population decline, has been shown," says Yuichiro Tamaki; the party decides on Monday.

SANSEITO: Its position is being watched closely.

TALKS: Inter-party talks on the lower house resume on Tuesday.

THE SESSION: Ends on December 12.

THE CASE FOR: A shrinking population, and politicians sharing the burden of reform.

ECONOMY

JR Kyushu in Numbers

By the Business Desk

1987: JR Kyushu is created in the break-up of Japanese National Railways.

2016: Its shares are listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in October.

2,600 YEN: The offering price.

500.3 BILLION YEN: Consolidated revenue in the year to March 2026.

188.8 BILLION YEN: Revenue from railway operations in the same year.

60 PER CENT: The share of revenue from property and related businesses.

80 PER CENT: The railways' share of revenue, and more, when the company was founded.

600 BILLION YEN: The revenue target for the year to March 2031.

2011: The Kyushu Shinkansen opens fully between Hakata and Kagoshima-Chuo.

2022: The Nishi-Kyushu Shinkansen opens between Takeo-Onsen and Nagasaki.

SPORTS

The Sports Week Ahead

By the Sports Desk

SUN. 25: Japan Series Game 2, Yokohama, 6 p.m.; Kikuka Sho, Kyoto, 3:40 p.m.; Gomi in the 60 kg Greco-Roman final in Astana.

ALSO SUNDAY: Final rounds at Narita, in Hyogo, in South Korea and in Bermuda; the men's free skate in Angers; race walking at Takahata.

MON. 26: The Kyushu high school baseball tournament in Kumamoto pauses for the storm.

TUE. 27: Japan Series Game 3, Mizuho PayPay Dome.

WED. 28: Japan Series Game 4; Kyushu high school quarter-finals resume, through Thursday.

THU. 29: Japan Series Game 5, if needed.

SAT. 31: Japan Series Game 6, if needed, Yokohama; Kyushu high school semi-finals.

NOV. 1: Japan Series Game 7, if needed.

NOV. 2: Kyushu high school final.

NOV. 3-4: Ryuo match Game 3, Kyoto.

NOV. 7: Japan v Wales in the Nations Championship.

SPORTS

The World Series at a Glance

By the Sports Desk

GAME 1: Brewers 3, Rays 2, in Milwaukee.

WINNER: Jacob Misiorowski. SAVE: Trevor Megill. LOSER: Nick Martinez, formerly of Nippon-Ham and SoftBank.

GAME 2: Saturday night in Milwaukee, Sunday morning in Japan; the Rays led 4-2 in the fourth inning at press time.

GAMES 3-5: At the Rays' home from Monday to Wednesday, local time; Game 5 if needed.

GAMES 6-7: Back in Milwaukee on Friday and Saturday, local time, if needed.

FORMAT: Best of seven.

BREWERS: One previous World Series, in 1982, lost in seven games to St. Louis.

RAYS: Lost in 2008 to Philadelphia and in 2020 to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

NEW CHAMPIONS: Neither club has won the title.

JAPAN TIME: Evening games in the United States are morning games in Japan.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

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410,000 march in France, Page 6.

Kim crosses into China, Page 7.

JR Kyushu at 10, Page 8.

85,000 software flaws, Page 10.

Quake care needs up 68%, Page 15.

Shoji wins Game 1, Page 16.

Nakai wins in France, Page 16.

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

EDITORIAL

GMO Has Put Active Cyber Defence to Its First Test. The State Must Decide on Its Own Judgment, but It Must Show Citizens the Law Protects Them Too

Tokyo is right that the new powers cannot be summoned by any company that asks. But a cross-border gang that drains ordinary people's accounts and then demands money is exactly the kind of threat the law was written to meet, and the government, working with its allies, should decide quickly and explain what it has done

By Samantha Ortiz | Editorial Page Editor

Three weeks after the main provisions of Japan's active cyber defence law came into force, a company has asked the government to use it. GMO Internet Group said on Saturday that an intruder who broke into Onamae.com Desktop Cloud, a service that rents always-on virtual computers to people who trade currencies automatically, had taken customer information out of the system, placed trades that customers never made, and then demanded money. If the company did not pay, the attacker threatened to keep draining the balances of customer accounts at more than 70 securities and foreign exchange firms in Japan and abroad, to attack the computers of customers connected to the service, to carry out ransomware attacks, and to publish information about the company, its systems and its users.

GMO refused to pay. It handed its communication logs and other evidence to the police and asked for a criminal investigation. And it asked the state to take the lead in tracing, blocking and neutralising the infrastructure the attacker is using, arguing that no private company can stop a cross-border criminal group from stealing the financial assets of ordinary people on its own.

It is the first such request since the law took effect on October 1, and it has come sooner, and in a less expected form, than the authors of the law probably imagined. The system was designed around attacks on power grids, railways, banks, airlines and telecommunications networks, the critical infrastructure on which national life depends. GMO's service is not on that list. Its victims are individual investors who ran trading programs on rented servers. Yet the threat they face is real and immediate, it is aimed at their savings, and it comes from beyond Japan's borders.

The government's first response has been cautious. An official told the Yomiuri Shimbun that the system "is not one that is activated in response to a request". As a statement of the law, that is correct, and as an instinct it is sound. But it cannot be the government's last word. The state should now do what the law actually asks of it: judge, on the evidence it holds, whether this attack meets the conditions for using its new powers, act if it does, and explain its decision either way.

A law built for the state's judgment

The laws enacted in May last year rest on three pillars. Operators of critical infrastructure in 15 designated sectors, among them electricity, gas, water, railways, aviation, telecommunications, broadcasting and finance, must report serious incidents and tell the government about the equipment they use; the government in return shares warnings and analysis with them. The state may analyse the data that flows through communications networks to spot attacks, limited to the machine information that shows where traffic comes from and where it goes, not the content of messages. And the police, and in the most serious cases the Self-Defense Forces, may reach into servers used in attacks and disable them, including servers located overseas, with the approval of an independent commission.

Those are serious powers, and the conditions attached to them were written deliberately. The Constitution protects the secrecy of communications. Reaching into a server in another country raises questions of sovereignty and international law, and a mistaken target can harm innocent parties whose machines have been hijacked. A system that any company could switch on simply by asking would quickly lose the trust on which it depends. It would also invite pressure from every business that suffers a breach and would prefer the state to share the blame.

So the government is right to insist that the decision is its own. The question is not whether GMO is entitled to the powers. It is whether the attack meets the conditions for using them, and only the state, with the intelligence and the legal advice that it alone holds, can make that judgment.

The gap the case exposes

The difficulty is that this attack sits awkwardly at the edge of the system. Because the GMO group is not one of the designated operators, it has no duty to report under the new framework and no established channel for the two-way exchange of information that designated operators have. Its customers are spread across more than 70 brokers, each of which must block suspicious access, end sessions and watch for unauthorised trades on its own.

The government should not allow that formality to decide its response. The purpose of the law is to protect the country from serious cyberattacks. When a criminal group that operates across borders gains a foothold in a service of up to 26,739 servers that hold the keys to ordinary people's trading accounts, places trades they did not make and then tries to extort the company, the public interest is plainly engaged, whether or not the company belongs to one of the 15 sectors.

The case should also prompt a review of the list itself. A cloud service that stores the login details for tens of thousands of trading accounts is part of the country's financial plumbing in all but name. The Financial Services Agency, the National Cybersecurity Office and the industry should consider whether such services ought to be brought into the information-sharing framework, voluntarily at first and by designation if necessary. A law written in 2025 will need adjusting as attackers find the seams between its categories, and it is better to adjust it now, deliberately, than in the middle of the next crisis.

The company's responsibility comes first

None of this relieves GMO of its own responsibility. The company has said that a security flaw in its system allowed outsiders into the service environment. It confirmed on October 20 that an unauthorised program had been installed, began shutting down the servers for all plans early on October 21, and consulted the police on October 22. By then customers were already reporting trades they had not made.

A service whose whole purpose was to keep running the programs that trade with customers' money, using login details stored on the service itself, should have been built on the assumption that it would be attacked. The value of what it held made it a target. It is not enough to say, after the event, that criminals were to blame. They always are. The test of a company that holds other people's keys is whether it made the theft hard.

In fairness, GMO has done several things right since. It refused to pay the attacker, which is the correct decision: payment guarantees nothing, finances the next attack and marks the payer as a target for others. It has apologised, acknowledged shortcomings in the service and said it will take responsibility for compensation and prevention. Every current customer will receive 5,000 yen, whether or not they lost money. The company says it will compensate realised losses from trades it confirms were caused by the intrusion, deducting any refund a broker makes, and will pay even when a broker refuses. It will announce how to claim by November 6. It will not restore the old system but rebuild its security from scratch, and customers who want to keep a Windows desktop will be offered a replacement on an independent cloud platform, free for six months, with no one moved without consent.

Those commitments must now be honoured quickly and generously. Customers who lost money through no fault of their own should not be left to argue for months between a hosting company and their brokers. The brokers, for their part, should not hide behind the fact that the intrusion happened elsewhere. Their customers' accounts were used, and the trades went through their systems.

A wider siege

GMO's case is not an isolated one. Japan is living through a wave of intrusions and disruptions that has spread from corporate systems into everyday life.

Sagawa Express has said that records covering up to 53.23 million entries may have leaked from its parcel inquiry service. Iwai Cosmo Securities found orders placed in customers' accounts that the customers never made. A hacked email delivery service exposed the subscribers of public bodies including the Environment Ministry, where up to 22,000 registrations may have leaked.

Critical flaws disclosed this week in PHP, the programming language used by about 70 per cent of the world's websites, have led hospitals, companies and public bodies across the country to take services offline while they apply fixes. Two of the biggest mobile carriers have switched off parts of their emergency alert services. SoftBank's alert mail has been suspended since Friday morning and is due back on Monday, and NTT Docomo has removed J-Alert and municipal evacuation messages from its Area Mail, at the very moment a storm is bringing heavy rain to Kyushu.

Behind the headlines lies a structural change. A Kyodo News analysis of the registry run by MITRE, the American organisation that assigns numbers to software flaws, found that about 85,000 vulnerabilities have been registered so far this year, 2.2 times as many as in the same period last year, which was itself a record. Generative artificial intelligence is making flaws easier to find, and the volume now exceeds what people can patch by hand.

Nor are the stakes merely financial. Ransomware halted the container terminals at the port of Nagoya in 2023 and crippled the publisher KADOKAWA in 2024. Last year an attack on Asahi Group Holdings disrupted the shipment of some of the country's most familiar products. The government held an emergency meeting of ministries on October 8 on the rise in attacks. It is right to treat the matter as one of national resilience, not merely of corporate housekeeping.

The state-backed threat

Criminal gangs are not the only danger. In December 2024 the National Police Agency, together with the FBI, attributed the theft of bitcoin worth about 48.2 billion yen from the exchange DMM Bitcoin earlier that year to a North Korean hacking group. A month later the agency said that a group linked to China, known as MirrorFace, had spent years attacking Japanese government bodies, think tanks, politicians and companies with advanced technology. North Korea steals to fund its weapons programmes; China's hackers seek secrets and footholds inside networks that matter. Nothing yet suggests that the attacker in GMO's case serves a state, but the line between crime and state power in cyberspace is blurred, and the same rented servers and stolen credentials can serve either.

Too long in coming

The commitment to active cyber defence was made in the National Security Strategy of December 2022, which promised to raise Japan's cyber capabilities to a level equal to or greater than those of the major Western countries. It took until May last year to pass the laws and until this month for their main provisions to take effect. That pace reflected real concerns, but it also left Japan exposed for years while its adversaries did not wait. The government should not now add to the delay by treating the first real case as an inconvenience.

A matter for the alliance

The attacker in GMO's case is, by the company's account, part of a cross-border group, and it threatened brokers in Japan and abroad. Japan cannot defend its networks alone and should not try. The United States and Britain have long had agencies that act against hostile servers overseas, and Japan's system was built in part so that it could work alongside them. Information about the infrastructure behind attacks, about the groups that use it and about the methods they share is the currency of that co-operation, and Japan gains far more from the exchange when it has something to contribute.

The attribution of the DMM Bitcoin theft, announced jointly by Japanese and American agencies, showed what that co-operation can achieve. Naming the culprit does not return the money, but it builds the shared picture of the threat on which every later action depends, and it tells attackers that Japan and its allies are watching together. Some of the brokers whose customers were threatened in GMO's case are abroad, beyond the reach of Japanese regulators, which is one more reason the response must be

international from the start.

Japan's allies will watch how the first case is handled. In 2023 The Washington Post reported that Chinese military hackers had penetrated Japan's classified defence networks in 2020, alarming officials in Washington. Japan has since spent heavily on its cyber defences and passed the law that is now being tested, precisely so that it can be a capable partner rather than a weak link in a shared defence. The alliance's credibility depends on the security of the networks that carry its plans, its intelligence and the work of the companies that build its equipment.

The government is now preparing to revise the three national security documents by the end of the year and to draw up a strategy for the defence industrial base that fosters dual-use industries such as artificial intelligence. It is also launching a publicity campaign to explain unfamiliar concepts such as a "new way of fighting" and a "sustained response capability" for a long conflict. Cyber defence belongs at the centre of that explanation. Most people will never see a missile launcher, but almost everyone now knows someone whose data has leaked or whose service has gone dark. A campaign that connects security with everyday life could hardly ask for a clearer example.

Speed matters

Attackers move in hours. GMO began investigating on October 19 after inquiries from customers, confirmed the unauthorised program the next day and shut down its servers on October 21, the day customers began reporting trades they had not made. It consulted the police on October 22 and made its request on Saturday. A decision by the government that takes weeks would arrive after the damage is done. Deliberation is a virtue; delay is not.

The hidden risk of automated trading

The case also holds a lesson for the growing number of individual investors who let software trade for them. A program that trades on a rented server needs the login details for the account, and those details are only as safe as the server that stores them. GMO has said it may ask customers who claim compensation for read-only access to their trading history, such as the read-only passwords used by the MetaTrader platforms, so that it can verify the trades. That principle, giving each tool only the access it needs, should govern the whole industry. Brokers should make it easy for customers to give automated programs no more power than they require, and investors should ask how their credentials are protected before they hand them to anyone.

Trust is the condition

Active cyber defence will last only if the public trusts it. The independent commission must be seen to scrutinise requests, not to wave them through. The government should publish, as far as security allows, how often the powers are used, against what kinds of targets and with what results, and the Diet should examine those reports seriously. A first use will set a precedent, and it should be one that the public can understand and accept.

That argues against both overreach and paralysis. Using the powers in haste, on the strength of a company's appeal and without the evidence and approvals the law requires, would damage the system before it has proved itself. But a government that, faced with a foreign criminal group extorting a Japanese company and stealing from Japanese citizens, could say only that the law was not designed to respond to requests would damage it just as surely. The public was told that the law would let the state act before an attack does serious damage. It will judge the law by whether it does.

What should happen now

First, the government should decide promptly whether the attack meets the law's conditions. If it does, it should act, with allies where the infrastructure lies abroad. If it does not, it should explain, in general terms that do not tip off the attacker, why not and what it is doing instead. Silence would leave the impression that the system is a shield for pipelines and power stations alone.

Second, the police should pursue the criminal investigation with the urgency the threats demand and with foreign counterparts. Extortion that crosses borders can only be answered by investigators who do the same.

Third, the financial authorities should co-ordinate the response of the brokers, so that access from the compromised service is blocked, active sessions are

EDITORIAL & OPINION

ended and suspicious trades are flagged in real time everywhere, not only at the firms that happen to move fastest. The Liberal Democratic Party's task force has already asked the economy minister to strengthen cybersecurity support for small and medium-sized companies, and the same logic applies to the smaller brokers whose customers are now exposed.

Fourth, every company that holds other people's credentials should treat the case as a warning. Know what software is running, apply fixes quickly, separate systems so that one intrusion does not open every door, require two-step verification, and never assume that a service is too obscure to attract attention. The PHP flaws have shown how quickly attackers move once a weakness is published.

Fifth, customers of the service should follow the company's advice: change the passwords for trading accounts and trading tools, end all active sessions, check for trades they did not make and report any to their broker at once. They should keep records of each unauthorised trade, and they should remember that GMO says it will never ask for passwords or PIN codes during the compensation process. Messages that do should be ignored.

Sixth, the government must invest in people and in machines. Kyodo called for defences to be strengthened urgently, including by using AI for security and training more engineers. That is right. The same tools that help attackers find weaknesses can help defenders find and fix them first, but only if there are enough skilled people to direct them.

A law on paper, a defence in fact

Japan took a long time to give itself the legal means to defend its networks before damage is done. The debate was difficult, and the safeguards written into the law reflect genuine concerns about privacy and the limits of state power. Those safeguards should be respected. They are part of what distinguishes a democracy's defence of its networks from the surveillance practised by the states whose hackers it must now confront.

The first duty of any government is the safety of its people and their property. In an age when savings are managed on servers and emergency warnings travel by mobile network, that duty extends into cyberspace, and it cannot be discharged by companies alone.

But a law that is never used is not a deterrent. The first real test has come not from an attack on a power grid but from a cloud service for currency traders, and the government should meet it with judgment rather than reflexive caution: decide on the evidence, act with allies where it must, and account to the public for what it has done. That is how a law on paper becomes a defence in fact.

OPINION

Tamaki Is Right That Population Decline Is a Basis for a Smaller House. Now the Cut Must Be Shared Fairly and Settled This Session

By William | Senior Political Analyst

Yuichiro Tamaki chose his words carefully on Saturday. The Liberal Democratic Party's plan to cut 31 proportional representation seats from the House of Representatives, he said, had shown "one basis": population decline. That is a qualified welcome, not an endorsement, and his Democratic Party for the People will decide on Monday. But it points to a deal that can be done.

The case for a cut

The lower house has 465 seats, 289 in single-seat districts and 176 elected by proportional representation. Japan's population is shrinking, and a Diet that asks the public to accept higher defence spending and difficult choices on taxes should be willing to trim itself.

The objection

Komeito decided on Friday to oppose the plan, arguing that there is little justification for cutting only proportional seats. It has a point. Proportional seats matter most to smaller parties, whose candidates rarely win districts, and a cut that falls only on them changes the balance of the house.

The answer

The Liberal Democrats have tried to meet that concern by proposing a switch to a modified

Sainte-Lague method of allocating the remaining proportional seats, which would make it easier for smaller parties to win them. That is a serious concession, and it is why the Democratic Party for the People and Sanseito, whose votes could decide the matter, are listening.

Komeito's offer

Komeito has said it would engage seriously if cuts were split between districts and proportional seats in a ratio of three to two. The Liberal Democrats should not dismiss that out of hand. Sharing the burden would strengthen the reform's legitimacy, even if redrawing district boundaries takes longer.

Ishin's demand

Nippon Ishin no Kai has pressed for 45 seats. A larger cut is not necessarily a better one. The number matters less than whether the result is fair and durable.

The timetable

The extraordinary Diet session runs until December 12, and inter-party talks resume on Tuesday. The parties have discussed this long enough. They should settle it in this session rather than leaving it to drift into another year.

What voters will notice

Voters will not follow the arithmetic of seat formulas. They will notice whether politicians who promise reform deliver it.

Monday's decision

If Tamaki's party backs the plan with conditions, and the Liberal Democrats show flexibility on how the burden is shared, a smaller house is within reach. That would be a modest but real achievement for a government that has spent its first year asking much of the public.

OPINION

Eighty-Five Thousand Flaws in Ten Months: Patching by Hand Is Over. Japan Needs Machines on Defence and the People to Run Them

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

The number that should worry every company in Japan this weekend is not the 26,739 servers in GMO's Desktop Cloud. It is 85,000, the approximate number of software vulnerabilities registered this year to October 21, according to a Kyodo News analysis.

That is 2.2 times as many as in the same period last year, itself a record. Until 2020 the annual total stayed below 20,000.

Why it is happening

Generative artificial intelligence makes flaws easier to find. That cuts both ways: attackers can find weaknesses faster, but so can the developers who fix them. What has not kept pace is the work of applying the fixes.

The PHP lesson

This week's critical flaws in PHP, the language behind about 70 per cent of the world's websites, showed what happens when fixes cannot be applied quickly enough. Hospitals, companies and public bodies took services offline as a precaution, and two mobile carriers suspended parts of their emergency alerts.

Shutting down is not a strategy

Impress Watch asked whether such "preventive" shutdowns will become a lasting practice in Japan. They should not. Switching off services every time a serious flaw is published punishes users and still leaves the weakness in place.

Know what you run

The first step is mundane: an accurate inventory of the software every organisation uses, including the versions. Many cannot fix a flaw quickly because they do not know where it is.

Automate

The second is to automate patching wherever possible and to test fixes with the same AI tools that find flaws. Prioritising the flaws attackers are actually exploiting, rather than treating all of them alike, makes the volume manageable.

Small companies

Small and medium-sized companies cannot do this alone. The Liberal Democratic Party's task force has asked the economy minister to strengthen support for

them. Shared security services, run by trusted providers, would help more than subsidies for equipment.

People

Kyodo called for more engineers. Japan has too few security specialists, and AI does not remove the need for them; it changes what they do.

Old software

Finally, organisations must retire software that no longer receives security fixes. Attackers can now act within a very short time of a flaw being published, and an unsupported system is an open door.

OPINION

France Shows How Quickly Protest Can Turn to Riot. Defending the Right to March and Keeping Order Are Not Opposites

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

Saturday's demonstrations in France were a test of whether a democracy can let hundreds of thousands of people march without another night of looting. On the whole, it passed.

About 410,000 people demonstrated across the country, according to the Interior Ministry, the first large protests since the riots of October 17. About 1,000 were detained, and there were clashes at the end of the Paris march, but Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said there had been no attacks on public buildings this time.

The cost of order

The cost was high. The government deployed 70,000 police officers and allowed only marches organised by trade unions. In Lyon, 10,000 people defied a ban.

The students

The most striking voices belonged to the high school students who began this movement over teacher shortages and crumbling schools. Their leaders have condemned the looting, saying that violence undermines their demands. They deserve to be heard precisely because they draw that line.

Macron's opening

President Emmanuel Macron met their representatives for the first time on Friday and indicated a review of university admissions. The students said he listened without giving concrete answers. He should give them some.

The shooting

Friday's shooting in a Paris suburb, in which one person was killed and five injured and which is being investigated as a racist terrorist attack, shows how tense the atmosphere has become.

The lesson

Restrictions on protest must be proportionate and temporary. Peaceful marchers should not pay for the crimes of looters, and the looters should not be allowed to hide among them.

Why it matters to Japan

France is one of Japan's closest partners in Europe and, with its Pacific territories, a resident power in the Indo-Pacific. A France absorbed by unrest at home is a less effective partner abroad.

The cost of living

The marchers' first demand was lower living costs. Governments everywhere, including Japan's, are learning that inflation tests public patience in ways that statistics do not capture.

What comes next

If the government answers the students' practical demands, Saturday may mark the point at which the protests turned from the street to the negotiating table.

OPINION

Kim's Trip to Dandong Is a Message to Washington as Much as to Beijing. Japan Must Make Sure Abductions and Missiles Are Not Left Out

By Rachel Kim | Asia Correspondent

Kim Jong Un's crossing into China on Saturday, over the newly opened bridge across the Yalu River, was short in distance but long in meaning. In Dandong he met Premier Li Qiang and Wang Huning, fourth in the Communist Party's order of precedence, and spoke of carrying on a "historic friendship".

It is his second visit to China in two years, after a trip in September last year.

The timing

The timing is deliberate. Sunday marks the 76th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers into the Korean War, and President Donald Trump, who travels to Asia next month, has signalled interest in a summit with North Korea and in a three-way meeting including China and Russia.

Beijing's message

By receiving Kim at the border with senior leaders and talk of trade, China is reminding Washington that any diplomacy with Pyongyang runs through Beijing. The Asahi Shimbun reported that some see the visit as a move to explore a resumption of dialogue with the United States.

Pyongyang's message

For Kim, closeness to China strengthens his hand before any meeting with Trump, while tension on the inter-Korean border, where the North says its loudspeakers are on standby, keeps pressure on Seoul.

Japan's interests

Japan's concerns are specific. North Korea's nuclear weapons and its missiles, including those that can reach Japan, threaten the country directly, and the abduction of Japanese citizens remains unresolved.

The risk

The risk for Japan is a deal that freezes the long-range missiles that worry the United States while leaving the shorter-range weapons that threaten Japan, and that treats the abductions as a side issue.

What Tokyo should do

Japan should consult closely with Washington and Seoul before Trump's trip, so that the allies speak with one voice on denuclearisation and on the missiles that threaten Japan and South Korea.

The abductions

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi should make clear that the abduction issue is not negotiable, and that any summit must include it.

The lesson of Dandong

Diplomacy with North Korea may be about to resume. Japan should be at the table in spirit, if not in person, before it starts.

OPINION

The Earthquake's Second Wave Is a Care Crisis. Kumamoto Needs Places, Staff and Doorstep Visits Before Winter

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The shaking in Kumamoto stopped in July. The damage to people's health is still spreading.

A Kyodo News survey found that new applications for long-term care certification in the eight municipalities hit hardest rose 68 per cent in August from a year earlier, to 700. In Uki and Hikawa, where the earthquake registered the maximum 7, applications more than doubled.

Why

Residents whose homes were damaged want places in care facilities, and officials suspect that life in evacuation has brought on cognitive decline. Neither is surprising. Both were foreseeable.

The precedent

After the Kumamoto earthquakes of 2016, more than four times as many people died from the strain of the aftermath as were killed directly by the shaking. After the Noto Peninsula earthquake in 2024, disaster-related deaths came to exceed direct deaths there too.

Not enough places

The care capacity in the affected areas is insufficient, Kyodo reported. Applications are the start of the process, not the end; people need to be assessed and then served.

Speed

The municipalities should process certifications quickly, and the prefecture should help with staff from elsewhere.

Staff

Care workers were scarce in rural Kumamoto before the earthquake. Teams from other prefectures can fill gaps for a time, but housing for staff is as important

OPINION

as beds for residents.

Visits

Many elderly people do not apply until a crisis. Health workers and volunteers should visit those living in damaged homes and temporary housing, before the winter cold arrives.

The containers

The container units from the Asian Games that will house survivors from December are welcome. Some should be designed for residents who need care, with space for visiting staff.

The lesson

Recovery is measured not only in rebuilt roads and reopened schools, but in whether the old and frail survive the year after the disaster. Kumamoto still has time to get that right.

OPINION

JR Kyushu's Decade on the Market Shows Privatisation Can Work. Its Rural Lines Need a Plan, Not a Slow Fade

By Ethan Cole | Business & Markets Editor

Ten years ago on Sunday, JR Kyushu listed its shares at 2,600 yen, and the agency that held them sold every one. A company created in 1987 from one of the parts of the national railway considered least likely to pay its way has since done better than many expected.

Its consolidated revenue reached 500.3 billion yen in the year to March 2026, and it aims for 600 billion by 2031.

How it was done

The answer is property. Station buildings, offices and flats now provide about 60 per cent of revenue. Trains, which once supplied more than 80 per cent, now provide less than half.

Resilience

Diversification carried the company through the pandemic, when rail use collapsed and remote work kept it from recovering quickly. Property income kept rising, and JR Kyushu returned to profit in the year to March 2022.

The weak spot

The loss-making rural lines remain. Heavy rain and earthquakes have damaged lines across Kyushu in recent years, and every repair raises the question of whether a route should be rebuilt.

A precedent

JR Kyushu has already shown one answer. The Hitahikosan Line, damaged by heavy rain in 2017, reopened in part as a bus rapid transit route in 2023. Not every line needs that solution, but every line needs a decision.

Partners

Rural lines serve schools, hospitals and tourists. Where communities want them kept, prefectures and municipalities should share the cost openly, rather than leaving a listed company to subsidise them quietly.

The others

JR Hokkaido and JR Shikoku, the other island companies, have not listed and still depend on government support. They should study how JR Kyushu built a business beyond the rails.

The shareholders

Investors have been rewarded. The test of the next decade is whether a company answerable to them can also keep faith with the regions it serves.

The verdict

Privatisation worked because the company was allowed to become more than a railway. Its rural lines now need the same imagination.

OPINION

Hamaguchi's Burning Rice Straw Still Teaches the Lesson Japan Needs Most: Go Early, Go High, and Do Not Wait to Be Told

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

On Saturday about 370 people in Hirokawa, Wakayama Prefecture, carried torches about 2 km uphill to a shrine. They were retracing the escape of their ancestors in 1854, when Hamaguchi Goryo set fire to sheaves of rice straw to guide villagers to high ground before the tsunami struck.

The story is famous. Its lesson is still not fully learned.

Early evacuation

"Many young people took part, and it was a good opportunity for them to learn how important it is to evacuate in a disaster," said Michio Hamaguchi, 83, a descendant. The point of the story is not heroism but timing: the villagers lived because they left before the water came.

This weekend

The lesson applies far from the coast. A front fed by Champi is bringing heavy rain to Kyushu, and the Japan Meteorological Agency has told the north of the island to be on high alert for landslides through Monday.

Waiting for orders

Too many people still wait for an evacuation order, or for the rain to look serious, before moving. By then roads may be flooded and slopes unstable.

The alerts

This weekend some mobile phone users are not receiving emergency alert mail because of the PHP flaws. Television, radio, municipal loudspeakers and disaster apps remain available, but no single channel should be trusted alone.

A plan of one's own

Every household in an area at risk should know its hazard map, its route and its destination, and decide in advance at what point it will leave.

The elderly

Older residents and people with disabilities need help to leave early, and neighbours who know them are often the first to provide it.

The Nankai Trough

The government warns that a Nankai Trough earthquake could send tsunamis to the Pacific coast within minutes. For the coast of Wakayama, Hamaguchi's lesson is not history but a plan.

Pass it on

Hamaguchi hopes the young will spread the story. They should, and the rest of the country should listen.

SOCIETY

Gagaku: What the Emperor Heard

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

SHO: A mouth organ of 17 bamboo pipes that plays sustained chords.

HICHIRIKI: A short double-reed pipe that carries the melody.

RYUTEKI: A transverse bamboo flute, the "dragon flute".

BIWA: A four-stringed lute, plucked with a large plectrum.

SO: A 13-stringed zither, ancestor of the koto.

KAKKO: A small drum struck with two sticks, which leads the ensemble.

TAIKO: The large drum hung in an ornate frame.

SHOKO: A small bronze gong.

KANGEN: Gagaku played by instruments alone.

BUGAKU: Court dances, divided into pieces of the "left", from China, and of the "right", from the Korean peninsula.

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What Active Cyber Defence Allows, and Why GMO's Request Is the System's First Test — Page 2

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Families of Unification Church Victims Hold Their Last General Meeting After More Than 7,000 Consultations, and Will Disband by Year-End — Page 14

EDITORIAL & OPINION

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Japan Morning Post corrects errors of fact as soon as they are identified: corrections@japanmorningpost.com. The notes supplied for today's edition contain several errors that we have corrected: they say Kim Jong-il visited Dandong, but the North Korean leader is Kim Jong Un, his son, who succeeded him in 2011; they again call Typhoon No. 30 Champa, but its international name is Champi; they name SoftBank's Game 1 starter as Uwasawa, but he is Naoyuki Uezawa, and the former DeNA player who doubled in the seventh inning as Yuta Yamamoto, but he is Yudai Yamamoto; they say Hiroshima's winning streak in basketball's B Premier ended at 10 games, but Kyodo News reports that it ended at nine; they describe the figure skating event in Angers as the French Championships, but it was the Grand Prix de France, the first event of the Grand Prix series; they say the critical PHP flaws affect PHP 8.2 and earlier, but fixed versions were issued for the 8.5, 8.4, 8.3 and 8.2 lines, so supported versions newer than 8.2 were also affected; and they date the North American launch of the PlayStation 2 to October 25, 2000, when it went on sale on October 26.

Not repeated today because they were reported in earlier editions: the fire at the Kurosawa film studio, the unidentified remains at the Chosei mine, the delay to the Shizuoka section of the maglev, the Supreme Court's ruling on welfare cuts, the Seoul mayor's acquittal, Microsoft's report on AI-driven attacks, Meta's Muse service, PayPay's change to identity checks, the bodies found on Gangapurna West, the prime minister's dinner with her Cabinet, her instruction on the petrol subsidy, the exemption of some Canadian goods from U.S. tariffs, the truckers' blockades in Italy, the leaks at Sagawa Express and Iwai Cosmo Securities, the Environment Ministry's newsletter leak, the suicide white paper and AI-doctored insurance claims. Several items in the notes, including a column on the prime minister's absence from a G7 meeting, a 100th J1 goal by Takashi Usami, a table tennis title for a Matsushima and Harimoto pair, a report on a 10-storey apartment building without water and research on defence studies at a university, are not reported because we could not confirm the details. Items attributed to other newspapers and services are reported as those sources gave them. Where we could not confirm the reading of a name we give the surname only, or omit it.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUN. 25: Japan Series Game 2 at Yokohama Stadium, 6 p.m.; Kikuka Sho at Kyoto, 3:40 p.m.; Fukushima governor and Naha mayoral elections; Mito Komon Manyu Marathon; national race walking championships at Takahata; Serbia votes; Europe's clocks go back. MON. 26: Champi, as a tropical storm, near Kagoshima in the afternoon; SoftBank's alert mail due to resume; the Democratic Party for the People and Ishin give their views on the 31-seat cut; BYD vehicles barred from Kadena. TUE. 27: Japan Series Game 3 in Fukuoka; inter-party talks on the lower house resume; Israel's general election; local ceasefire in Oleshky due to begin; Champi expected to be an extratropical low south of Shikoku. OCT. 27-28: U.S. Federal Reserve. WED. 28: Japan Series Game 4; three months since the Kumamoto earthquake; Uto, Uki and Misato post their logo for local produce; 20 years since the Basic Act on Suicide Countermeasures took effect. OCT. 28-29: German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in Japan. THU. 29: Japan Series Game 5, if needed. OCT. 29-30: Bank of Japan. FRI. 30: GMO's payment details due by email; vice-capital law takes effect; U.S. tariff exemptions for some Canadian goods take effect. SAT. 31: Halloween; Japan Series Game 6, if needed, in Yokohama. NOV. 1: Japan Series Game 7, if needed; tax-free shopping switches to refunds on departure; America's clocks go back. NOV. 3: Culture Day and the Order of Culture ceremony; U.S. midterms. NOV. 3-4: Ryuo match Game 3 in Kyoto. NOV. 4: Oza match Game 2 in Hadano. NOV. 6: GMO announces how to claim for trading losses. NOV. 7: Japan v Wales. NOV. 8-11: Vietnam's To Lam in Japan. NOV. 9: Shosoin Exhibition closes. NOV. 14-15: The Emperor and Empress in Osaka. NOV. 17-21: Princess Aiko in Singapore. DEC. 10-12: Grand Prix Final in Chongqing. DEC. 12: Diet session ends.

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TYPHOON AND MARINE ADVISORIES

6 a.m. Sunday. No. 30, Champi: large tropical storm in the East China Sea, 28.6N, 124.3E; 996 hPa; winds 20 m/s, gusts 30; moving north-east at 20 km/h. No storm-force winds; gale-force winds 650 km to the east and 560 km to the west, taking in Naha, Amami, Miyakojima and Ishigaki. Forecast: 996 hPa at 6 p.m. Sunday; 1,000 hPa about 150 km south-southwest of the Goto Islands at 6 a.m. Monday; centre line about 20 km north of Kagoshima on Monday afternoon; an extratropical low of 1,002 hPa about 130 km south of Cape Muroto by 3 a.m. Tuesday. Northern Kyushu: high alert for landslides through Monday; flooding of low-lying land and rising rivers possible; heavy rain may persist near the Tsushima Strait; waves of around 5 m with swell on Sunday and around 6 m on Monday. High waves continue around Okinawa. No. 31, In-fa, 6 a.m.: severe tropical storm north of the Marshall Islands, 11.5N, 165.4E; 996 hPa; winds 25 m/s; moving north at 10 km/h; forecast to become a strong typhoon by Monday morning and a very strong typhoon south-west of Wake Island by early Thursday. Emergencies at sea: 118.

MARKET REFERENCE

Friday close, Tokyo: Nikkei 225 62,693.16, down 214.68, after falling more than 1,400 yen in the morning; Topix 3,965.81, down 31.69. Japanese government bonds: 10-year 2.789 per cent, 2-year 1.859. New York, Friday: Dow 52,215.16, down 652.82, its first fall in four days; Nasdaq 25,955.34, down 53.52; crude for December \$103.27 a barrel, up \$3.80; dollar 156.77-87 yen; euro \$1.1197-1.1207 and 175.45-55 yen. Federal Reserve meets October 27-28; Bank of Japan October 29-30. JR Kyushu listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange 10 years ago on Sunday at an offering price of 2,600 yen.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS

Front: SoftBank players celebrate their Game 1 victory, photo by Nippon Professional Baseball. The umpires at home plate before Game 1: Nippon Professional Baseball. Typhoon map, Japan and United States weather maps and the GMO Internet Group logo: supplied for this edition. The prime minister at the Diet rostrum, the Paris street, the Yalu River bridge, the PHP illustration, the imperial family, the Asian Para Games emblem, Hideki Matsui and the World Series photograph supplied for this edition: file photos and images, WPM Productions. Kyushu Shinkansen: Japan Rail. There is no editorial cartoon today. U.S. government works are public domain and credited; agency news photographs are not reproduced, and a supplied photograph of Kim Jong Un credited to a news agency is not used.

SYMBOLS, UNITS AND TIMES

Map symbols: sun, sunny; cloud, cloudy; cloud with strokes, rain; an arrow, one sky giving way to another; a slanting stroke, one sky with the other at times. Today's Japan map gives forecast highs and this morning's lows, in degrees Celsius; the U.S. map gives forecasts in Fahrenheit. Wind in metres a second (1 m/s is 3.6 km/h); at sea, in knots (1 knot is about 1.85 km/h). Pressure in hectopascals. Storm grades: a tropical storm has winds of 17 to 24 m/s, a severe tropical storm 25 to 32 m/s, and a typhoon 33 m/s or more, strong from 33, very strong from 44 and violent from 54; large when gales reach 500 km from the centre, very large from 800 km. From Sunday Japan is 9 hours ahead of London and 8 ahead of Paris and Rome; it is 13 hours ahead of New York and 16 ahead of Los Angeles until America's clocks go back on November 1. Japanese names are given family name last. A person arrested or referred to prosecutors is presumed innocent until convicted.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Police 110. Fire and ambulance 119. Coast guard 118. Disaster message dial 171. Police consultation #9110. Consumer hotline 188. Child guidance centres 189. Mental health consultation 0570-064-556; children's 24-hour SOS dial 0120-0-78310. Onamae.com Desktop Cloud customers: help.onamae.com/contact or 03-5456-2560, 24 hours a day; GMO will never ask for passwords or PIN codes. SoftBank, Y!mobile and LINEMO customers: emergency alert mail is suspended until Monday. NTT Docomo customers: Area Mail is not carrying J-Alert or municipal evacuation information. Use television, radio and disaster apps, and follow your municipality's evacuation information through every channel. Anyone whose data may have leaked should change reused passwords, turn on two-step verification and ignore links in unexpected messages.

OPINION AND SOURCES

The editorial is the view of the editorial page; there is no cartoon today. Analysis articles are the judgment of their writers. Reports draw on the Sunday papers, including the Yomiuri Shimbun, the Asahi Shimbun, the Mainichi Shimbun, the Sankei Shimbun and the Nikkei; on Kyodo News, NHK, TV Asahi, Impress Watch and Nikkei Asia; on GMO Internet Group's reports on the attack; on government ministries and agencies, the Information-technology Promotion Agency, the Japan Meteorological Agency and Weathernews; on Nippon Professional Baseball, Daily Sports and the Japan Racing Association; on announcements by the companies and organisers named in the reports; and on the U.S. National Weather Service for the American map.

READER SERVICES

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TOMORROW'S EDITION

Monday: Game 2 of the Japan Series in Yokohama, the result of Game 2 of the World Series, the Kikuka Sho and Lovcen's bid for the Triple Crown, the results of the Fukushima governor's and Naha mayor's elections, Serbia's vote, the world wrestling final, the final rounds of golf at home and abroad, Champi's approach to Kyushu and the rain along the front, and the government's response to GMO's request.

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Saga Juvenile Prison Opens Its Doors: Visitors See the Barber's Room Where About 30 Inmates Have Qualified Since 2020 — Page 14

Container Lodgings That Housed Asian Games Athletes Will Become Homes for Kumamoto Earthquake Survivors From December — Page 15

New Applications for Nursing Care Jump 68% in the Areas Worst Hit by the Kumamoto Earthquake as Evacuees Seek Places in Homes — Page 15

'We Won't Lose to Disasters': Quake-Damaged Yatsushiro School Holds Its Sports Day in a Park After a Crack Splits Its Ground — Page 15

Shoji Delivers Twice as SoftBank Win the Japan Series Opener 3-1 in 11 Innings, After Uezawa Shuts Out DeNA for Seven — Page 16

Game 1 Winners Have Taken the Japan Series 61% of the Time; DeNA, Who Lost the Opener in 2024 and Still Won, Turn to Ogata Against Moineo — Page 16

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'It's Really Starting': Matsui Visits the Giants' Farm Ground, as Former Manager Yoshinobu Takahashi Emerges as a Candidate for His Head Coach — Page 17

Hanshin Will Turn Daichi Ishii, Whose 50 Scoreless Games Set a Record, Into a Starter as Fujikawa Opens Autumn Training With a Third Straight Pennant in Mind — Page 17

Asian Para Games Close in Nagoya With a Record 64 Golds for Japan, but Empty Seats and Anthem Mix-Ups Leave a Muted Mood — Page 17

Rays Lead the Brewers 4-2 in Game 2 of the World Series at Press Time After a Four-Run First Inning; Milwaukee Won the Opener 3-2 — Page 18

The Shosoin Exhibition Opens in Nara With 60 Treasures, 11 Shown for the First Time, 80 Years After the First Show in 1946 — Page 18

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