THE JAPAN MORNING POST

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★ TAKAICHI: EVERY OPTION AGAINST CYBERATTACKS ★ YASUO FUKUDA DIES AT 90 ★ SOFTBANK WIN GAME 2 IN THE 10TH ★ LULA RE-ELECTED IN BRAZIL ★ IN-FA BECOMES A VERY STRONG TYPHOON ★

Takaichi Says Japan Will Use Every Option, Including Neutralising Attack Servers, as Leaks Spread and GMO Reveals a $50 Million Demand

Ministers meet on cybersecurity and an emergency package is promised as early as next week; Joshin and the e-mail firm Yumilink report possible leaks of up to 6 million and 51.62 million records

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent



Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi speaks at a podium, in a file photo. She told a meeting of ministers on cybersecurity on Monday evening that Japan would select and carry out every response option against attacks whose nature had been established, including neutralising the servers used in them, and that an emergency package would follow as early as next week. Editorial, Page 24. (File photo: WPM Productions)

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on Monday that Japan would choose from every response available to it, including neutralising the servers used in attacks, as a wave of intrusions that has exposed the data of millions of people widened again and GMO Internet Group disclosed that its attacker had demanded 50 million dollars.

"The situation has become serious, and we need to strengthen our measures urgently," Takaichi told a meeting of ministers on cybersecurity at her office on Monday evening, Kyodo News reported. "Against cyberattacks whose nature we have established, we will strategically select and carry out every response option, including neutralisation measures."

She said the government would put together an emergency package of measures as early as next week.

A morning signal

Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara gave the first sign of the harder line at his morning news conference, saying the government would choose from all response options, including neutralisation, and would act with the ministries concerned "as one". He described the series of leaks as serious and said measures were urgent.

Kihara also said the government would decide on neutralisation regardless of whether a company had asked for it, Kyodo News reported. GMO Internet Group asked on Saturday for the new active cyber defence powers to be used against the attacker who broke into its Onamae.com Desktop Cloud service, but the system was designed so that the state judges for itself when to act.

What neutralisation means

Under the active cyber defence laws, whose main provisions took effect on October 1, the police and, in serious cases, the Self-Defense Forces may access servers used in attacks, including servers abroad, and disable them with the approval of an independent commission. The powers have not yet been used.

The demand on GMO

GMO's chairman and president, Masatoshi Kumagai, wrote on his blog on Monday that the attacker had demanded 50 million dollars, about 7.9 billion yen, after breaking into the service, which customers used to run automated foreign exchange trading. He said the company had not complied and had paid nothing.

In a post on Sunday night, Kumagai acknowledged that engineers inside the company had pointed out security problems "that should be improved" before the attack, and that the company's response had been inadequate. "The attacker exploited that gap," he wrote, apologising and saying he deeply regretted it.

He repeated his call for the state to take a firm stand against cybercrime and to work with companies, although the GMO group is not one of the critical infrastructure operators around which the new system was built.

Shares tumble

GMO Internet Group's shares fell 590 yen, or more than 15 per cent, to close at 3,179 yen on Monday as investors weighed the cost of compensating customers and the effect on earnings. GMO Internet, the subsidiary that ran the service, fell 73 yen, or more than 14 per cent, to 418 yen.

New leaks

Two more companies reported intrusions on Monday. Joshin Denki, the electronics retailer, said personal information on up to just over 6 million people might have leaked from three of its systems, including names, addresses and telephone numbers, two images of driving licences and one My Number card.

Yumilink, which provides e-mail delivery services to businesses, said personal information including e-mail addresses might have leaked after unauthorised access from outside, in a cumulative total of about 51.62 million records.

A list that keeps growing

The incidents follow possible leaks of data on up to 53.23 million records from Sagawa Express's parcel tracking service, a breach of the car-sharing service Times Car in which data on about 6.62 million accounts leaked, unauthorised orders placed in customers' accounts at Iwai Cosmo Securities and a leak of up to 22,000 subscriber details from an Environment Ministry e-mail newsletter.

On Monday a lawyer said he would file a class action against the operator of Times Car on behalf of customers seeking 30,000 to 50,000 yen each for mental distress.

The build-up

The government had already said on Sunday that it would speed up its response under the direction of the Prime Minister's Office, starting with technical help for companies that had suffered intrusions. Critical flaws in the programming language PHP have forced ministries and companies to take websites and services offline in recent days, and many smaller operators are thought to be slow to apply the fixes.

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POLITICS

Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister Who Followed His Father Into Office and Worked to Mend Ties With China, Dies at 90

He led a government hobbled by a divided Diet in 2007-08, hosted the Toyako summit and served for three and a half years as chief cabinet secretary; a private funeral has been held

By Michael Hayes | Political Correspondent

Yasuo Fukuda, who became Japan's 91st prime minister in 2007 and was the first son of a prime minister to hold the office himself, died of heart failure at a hospital in Tokyo on Thursday, October 22, sources said on Monday. He was 90.

A private funeral has been held with close relatives, and a farewell gathering is to be held later. The chief mourner is his eldest son, Tatsuo Fukuda, a member of the House of Representatives. The Liberal Democratic Party announced his death on Monday afternoon.

Father and son

Fukuda's father, Takeo Fukuda, was the 67th prime minister, from 1976 to 1978. When the son took office in September 2007, they became the first father and son to have led Japan.

A late start

Born in Tokyo, Fukuda graduated from Waseda University and worked for an oil company for many years before entering politics. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1990, from the old Gunma No. 3 district, the seat his father had held.

The longest-serving secretary of his day

He became chief cabinet secretary in October 2000 under Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and stayed in the post under Junichiro Koizumi. His tenure of about three and a half years was the longest on record at the time and is now the second longest.

As the government's chief spokesman he was known for a dry, sometimes biting manner at news conferences and for his grasp of diplomacy. He resigned in May 2004, taking responsibility after it emerged that he had failed to pay into the national pension scheme for a period.

Prime minister

Fukuda won the Liberal Democratic Party leadership election that followed Shinzo Abe's sudden resignation in September 2007. He inherited a divided Diet: the party had suffered a heavy defeat in the House of Councillors election that July, leaving the opposition in control of the upper house, and passing legislation was a struggle throughout his time in office.

In January 2008 the government used its two-thirds majority in the lower house to re-pass a bill allowing the Maritime Self-Defense Force to resume refuelling ships in the Indian Ocean after the upper house rejected it, the first use of the override in more than half a century. In June 2008 the opposition-controlled upper house passed a censure motion against him, the first against a prime minister under the postwar Constitution.

Diplomacy

He hosted the Group of Eight summit at Lake Toya in Hokkaido in July 2008 and was known for his efforts to strengthen relations with China. President Hu Jintao visited Japan in May 2008, and the two leaders signed a joint statement on a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests", one of the four basic political documents between the countries.

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WEATHER — TOKYO

19°C

Low 17°C · Rain all day, continuing tonight

Sapporo	Osaka	Fukuoka	Naha
13°	20°	22°	29°

Tokyo 19°C with rain all day, continuing tonight; rain from Nagoya to Osaka and Shikoku; Kushiro 3°C this morning; Naha sunny at 29°C; In-fa a very strong typhoon at 965 hPa near the Marshall Islands. Full weather, Page 15.

TODAY IN BRIEF

- Cyber: Takaichi vows every option, including neutralisation; GMO's attacker demanded $50 million.
- Leaks: Joshin says up to 6 million people affected; Yumilink reports 51.62 million records.
- Politics: Former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda has died at 90; the DPP wants a 19-seat cut.
- World: Lula wins a fourth term in Brazil; Serbia's ruling party concedes after 14 years.
- Weather: In-fa becomes a very strong typhoon; rain all day from Tokyo to Shikoku.
- Sports: SoftBank win Game 2 in the 10th to lead the Japan Series 2-0.

IN-FA

- 965 hPa, very strong.
- 940 hPa from Wednesday.
- North of Saipan Friday.
- Near Ogasawara Saturday.

TODAY

- Tokyo 19, rain all day.
- Japan Series rest day.
- Cyber ministers meet.
- TIFF opens in Hibiya.

MARKETS

Nikkei 225 (Mon)	62,189.65 ▼503.51
Topix (Mon)	3,972.98 ▲7.17
Dow (Fri)	52,215.16 ▼652.82
Nasdaq (Fri)	25,955.34 ▼53.52
NY crude (Fri)	$103.27 ▲3.80
Yen (Tokyo, 5 p.m.)	157.12-14 per $
Bank of Japan	meets Oct. 29-30

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THE WEEK

- Tue. 27: Israel votes.
- Tue. 27: JS Game 3.
- Oct. 28-29: Merz visits.
- Oct. 29-30: BOJ meets.

ALERTS

- Joshin: beware phishing.
- GMO: no passwords asked.

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Takaichi Says Japan Will Use Every Option, Including Neutralising Attack Servers, as Leaks Spread and GMO Reveals a $50 Million Demand

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Rules for AI

A separate panel of experts on artificial intelligence began discussing a revision of the AI Act on Monday, including whether to introduce penalties for malicious operators. Toshiharu Furukawa, the digital minister, said he felt the need to work more closely with other countries on AI safety.

What comes next

The emergency package is expected to bring together support for companies, faster sharing of threat information and the first decisions on how the new powers will be used. Takaichi did not say which attacks the government had in mind when she referred to those whose nature had been established.

FROM PAGE 1

Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister Who Followed His Father Into Office and Worked to Mend Ties With China, Dies at 90

Continued from Page 1

Records

At home he championed the management of public records and helped bring about the Public Records and Archives Management Act, which requires government bodies to keep and transfer their documents to the national archives.

A sudden exit

Fukuda announced his resignation on September 1, 2008, after less than a year in office. Asked by a reporter whether his announcement seemed detached, he replied that he could look at himself objectively, "unlike you", a remark that was widely quoted. Taro Aso succeeded him later that month.

Later years

He did not stand in the 2012 general election and retired from the Diet, but remained active in Asian diplomacy and kept close contact with Chinese leaders.

Tributes

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said Fukuda had chaired the Toyako summit and had worked to raise Japan's standing in the world by setting out its position on international issues. China's Foreign Ministry expressed condolences, and its state news agency, Xinhua, carried a flash report of his death.

TECHNOLOGY

'My Balance Had Fallen From 3 Million Yen to 1.2 Million Overnight': A GMO Customer Describes the Trades She Never Made

An Osaka office worker found rand sold for euros again and again in her account; Kumagai admits engineers had warned of weaknesses before the break-in

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

A woman who used GMO Internet's cloud service for automated currency trading has described how she opened her account on the morning of October 22 to find that about 1.8 million yen had gone overnight in trades she had never placed.

The 37-year-old office worker from Osaka Prefecture, who had used Onamae.com Desktop Cloud for about three years, told Kyodo News that her balance had been about 3 million yen the day before and had fallen to about 1.2 million yen.

The trades

Her trading history showed South African rand being sold to buy euros, a trade she did not recognise, and other unfamiliar trades repeated again and again. A screen she provided showed a loss of 1.19 million yen on the positions.

Unauthorised orders of this kind are what the attacker threatened to keep placing in customers' accounts at more than 70 securities and currency firms unless GMO paid.

The warning inside

GMO Internet Group's chairman and president, Masatoshi Kumagai, wrote on his blog on Sunday night that engineers in the company had pointed out problems with the service's security that "should be improved" before the attack.

The company's response to those warnings had not been enough, he said, and "the attacker exploited that gap". He apologised and said he deeply regretted what had happened.

The demand

In a further post on Monday he said the attacker had demanded 50 million dollars, about 7.9 billion yen, and that GMO had not complied. The company said on Saturday that paying would not guarantee the deletion of stolen data or prevent its misuse.

Compensation

GMO has said every current customer of the service will receive 5,000 yen and that it will compensate realised trading losses it confirms were caused by the intrusion, deducting any refund made by a broker. Details of the payment are due by e-mail by October 30, and the company will announce how to claim losses by November 6.

The market's verdict

Investors sold GMO Internet Group shares heavily on Monday. They closed down more than 15 per cent at 3,179 yen, and shares in the subsidiary GMO Internet fell more than 14 per cent to 418 yen, on concern about the cost of compensation and the effect on business.

What customers can do

Customers have been asked 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, keeping a record of the date, content and amount. GMO says it will never ask for passwords or PIN codes during the compensation process.

Help

GMO's help line is 03-5456-2560, open 24 hours a day, and inquiries can also be made through help.onamae.com/contact.

POLITICS

The Four Documents Beijing Invoked: The Agreements That Frame Relations Between Japan and China

From the 1972 communique to the 2008 statement Fukuda signed with Hu Jintao

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

When China's Foreign Ministry paid tribute to Yasuo Fukuda on Monday, it praised him for valuing the "four political documents" that the two governments regard as the foundation of their relationship. Here is what they are.

1972: the joint communique

Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and Premier Zhou Enlai signed the joint communique in Beijing on September 29, 1972, establishing diplomatic relations. Japan recognised the government of the People's Republic as the sole legal government of China.

Taiwan in 1972

In the communique Japan said it "fully understands and respects" China's position that Taiwan is an inalienable part of its territory. Japan ended its diplomatic relations with the government in Taipei, while keeping unofficial ties.

1978: the treaty

The Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed in Beijing on August 12, 1978, when Fukuda's father, Takeo Fukuda, was prime minister. It committed both countries to peaceful relations and included a clause opposing efforts by any country to establish hegemony in the region.

1998: the joint declaration

President Jiang Zemin's state visit in November 1998 produced a joint declaration on building a partnership of friendship and co-operation for peace and development. It was the first visit to Japan by a Chinese head of state.

2008: the joint statement

President Hu Jintao and Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda signed the fourth document in Tokyo on May 7, 2008, a joint statement on comprehensively promoting a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests".

What the 2008 statement said

It committed the two countries to regular visits by their leaders, to greater exchanges between their peoples and to co-operation on energy, the environment and regional issues, and described the two as partners who posed no threat to each other.

Gas fields

A month later, in June 2008, the two governments announced an agreement in principle on co-operation in developing gas fields in the East China Sea, an achievement of the period of warmer ties.

How China uses them

Beijing often cites the four documents when it criticises Japanese policy on Taiwan, history or security, arguing that departures from their spirit damage the relationship.

How Tokyo uses them

Successive Japanese governments have also referred to the documents and to the mutually beneficial strategic relationship as the basis of their China policy, while stressing the need for dialogue on disputes.

The phrase's origin

The idea of a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests" was first agreed in October 2006, when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made Beijing his first foreign destination and met Hu Jintao. The 2008 statement made it formal.

Since 2008

Relations have swung between thaw and confrontation since, from the collision of a Chinese trawler with Japan Coast Guard vessels near the Senkaku Islands in 2010 to the nationalisation of three of the islands in 2012, which set off anti-Japanese protests across China.

TYPHOONS

Champi's Remnants Bring Record October Rain to Goto and Imari as a Fisherman Dies in Nagasaki; Unstable Air Threatens the Izu Islands

Fukue had 283.5 mm in 24 hours and Imari 160.5 mm; rain fell all day from Tokyo to Shikoku on Monday

By the Weather Desk

The low that was Typhoon No. 30, Champi, and a front lying across the country brought heavy rain to western Japan on Monday, setting October records in Nagasaki and Saga prefectures, and the weather agency warned that another low was making the air very unstable around the Izu Islands.

In the 24 hours to Monday morning, 283.5 mm of rain fell at Fukue, in Goto, Nagasaki Prefecture, and 160.5 mm at Imari, in Saga Prefecture, both the most ever recorded there in October, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

A death in Minamishimabara

A 79-year-old fisherman was found in the water at a fishing port in Minamishimabara, Nagasaki Prefecture, on Sunday evening and was confirmed dead, the prefectural police said. They believe he may have fallen into the sea while checking on his boat.

Champi's end

Champi became an extratropical low over the East China Sea at 9 p.m. on Sunday, ending the agency's typhoon bulletins. It had been forecast on Sunday morning to cross southern Kyushu on Monday afternoon as a weakening tropical storm.

Although it had lost its tropical structure, its moisture kept feeding the front, and rain spread from Kyushu to Kanto.

A wet Monday

Rain fell all day on Monday from Tokyo to Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka and across Shikoku, according to the weather map supplied for this edition, and was continuing in Tokyo and Nagoya into the night. It eased in Matsue, Hiroshima and Fukuoka by early afternoon and in Kanazawa and Nagano during the afternoon.

The Izu Islands

The agency said another low was making the atmosphere very unstable and that warning-level heavy rain could fall, centred on the Izu Islands. It urged people to watch for landslides, flooding of low-lying land and rising rivers.

Kumamoto

In Kumamoto City, people walked under umbrellas past Kumamoto Castle on Monday morning.

What changed

An extratropical low draws its energy from the contrast between warm and cold air rather than from warm seas, and its strongest winds and rain can spread far from its centre, which is why the end of the typhoon bulletins did not mean the end of the danger.

The agency's advice

The agency advises people in areas under heavy rain warnings to check their municipalities' hazard maps and evacuation information and to move to safety early, before rivers rise and roads become dangerous.

The day's numbers

Tokyo's high was 19 degrees, 7 lower than Sunday's forecast high, and Osaka's 20, 7 lower than Sunday's forecast. Kagoshima, at 28, and Naha, sunny at 29, were the warmest cities on the map.

Next

In-fa, Typhoon No. 31, is far to the south-east near the Marshall Islands and is not expected to affect the main islands this week, but its forecast track brings it to the waters near the Ogasawara Islands by Saturday afternoon.

POLITICS

Yasuo Fukuda, 1936-2026

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

BORN: In Tokyo, the eldest son of Takeo Fukuda, prime minister from 1976 to 1978.

EDUCATION: Waseda University.

BEFORE POLITICS: Many years at an oil company.

1990: Elected to the House of Representatives from the old Gunma No. 3 district.

OCT. 2000: Chief cabinet secretary under Yoshiro Mori; kept the post under Junichiro Koizumi.

MAY 2004: Resigns over gaps in his national pension payments, after about three and a half years in the post.

SEPT. 2007: Wins the Liberal Democratic leadership after Shinzo Abe resigns; becomes the 91st prime minister.

JAN. 2008: Refuelling bill re-passed by a two-thirds vote in the lower house.

MAY 2008: Signs a joint statement with Hu Jintao in Tokyo.

JULY 2008: Hosts the G8 summit at Lake Toya, Hokkaido.

SEPT. 1, 2008: Announces his resignation.

2012: Leaves the Diet.

OCT. 22, 2026: Dies of heart failure in Tokyo, aged 90.

TYPHOONS

In-fa: The Islands to Watch

By the Weather Desk

SAIPAN: Inside the possible storm-wind area by 3 p.m. Friday.

IWO TO: Reached by the possible storm-wind area by 3 p.m. Saturday.

GUAM: About 60 km from that area on Saturday afternoon.

CHICHIJIMA: About 250 km from that area on Saturday afternoon.

MINAMITORISHIMA: In-fa passes about 960 km to its south on Thursday.

GALES NOW: 330 km to the north and 220 km to the south of the centre.

STRENGTH: 940 hPa and 50 m/s from Wednesday.

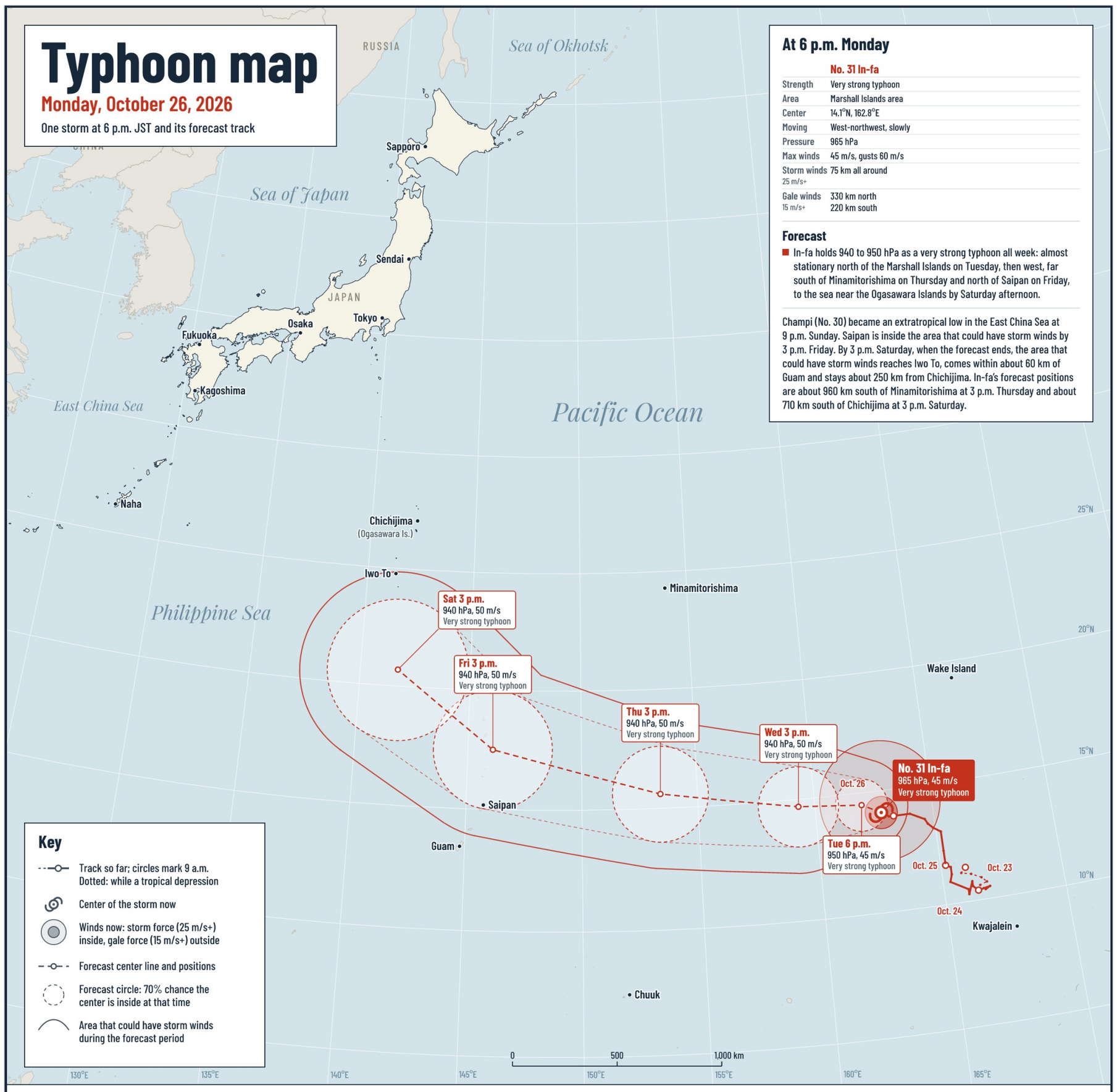
THE FORECAST ENDS: 3 p.m. Saturday, with the storm still very strong.

BULLETINS: Every three hours from the Japan Meteorological Agency.

AT SEA: Shipping south of Honshu should watch the forecasts.

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TYPHOONS



Data: Japan Meteorological Agency tropical cyclone bulletins issued at 18:45 JST on Oct. 26, 2026, and the final Champi bulletin of 21:45 on Oct. 25. All times are Japan Standard Time.

Typhoon No. 31, In-fa, at 6 p.m. on Monday, with its forecast track, in the map supplied for this edition. A very strong typhoon in the Marshall Islands area at 14.1N, 162.8E, moving slowly west-northwest, with a central pressure of 965 hPa and maximum winds of 45 m/s, gusting to 60; storm-force winds of 25 m/s or more extend 75 km all round, and gales of 15 m/s or more 330 km to the north and 220 km to the south. Forecast, all as a very strong typhoon: 950 hPa and 45 m/s at 6 p.m. Tuesday, almost stationary north of the Marshall Islands; 940 hPa and 50 m/s at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, moving west far south of Minamitorishima on Thursday, about 960 km from it, and north of Saipan on Friday, to about 710 km south of Chichijima by 3 p.m. Saturday. Saipan is inside the area that could have storm-force winds by 3 p.m. Friday; by 3 p.m. Saturday that area reaches Iwo To, comes within about 60 km of Guam and stays about 250 km from Chichijima. Typhoon No. 30, Champi, became an extratropical low in the East China Sea at 9 p.m. Sunday. Each dashed circle is where the centre is expected to be at that time with a probability of 70 per cent; the solid red outline is the area that could have storm-force winds during the forecast period. The line from the east is the track so far, with circles at 9 a.m. from October 23. (Data: Japan Meteorological Agency tropical cyclone bulletins issued at 6:45 p.m. on October 26, and the final Champi bulletin of 9:45 p.m. on October 25)

TYPHOONS

In-fa Becomes a Very Strong Typhoon of 965 hPa and Is Forecast to Deepen to 940, Heading West Past Saipan to the Waters Near the Ogasawara Islands by Saturday

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

Typhoon No. 31, In-fa, strengthened into a very strong typhoon near the Marshall Islands on Monday and is forecast to deepen to 940 hectopascals and track west across the Pacific, reaching the waters near the Ogasawara Islands by Saturday afternoon, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency bulletins issued at 6:45 p.m. The map on this page shows the storm at 6 p.m. and the agency's forecast positions until 3 p.m. on Saturday.

At 6 p.m. the centre was at 14.1 degrees north and 162.8 degrees east, moving slowly west-northwest. Its central pressure was 965 hectopascals and its maximum winds 45 metres a second, with gusts of 60.

Storm-force winds of 25 metres a second or more extend 75 km in every direction, and gales of 15 metres a second or more reach 330 km to the north and 220 km to the south.

Faster than expected

The storm has strengthened faster than forecast. At 6 a.m. on Sunday it was a severe tropical storm of 996 hectopascals with winds of 25 metres a second, and Sunday's forecast did not expect it to reach 960 hectopascals until Wednesday. In 36 hours its pressure has fallen by 31 hectopascals and its winds have risen by 20 metres a second.

Tuesday

The agency expects In-fa to be almost stationary north of the Marshall Islands on Tuesday. By 6 p.m. it is forecast to be at 950 hectopascals, with winds of 45 metres a second.

Wednesday to Saturday

From Wednesday it heads west. It is forecast to reach 940 hectopascals by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, with winds of 50 metres a second, and to hold that strength through Saturday, remaining a very strong typhoon throughout the forecast period.

At 3 p.m. on Thursday its forecast position is far south of Minamitorishima, about 960 km away. On Friday it passes north of Saipan, and by 3 p.m. on Saturday it is about 710 km south of Chichijima, in the seas the agency describes as near the Ogasawara Islands.

The islands in its path

Saipan lies inside the area that could have storm-force winds by 3 p.m. on Friday. By 3 p.m. on Saturday, when the forecast ends, that area reaches Iwo To, comes within about 60 km of Guam and stays about 250 km from Chichijima, the main inhabited island of the Ogasawara group.

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 circles around the storm show the storm-force winds inside and the gales outside. The solid red outline is the area that could have storm-force winds during the forecast period. The line from the east is the track so far, with circles at 9 a.m. from October 23; the dotted part is the period when In-fa was still a tropical depression.

Champi

Typhoon No. 30, Champi, became an extratropical low in the East China Sea at 9 p.m. on Sunday, and the agency issued its last bulletin on the storm at 9:45 p.m., ending the warnings that had followed it from Okinawa.

What to watch

The agency's forecast stops at Saturday afternoon, with the storm still at full strength. Residents of the Ogasawara Islands and Iwo To, and anyone planning to travel or work at sea south of Honshu next weekend, should follow the agency's bulletins, which are updated every three hours.

TYPHOONS

In-fa at a Glance

By the Weather Desk

6 P.M. MONDAY: Very strong typhoon, 14.1N 162.8E, Marshall Islands area.

MOVING: West-northwest, slowly.

PRESSURE: 965 hPa.

WINDS: 45 m/s, gusting to 60.

STORM-FORCE WINDS: 75 km all round.

GALES: 330 km to the north, 220 km to the south.

TUE. 6 P.M.: 950 hPa, 45 m/s; almost stationary north of the Marshall Islands.

WED. 3 P.M.: 940 hPa, 50 m/s.

THU. 3 P.M.: 940 hPa, about 960 km south of Minamitorishima.

FRI. 3 P.M.: 940 hPa, north of Saipan; Saipan inside the possible storm-wind area.

SAT. 3 P.M.: 940 hPa, about 710 km south of Chichijima.

CHAMPI: Became an extratropical low at 9 p.m. Sunday.

TECHNOLOGY

A Month of Breaches: The Incidents So Far

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

YUMILINK (e-mail delivery): Up to about 51.62 million records, including e-mail addresses, may have leaked; disclosed Oct. 26.

JOSHIN DENKI (electronics): Up to just over 6 million people's names, addresses and telephone numbers, plus about 230,000 subscription member numbers and log-in IDs; disclosed Oct. 26.

SAGAWA EXPRESS (parcels): Up to 53.23 million records, including duplicates, from its parcel tracking service.

TIMES CAR (car sharing): About 6.62 million accounts; about 1.46 million customers whose licence or other ID images leaked to get 3,000 yen each.

GMO INTERNET (Onamae.com Desktop Cloud): Up to 26,739 servers; unauthorised trades in customers' accounts; a $50 million demand refused.

IWAI COSMO SECURITIES: Unauthorised orders in seven customer accounts.

ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY: Up to 22,000 newsletter subscribers' details.

PHP FLAWS: Critical vulnerabilities forced ministries and companies to take sites and services offline.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE: Ministers met on Oct. 26; an emergency package is due as early as next week.

IF YOU ARE AFFECTED: Change reused passwords, turn on two-step verification and ignore links in unexpected messages.

POLITICS

Beijing Mourns Fukuda as 'an Active Contributor' to Relations, Then Says Japan's Present Leaders 'Should Deeply Reflect'

Takaichi praises his chairmanship of the Toyako summit; Ishiba recalls his teaching that Japan must treat its relationship with China with sincerity

By Rachel Kim | Asia Correspondent

China expressed condolences on Monday over the death of former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, praising his part in improving relations between the two countries, and in the same breath told Japan's current leaders that they should "deeply reflect".

A spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry told a regular news conference in Beijing that Fukuda had "actively contributed to the improvement and development of China-Japan relations", Kyodo News reported.

The four documents

The spokesperson said Fukuda had attached importance to the 1972 joint communique that normalised relations and to the other three basic documents between the countries, and added: "Japan's current leaders should deeply reflect."

The remark was a pointed contrast between Fukuda and the present government. Relations have cooled since Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi took office, and the number of Chinese visitors to Japan has fallen.

A flash from Xinhua

China's state news agency, Xinhua, carried a flash report of Fukuda's death soon after it was confirmed in Tokyo, a sign of the regard in which he was held in Beijing.

Takaichi

Takaichi said in a statement that Fukuda had chaired the Group of Eight summit at Lake Toya in Hokkaido in 2008 and had worked to raise Japan's presence in the international community by setting out its position on global issues.

Ishiba

Former Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba told reporters on Monday that Fukuda had been "truly an admirable person". "Mr Fukuda's teaching was that we must value our relationship with China sincerely and with all our hearts," he said.

The Liberal Democrats

The Liberal Democratic Party announced the death on Monday afternoon. Fukuda, who died on October

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POLITICS

22, led the party and the government from September 2007 to September 2008.

His son

His eldest son, Tatsuo Fukuda, a member of the House of Representatives from Gunma Prefecture, was the chief mourner at a private funeral for close relatives. A farewell gathering is to be held later.

Why Beijing remembers him

Fukuda received President Hu Jintao in Tokyo in May 2008, when the two leaders signed the fourth of the basic political documents, and after leaving office he kept close contact with Chinese leaders, visiting the country often.

POLITICS

The Week Ahead

By the Political Desk

TUE. 27: Japan Series Game 3 in Fukuoka; World Series Game 3, 9 a.m. Japan time; Israel votes; the Oleshky ceasefire is due to begin at 10 a.m. Japan time; Japan-Bangladesh summit in Tokyo.

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

WED. 28: Japan Series Game 4; German Chancellor Friedrich Merz begins a two-day visit; three months since the Kumamoto earthquake; Mito's new coach takes charge in the Levain Cup.

THU. 29: Japan Series Game 5, if needed; 50 years since the Sakata fire; the European Central Bank meets; China's Communist Party plenum ends.

OCT. 29-30: Bank of Japan meets.

FRI. 30: GMO's payment details due; Doshisha explains its new committee; vice-capital law takes effect.

SAT. 31: Halloween; Japan Series Game 6, if needed, in Yokohama; In-fa forecast to reach the sea near the Ogasawara Islands in the afternoon.

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

NOV. 3: Culture Day; U.S. midterm elections.

NOV. 4: Tokyo International Film Festival closes.

NOV. 8: Kyushu sumo tournament opens in Fukuoka.

TYPHOONS

Why In-fa Grew So Quickly: Warm Seas, Light Upper Winds and the Grades the Agency Uses

A storm that gains strength over open ocean far from land can surprise forecasters; the classes run from tropical storm to violent typhoon

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

In-fa's rise from a severe tropical storm to a very strong typhoon in about a day and a half is an example of what meteorologists call rapid intensification, one of the hardest things in tropical weather to forecast.

The fuel

Tropical cyclones draw their energy from warm sea water. Over the western Pacific in autumn, surface waters near the Marshall Islands remain warm enough to feed a storm, and a deep layer of warm water means that the storm's own churning does not quickly bring cooler water to the surface.

The brakes

The main brake is vertical wind shear, the difference between winds near the surface and those higher up. Strong shear tilts a storm and tears at its structure; when it is light, the storm can organise around a tight eye and deepen quickly.

A common yardstick

Forecasters in the United States define rapid intensification as an increase in maximum sustained winds of at least 30 knots, about 15 metres a second, in 24 hours. Japan's agency measures winds as 10-minute averages, so its figures are not directly comparable, but In-fa's jump from 25 to 45 metres a second in 36 hours is of that kind.

The names of the grades

The Japan Meteorological Agency classes a tropical cyclone with winds of 17 to 24 metres a second as a tropical storm, 25 to 32 as a severe tropical storm, and 33 or more as a typhoon.

Strength

In Japanese reports a typhoon is described by strength as strong, from 33 metres a second, very strong, from 44, and violent, from 54. In-fa's 45 metres a second puts it in the very strong class, and its forecast 50 keeps it there.

Size

Size is described separately, by the radius of gale-force winds of 15 metres a second or more: large from 500 km and very large from 800 km. In-fa's gales reach 330 km to the north, so it is not yet described as large.

Numbers and names

Typhoons are numbered in order each year in Japan and also carry names from a list drawn up by the countries and territories of the region. In-fa is the 31st of 2026.

Why the track matters

Storms that form far to the south-east often move west under the Pacific high-pressure system and then turn north or north-east as they reach its western edge. Where that turn happens decides which islands are affected, and it is the least certain part of any long-range forecast.

Reading the bulletins

The agency issues bulletins every three hours, and more often as a storm approaches land. Its forecast circles show where the centre is expected to be with a probability of 70 per cent, so a storm can pass anywhere within them.

POLITICS

Uchibori Wins a Fourth Term in Fukushima With Backing Across the Parties; Chinen Is Re-elected in Naha and Nakahara in Niigata

All three incumbents beat challengers backed by the Communists or running without organised support

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Masao Uchibori won a fourth term as governor of Fukushima Prefecture on Sunday, and the mayors of Naha and Niigata were also re-elected, as incumbents with broad backing held off their challengers in three elections held on the same day.

Fukushima

Uchibori, 62, ran as an independent supported by the prefectural organisations of the Liberal Democratic Party, the Democratic Party for the People, Komeito and the Constitutional Democratic Party, and recommended by Rengo Fukushima, the local branch of the trade union federation.

He pointed to his 12 years in office, which have centred on recovery from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami and the nuclear accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi plant, and promised further recovery work and measures against population decline.

He defeated six newcomers, among them Tomoko Koyamada, 33, a member of the Japanese Communist Party's prefectural standing committee, who called for free school lunches, more medical and nursing care and support for small businesses to raise wages. The other five, running as independents, failed to win much support.

Naha

In Naha, Mayor Satoru Chinen, 63, was re-elected with the backing of parties from both sides: the Liberal Democrats, Ishin, the Democratic Party for the People, Komeito, the Constitutional Democrats and the Okinawa Social Mass Party. He also had the support of Genta Koja, who was elected governor of Okinawa in September.

Chinen promised the early relocation of the U.S. military port in Naha to Urasoe and more support for child rearing. He beat three newcomers, including Sachiko Kudeken, 74, the head of a civic group backed by the Communists and the Social Democrats, who called for the unconditional return of the port and opposed U.S. military use of Naha Airport.

Niigata

In Niigata, Mayor Yaichi Nakahara, 67, won a third term. He had no party endorsement but ran an organised campaign with city councillors from the Liberal Democrats, Ishin and Komeito, promising to revive the city centre and to attract companies and start-ups to create jobs.

He defeated Manabu Aoki, 60, a former city councillor backed by Constitutional Democratic and Communist councillors who called for free school lunches at municipal junior high schools, and a consultant, 60.

The pattern

In all three races the incumbents' broad coalitions and organised support proved decisive, and the main issue was the voters' verdict on their records.

POLITICS

Former Hyogo Vice-Governor Katayama, a Close Aide of Governor Saito, Loses a Prefectural Assembly By-Election in Takasago

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Yasutaka Katayama, a former vice-governor of Hyogo Prefecture and a close aide of Governor Motohiko Saito, lost a by-election for the prefectural assembly in the Takasago City constituency on Sunday.

The seat was won by Shimazu, 38, a former Takasago city councillor running as an independent with the backing of the Liberal Democratic Party's Hyogo chapter, in her first prefectural election, Kyodo News reported.

The by-election

The vote was held after the death of the incumbent, a Liberal Democratic member of the assembly, whose work Shimazu said she wanted to continue. She campaigned on child-rearing policy and on strengthening local medical services.

Katayama's campaign

Katayama, 66, also ran as an independent newcomer. He told voters that he supported Saito's administration, but the message was not enough to win the seat.

The whistleblower affair

Katayama became vice-governor in 2021, when Saito was first elected governor. He resigned in 2024, taking responsibility for the turmoil over a document from a whistleblower that made allegations against Saito, saying he had "caused confusion in the prefectural government".

The affair's long shadow

The handling of the whistleblower's allegations divided the prefecture. Saito lost the assembly's confidence in 2024, was forced out of office and then won re-election as governor in November that year.

A test of the governor's support

Katayama framed his campaign partly as a show of support for Saito, so the defeat of one of the governor's closest associates in a constituency contest is likely to be read in the prefecture as a measure of how far the affair still weighs on voters.

The winner's backing

Shimazu stood as an independent but had the formal support of the Liberal Democrats' prefectural chapter, which put its organisation behind her in the campaign.

Next

The governor's term runs until November 2028.

POLITICS

Manga Artist Yoshinori Kobayashi Sues the State, Arguing the Revised Imperial House Law Discriminates by Birth

The suit says adopting men from the former princely houses breaches the equality clause of the Constitution; the law took effect on Saturday

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The manga artist Yoshinori Kobayashi sued the state in the Tokyo District Court on Monday, asking it to confirm that the revised Imperial House Law is invalid and seeking damages.

Kobayashi argues that the law, which allows male-line male descendants of former branches of the imperial family to be adopted into it, violates Article 14 of the Constitution, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of family origin, Kyodo News reported.

A warning ignored

His suit says that scholars on a government panel of experts had warned that the change might be unconstitutional, and that the government breached its duty by passing it "carelessly".

The law

The revision was enacted in July to secure enough members of the imperial family and took effect on Saturday, October 24. It allows the adoption of male-line males from the 11 former princely houses that left the imperial family in 1947.

The conditions

Those adopted must be 15 or older and must have no spouse or children.

Women's status

The revision also allows women of the imperial family to keep their status after they marry, the other option proposed by the government's panel of experts in its report of December 2021.

Who he is

Kobayashi, known for his manga essays on history and politics, has long argued that the throne should be open to women and to children of the female line, and has criticised the adoption plan as reviving lineage privilege.

The debate it reopens

The law was the outcome of years of debate on how to sustain the imperial family, which has few young members. Supporters of the adoption route say it preserves the male-line tradition; critics say it creates a privileged class defined by birth.

What the court must decide

Japanese courts do not rule on the constitutionality of a law in the abstract, so the case will depend first on whether the court finds a concrete legal dispute, such as Kobayashi's claim for damages, on which it can rule.

The other side of the argument

The Constitution provides that the throne is dynastic and is succeeded to in accordance with the Imperial House Law passed by the Diet, a provision supporters of the law cite as placing the imperial family outside the ordinary rules on equality.

Next

No date has been set for the first hearing.

POLITICS

Tokushima Heads for a Three-Way Governor's Race as a Reconstruction Agency Official Prepares to Challenge the Censured Gotoda

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

A senior Reconstruction Agency official from Tokushima Prefecture is arranging to announce as early as this week that he will run for governor next spring, setting up a possible three-way contest with Governor Masazumi Gotoda, sources told Kyodo News on Sunday.

The official, a director-general-level coordinator at the agency, was asked to run by members of the prefectural assembly, including Liberal Democrats.

The request

On October 20, Liberal Democratic assembly members and other supporters met him in Tokyo and handed him a written request. It said that "fair prefectural administration" was essential, an implied criticism of Gotoda.

The censure

On October 7, the prefectural assembly passed a censure resolution against Gotoda by a majority that included Liberal Democrats, over concerns about his conduct.

The governor

Gotoda, a former Liberal Democratic member of the House of Representatives, has already said he will seek re-election, and a split in the conservative vote now looks unavoidable, Kyodo News reported.

The third candidate

Miho Takai, the mayor of Miyoshi and a former parliamentary vice-minister of education under the Democratic Party of Japan government, has also shown interest in running.

The election

The election will be held next spring, when Gotoda's term expires.

How Gotoda won

Gotoda was elected governor in April 2023, defeating the incumbent, Kamon Iizumi, in a contest that also split the prefecture's conservatives.

What to watch

The official's announcement, expected this week, and whether the Liberal Democrats' prefectural chapter formally endorses him.

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POLITICS



Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi at the rostrum of the House of Representatives, in a file photo. The parties remain divided over how many of the chamber's 176 proportional seats to cut: 45 in the ruling parties' bill, 31 in the Liberal Democrats' compromise and 19 in the Democratic Party for the People's view. (File photo: WPM Productions)

POLITICS

The Democratic Party for the People Says 19 Seats, Not 31, Should Go; Ishin Holds Out for 45 as Two Opposition Parties Reject the LDP's Compromise

Tamaki's party declines to say whether it backs the Liberal Democrats' plan; the parties aim to settle the lower house's electoral system by the end of October

By Michael Hayes | Political Correspondent

The Democratic Party for the People said on Monday that cutting 19 proportional representation seats from the House of Representatives would be desirable, declining to back the Liberal Democratic Party's plan for a cut of 31 and leaving the governing party still short of a clear path to a majority.

The party agreed on the figure at a meeting on Monday afternoon, basing it on a trial calculation of how far the falling population justified a reduction, Kyodo News reported.

Asked by reporters whether the party supported the LDP's proposal, Motohisa Furukawa, the deputy leader, did not give a position.

Ishin's line

Nippon Ishin no Kai, the Liberal Democrats' coalition partner, left its response to the 31-seat plan to its executives. Its leader, Hirofumi Yoshimura, told reporters that a cut of 45 proportional seats was "the main course" and that his party would consider the matter seriously while watching how the opposition responded.

At a liaison meeting of the government and the ruling parties earlier on Monday, Yoshimura said that a cut of 45 was the right course and that he wanted to keep building careful discussion.

Two rejections

The Democratic Reform Association decided at its own meeting to oppose the LDP plan, its secretary-general, Takeshi Shina, told reporters in the Diet. Team Mirai also decided to oppose it at a meeting of its executives, its Diet affairs chief, Takayama, announced.

Komeito decided on Friday to oppose a cut confined to proportional seats, saying it would take part in the discussion if the reduction were shared between single-seat districts and proportional seats.

The bill and the compromise

The bill submitted by the ruling parties provides for a cut of 45 proportional seats. The Liberal Democrats proposed the smaller figure of 31 at inter-party talks last week, together with a change to the formula for allocating proportional seats that would make it easier for smaller parties to win them.

The arithmetic

The lower house has 465 seats: 289 elected in single-seat districts and 176 by proportional representation in 11 regional blocs. A cut of 19 would leave 157 proportional seats, a cut of 31 would leave 145 and a cut of 45 would leave 131.

Tamaki's welcome

The Democratic Party for the People's leader, Yuichiro Tamaki, had said on Saturday that population decline provided "a basis" for the LDP's figure, raising expectations that his party would come round. Monday's decision keeps its options open.

The deadline

The ruling and opposition parties are negotiating over the electoral system for the lower house and aim to reach a conclusion by the end of October. The extraordinary Diet session runs until December 12.

Why it is hard

Every party agrees in principle that lawmakers should share the burden of reform, but proportional seats matter most to the smaller parties, which rarely win single-seat districts. The LDP needs the support of at least some of them to pass a bill.

The partners

Hirofumi Yoshimura, the leader of Nippon Ishin no Kai, the Liberal Democrats' coalition partner, used the same meeting to restate his party's demand for a 45-seat cut in proportional representation seats in the lower house.

Cyber

Takaichi chaired a separate meeting of ministers on cybersecurity later on Monday and said an emergency package of measures against cyberattacks would be put together as early as next week.

The session

The extraordinary session runs until December 12. Besides the tax cut, it is expected to take up electoral reform for the lower house and the government's measures on prices.

Divided upper house

The government needs opposition support to pass bills in the House of Councillors, where the opposition parties together hold a majority, which makes early agreement on each bill important to the government's timetable.

POLITICS

Takaichi Presses for Early Passage of the Consumption Tax Cut and Other Bills, Saying She Wants 'Results With Laws Close to People's Lives'

By Michael Hayes | Political Correspondent

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told a liaison meeting of the government and the ruling parties on Monday that she wanted the bill to cut the consumption tax and other bills passed early in the current extraordinary Diet session.

"I want to produce results with legislation that is close to people's lives," she said, Kyodo News reported.

The tax cut

The bill would cut the consumption tax on food and drink. Substantive debate on it began last week. The cut is limited to two years, and its supporters in the governing camp argue that rising tax revenue can pay for it.

The restaurant question

Restaurants have warned that a cut confined to food sold for consumption at home would widen the gap with meals eaten on the premises, which are taxed at the standard rate of 10 per cent. Former internal affairs minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said at the weekend that farmers and restaurants would need support if the tax were cut.

One year on

Takaichi marked a year in office last week. She has made measures on prices her first priority and has repeatedly said she wants the Diet to pass the tax cut quickly so that households feel the effect.

Next

Ruling and opposition parties continue talks on the lower house electoral system this week, alongside debate on the tax bill.

POLITICS

Government Proposes Registering Anyone Who Lobbies for a Foreign Government, and Penalties for Covert Interference, in Its First Anti-Espionage Plan

Experts raise no objection but warn that academic exchange and news gathering must not be chilled; bills could go to the Diet next year

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The government on Monday proposed creating a foreign agent registration system, under which anyone lobbying on behalf of a foreign government would have to register, and penalties for serious interference, as the basis for its first set of anti-espionage measures.

The proposals were presented at a meeting of experts at the Prime Minister's Office on strengthening the country's intelligence capabilities, Kyodo News reported. The government aims to submit related bills as early as the ordinary Diet session next year.

Three kinds of interference

The government gave three examples of improper foreign interference in which the link to a foreign government is concealed: approaching politicians or public officials to intervene in policy decisions or their implementation, spreading information to shape public opinion or influence elections, and using financial benefits to push for changes in policy.

The reaction

None of the experts opposed the registration system or the penalties, according to the government. Some said care was needed so that academic exchanges and press activity, including news gathering, were not discouraged.

The risk

Excessive regulation could restrict the freedoms and rights of citizens guaranteed by the Constitution, and ensuring democratic control over the system is regarded as a key challenge, Kyodo News reported.

What comes next

Future meetings are expected to discuss which acts of interference would be covered and how to address the concerns raised.

Why now

Japan has long been criticised, at home and abroad, for lacking the laws that other democracies use against espionage and covert influence. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has made strengthening intelligence capabilities one of her priorities.

Abroad

The United States has required agents of foreign principals to register since 1938, and Australia and Britain have introduced similar schemes in recent years. Supporters say such systems make influence visible without banning it.

The critics' case

Civil liberties groups in other countries have argued that broad definitions can catch charities, academics and journalists who work with foreign partners, which is why the details of any Japanese law will matter.

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POLITICS

Bangladesh's Prime Minister Arrives for His First Visit to Japan; Summit With Takaichi on Tuesday Expected to Confirm About 1 Trillion Yen in Japanese Investment

Tarique Rahman will meet Uniqlo's parent, JICA and Japanese business leaders and is expected to visit a Toyota plant

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Tarique Rahman, began a four-day visit to Japan on Monday, his first, and will hold talks with Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Tuesday that are expected to expand co-operation on energy and investment.

The two leaders are expected to confirm about 1 trillion yen of private Japanese investment in Bangladesh over the next several years and to issue a joint statement after their talks, diplomatic sources told Kyodo News.

The programme

Rahman is visiting from October 26 to 29 at Takaichi's invitation. She will host a luncheon for him at her office after their talks on Tuesday, Bangladesh's foreign ministry said.

Business

He is due to meet executives of Fast Retailing, which runs Uniqlo, and Akihiko Tanaka, the president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. On Wednesday he will speak at an economic forum hosted by the Japan External Trade Organization and call on Japanese companies to invest in his country.

Site visits

The Bangladeshi side has proposed visits to a liquefied natural gas terminal and power plant in Futtsu, Chiba Prefecture, and to a Toyota factory, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

The agenda

The talks are expected to cover implementation of the economic partnership agreement signed in February, wider access for Bangladeshi products in Japan, renewable energy, agriculture, digital technology and skills training, as well as the Rohingya refugee crisis.

Possible agreements

Memorandums of co-operation may be announced in fields including agriculture, fisheries, human resources, civil aviation, trade and environmental protection.

A long partnership

Japan was one of the first countries to recognise Bangladesh after its independence and is one of its largest development partners, financing projects including Dhaka's metro rail, a new terminal at its main airport and a deep-sea port and power complex at Matarbari.

The new government

Rahman's Bangladesh Nationalist Party won a general election in February, and he took office as prime minister afterwards.

POLITICS

Bangladesh's Prime Minister in Japan

By the Political Desk

WHO: Tarique Rahman, on his first visit to Japan.

WHEN: October 26 to 29.

TUESDAY: Talks and a luncheon with Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

INVESTMENT: About 1 trillion yen of Japanese private investment expected to be confirmed.

WEDNESDAY: An economic forum hosted by JETRO.

MEETINGS: Fast Retailing, which runs Uniqlo, and JICA's president.

VISITS: An LNG terminal in Futtsu, Chiba, and a Toyota plant, as proposed by Dhaka.

THE AGREEMENT: An economic partnership agreement signed in February.

TOPICS: Energy, trade, skills and the Rohingya refugees.

PROJECTS: Dhaka's metro, a new airport terminal and Matarbari.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Lula wins a fourth term, Page 7.

Missiles at Riyadh's airport, Page 8.

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POLITICS



A missile rises from a coastal launch site over the sea, in a file image. The Ground Self-Defense Force's Type 25 surface-to-ship missile, Japan's first long-range missile for its counterstrike capability, took part in a large-scale exercise for the first time on Sunday. (File photo: WPM Productions)

POLITICS

Japan's First Long-Range Missile Unit Joins an Exercise With U.S. Forces for the First Time, Practising the Steps to a Launch in Heavy Rain

The Type 25 surface-to-ship missile, deployed to Kumamoto in March, is part of the counterstrike capability Japan is building

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The Ground Self-Defense Force's Type 25 surface-to-ship guided missile, the first of the long-range missiles Japan is deploying for its counterstrike capability, took part in a large-scale exercise for the first time on Sunday, the Defence Ministry said.

The ministry showed the missile to the media at the Ohnohara training area, which straddles Nagasaki and Saga prefectures, where it has been deployed for Keen Sword, a joint exercise of the Self-Defense Forces and U.S. forces, Kyodo News reported.

In the rain

Heavy rain fell on the training area on Sunday morning, and personnel practised the procedures leading up to a launch.

The deployment

The missile was deployed in March to the GSDF's Camp Kengun in Kumamoto City, the first unit of the long-range missiles the government plans to deploy across the country.

Counterstrike

The government calls the ability to strike enemy bases its counterstrike capability and introduced it with China and other countries expanding their military activity in mind. The ministry hopes the exercise will demonstrate the unit's operational capability.

The scenario

Keen Sword covers training on land, at sea, in the air, in space and in cyberspace. The Type 25 is taking part in the part in which units co-ordinate to fight enemy warships in waters off Shikoku and south-west of Kyushu.

The concerns

Critics say the shift away from the exclusively defence-oriented policy that has long been the basis of Japan's security policy, and the rapid deployment of long-range missiles, could provoke stronger opposition from neighbouring countries.

Deterrence

Supporters argue that the ability to hit back from a distance makes an attack on Japan less likely, and that showing the unit in a joint exercise with U.S. forces sends that signal.

Kumamoto

Residents' groups in Kumamoto protested against the deployment at Camp Kengun, saying it could make the city a target.

POLITICS

Japan and Finland Sign a Defence Equipment Pact as Koizumi Hears How Helsinki Came to Accept Nuclear Weapons on Its Soil

Both ministers point to Russia and North Korea, calling the security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific inseparable

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

Japan and Finland signed an agreement on Monday allowing defence equipment and technology to be transferred between them, as Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and his Finnish counterpart, Antti Hakkanen, discussed Finland's decision to accept the introduction of nuclear weapons onto its territory.

Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Hakkanen signed the equipment agreement at the Foreign Ministry before the defence ministers met at the Defence Ministry in the afternoon, Kyodo News reported.

Finland's turn

The ministers exchanged views on Finland's security policy, which has shifted to accept the introduction of nuclear weapons in response to the threat from its neighbour, Russia. Finland joined NATO in 2023 after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Koizumi

Koizumi pointed to military co-operation between Russia and North Korea in the war in Ukraine and said the security of the Euro-Atlantic region and the Indo-Pacific was "inseparable".

Hakkanen

Hakkanen said Finland's security environment was being threatened by Russia and North Korea. "We share values and perceptions," he said, and expressed his wish to strengthen co-operation between the two countries.

The agreement

Defence equipment and technology transfer agreements set the legal framework for exporting and importing equipment and for joint development, including how transferred technology is protected. Japan has signed such agreements with a growing number of partners in Europe and Asia.

Finland's forces

Finland, which shares a border of about 1,300 km with Russia, keeps a large reserve army based on conscription and has long been regarded as one of the European countries best prepared to defend its own territory.

Why it matters to Tokyo

For a Japanese government that sees Russia's co-operation with North Korea and China as a single problem stretching across Eurasia, Finland's experience on Russia's longest European border is of direct interest.

The nuclear question

Japan maintains three non-nuclear principles of not possessing, not producing and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons. The discussion of Finland's choice comes as some Japanese politicians have called for debate on the third principle.

Next

The two ministers agreed to keep up regular exchanges between their defence establishments.

POLITICS

Liberal Democrats Propose Letting Petrol Prices Rise by About 5 Yen a Litre Each Month From December as the Subsidy Is Wound Down

Kobayashi says more than 10 billion yen of public money is being spent every day; the party asks for help with winter electricity and gas bills and a secure supply of kerosene

By Michael Hayes | Political Correspondent

The Liberal Democratic Party on Monday proposed winding down the subsidy that holds petrol at about 170 yen a litre by raising its reference price by about 5 yen a litre every month from December into early spring.

The party compiled its proposals on prices at a meeting on the situation in Iran at its headquarters in Tokyo, citing the effect of the crisis in the Middle East on the cost of living, Kyodo News reported.

The cost

"We are spending public money of more than 10 billion yen a day and holding prices below those in other countries, but we have entered the stage where it should be reviewed," Takayuki Kobayashi, the party's policy chief, told the meeting.

Winter bills

The party asked the government to reduce the burden of electricity and gas bills in winter on households and businesses as thoroughly as possible. It also said that a stable supply of kerosene, on which many households depend for heating, must be ensured.

The steps

The proposal would let the price of regular petrol rise gradually rather than all at once, giving households and businesses time to adjust. If the steps of about 5 yen continued from December through March, the reference price would rise by about 20 yen.

The background

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi instructed the economy, trade and industry minister on Friday to review the subsidy, and Kobayashi said on Saturday that it was an emergency measure that needed an exit.

The oil price

New York crude closed at 103.27 dollars a barrel on Friday, up 3.80 dollars, as fighting involving Iran, Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Houthi movement disrupted supplies from the Gulf region.

The rural question

Petrol prices weigh most heavily on households in rural areas, where people depend on cars, and on haulage companies, which is why the party paired the phasing-out with help on other energy bills.

What the government decides

The government is expected to reflect the proposals in its economic measures. The amount and timing of help with winter electricity and gas bills have not been set.

POLITICS

Hiroshima Mayor Matsui Returns After Brain Tumour Surgery and Says He Will Seek a Fifth Term; Shimane's Governor Is Also Back

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Kazumi Matsui, the 73-year-old mayor of Hiroshima, returned to City Hall on Monday after surgery to remove a malignant brain tumour, and said he still intended to run for a fifth term next spring.

Apart from some remote work, Matsui had been away from his duties since September 20, Kyodo News reported.

His words

"I have recovered to the point where I can return to my duties," he told reporters. He will continue outpatient treatment and rehabilitation.

The diagnosis

A medical check-up on September 18 found a possible lesion in his head, and he was admitted to hospital for further tests, which found a tumour in the frontal area. He disclosed the illness publicly.

The election

The mayoral election is due next April, when his current term ends. He said he had no intention of changing his plan to run.

Hiroshima's voice

As mayor of the first city destroyed by an atomic bomb, Matsui reads the Peace Declaration at the memorial ceremony every August 6 and has campaigned internationally for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Shimane

Tatsuya Maruyama, the 56-year-old governor of Shimane Prefecture, returned to his duties on Sunday after surgery for stage 3 bladder cancer. He attended a groundbreaking ceremony for a national highway in Matsue and then spoke to reporters.

"I received all the necessary treatment and have been able to return to work in good shape," he said, adding that he would give priority to recovering his strength.

His timeline

Maruyama was admitted to hospital for surgery on September 21 and discharged on October 16, then recuperated at home. He will continue outpatient visits for follow-up checks.

Next spring

Asked about next spring's governor's election, he said he had received requests to run again and wanted to respond to them, but did not say when he would announce his decision.

POLITICS

Prefectural Assemblies Spent About 679 Million Yen on Overseas Trips in Two Years, a Kyodo Survey Finds, With Aichi the Biggest Spender

Trips to Finland and Denmark to study welfare and education, and to Vietnam and Indonesia to study foreign labour, were the most common

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Twenty-nine prefectural assemblies spent about 679 million yen of public money on overseas inspection trips in the two fiscal years to March, a Kyodo News survey has found, as trips cut back during the pandemic return.

In fiscal 2024, 25 assemblies made 38 trips costing about 315 million yen, and in fiscal 2025, 25 made 52 trips costing about 363 million yen, the survey found.

Aichi and Fukuoka

The Aichi Prefectural Assembly spent the most, about 118 million yen on four trips. The Fukuoka assembly, whose repeated and costly travel has been criticised, made four trips over the two years costing about 61 million yen, most of them to cities with which it has friendship agreements.

Where they went

Trips to Finland and Denmark to study welfare and education were common, as were visits to Vietnam and Indonesia to research how to secure foreign workers.

How the survey worked

Kyodo asked each assembly's secretariat for the number, cost, destinations and purposes of trips and received answers from all of them. It counted only trips for research or gathering information, excluding those mainly for sister-city exchanges or ceremonies.

The criticism

Critics say the results of such trips are hard to see and that much of the information could now be gathered online, as the use of digital tools has grown since the pandemic, Kyodo News reported.

Rising again

The number of trips rose by 14 and spending by about 48 million yen, or about 15 per cent, from fiscal 2024 to fiscal 2025.

Who pays

The trips are paid for from assembly budgets funded by prefectural taxpayers, under rules set by each assembly.

Not the whole bill

Because trips mainly for sister-city exchanges and ceremonies were left out, the figures do not cover all the travel abroad paid for by the assemblies.

The cost per trip

The averages work out at about 8 million yen per trip in fiscal 2024 and about 7 million yen in fiscal 2025.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Missiles at Riyadh's airport, Page 8.

Nikkei falls 503 on AI doubts, Page 10.

Joshin and Yumilink leaks, Page 12.

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POLITICS

POLITICS

Politics in Brief

By the Political Desk

ONO DIES: Jiro Ono, a former deputy leader of the Democratic Party, has died, Kyodo News reported on Monday.

CYBER MEETING: Ministers met at the Prime Minister's Office at 6 p.m. on Monday to discuss the response to the wave of unauthorised access.

TEAM MIRAI: Team Mirai submitted proposals to Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara on Monday calling for the government to consider support for people who lose their jobs as artificial intelligence spreads.

STOCKPILES: The government has signed agreements with all 10 regions on bases for disaster stockpiles, completing the network with a deal with Toyama Prefecture on Monday.

KAGURA: Governors from 34 prefectures asked the education ministry on Monday for state funding to train successors in kagura, which the government has nominated for UNESCO listing in 2028.

AUDI: President Donald Trump announced at a rally in Georgia that Audi would build its first U.S. factory in the state.

FINLAND: Japan and Finland signed a defence equipment and technology transfer agreement on Monday.

BANGLADESH: Prime Minister Tarique Rahman arrived on Monday; he meets Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Tuesday.

SESSION: The extraordinary Diet session runs until December 12.

MERZ: German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visits on Wednesday and Thursday.

INTERNATIONAL

Lula Wins a Fourth Term in Brazil, Beating Flavio Bolsonaro by 51.8 Per Cent to 48.2 and Declaring That His Country Is 'Nobody's Backyard'

The result checks the run of pro-American governments in Latin America; Bolsonaro, the former president's son, says he will seek to have the vote annulled

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won re-election in Brazil's presidential run-off on Sunday, defeating Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, the son of the former president Jair Bolsonaro, in a close race that checked the rise of right-wing, pro-American governments in Latin America.

With the count complete, Lula, 80, had 51.79 per cent of the vote and Bolsonaro, 45, had 48.21 per cent, according to the electoral authority, Kyodo News reported.

A comeback

Lula finished second in the first round on October 4, behind Bolsonaro, and overtook him in the run-off. He will be sworn in for his fourth term on January 5.

The speech

Declaring victory before supporters in Sao Paulo, the country's largest city, Lula said Brazil was nobody's backyard, a pointed message to the United States.

Washington's shadow

The administration of President Donald Trump has pursued what has been called the "Donroe Doctrine", seeking dominance in the Western Hemisphere and wider U.S. influence in Latin America. Jair Bolsonaro had close ties to Trump, and his son had promised to strengthen relations with Washington.

The challenge

Flavio Bolsonaro said he would seek to have the election annulled, arguing that voting had been extended by two hours because of bad weather.

What it means for the region

Several Latin American countries have elected right-wing governments friendly to Washington in recent years. Brazil, the region's largest economy, now remains under a leftist president who has defended its independence in foreign policy.

Pressure ahead

Bolsonaro's defeat could lead the Trump administration to increase pressure on Lula's government, Kyodo News reported.

Japan's interest

Brazil is home to the largest community of Japanese descent outside Japan, and the two countries have growing ties in food, energy and minerals.

The record

Lula served two terms from 2003 to 2010 and returned to office in 2023. His new term will run until January 2031.

INTERNATIONAL

Serbia's Ruling Party Concedes Defeat After 14 Years as a List Born of the Student Protests Wins a Majority in Parliament

The demonstrations began after a station canopy collapsed in Novi Sad in 2024; the new force has not yet named a prime minister

By the International Desk

Serbia is set for its first change of government in 14 years after the centre-right Serbian Progressive Party conceded defeat in Sunday's parliamentary election and a new political force led by students who had protested against the government won a majority of the 250 seats.

Aleksandar Vucic, the 56-year-old former president who leads the ruling party, admitted defeat in Belgrade, Kyodo News reported. People celebrated in the streets of the capital on Sunday night.

The Student List

The winning force, known as the Student List, grew out of protests that began in 2024 after the canopy of the railway station in Novi Sad, in northern Serbia, collapsed, killing people waiting below.

The demands

Students have demanded that those responsible for the disaster be held to account and that corruption be tackled, and have kept demonstrating across the country. The movement drew wide support by channelling discontent with what critics called the government's authoritarian style.

No candidate yet

The Student List did not name a candidate for prime minister before the election. The next prime minister will be decided later.

Between East and West

The Progressive Party had governed since 2012 and kept close ties with both Russia and China while pursuing membership of the European Union. How a new government will balance those relationships is being watched closely in Brussels and Moscow.

The vote

Serbia's National Assembly has 250 seats, all elected by proportional representation, and the outcome of Sunday's vote became clear overnight.

Why it matters

Serbia is the largest country of the former Yugoslavia, and a change of government there could affect relations across the Western Balkans, including with Kosovo, whose independence Belgrade does not recognise.

Next

Parliament will meet to form a government once the results are certified.

INTERNATIONAL

Machado, the Nobel Peace Laureate, Returns to Venezuela for the First Time Since Fleeing by Boat Last December, Local Media Report

Earlier attempts to go home were reportedly blocked by Washington; the interim government that replaced Maduro has turned towards the United States

By the International Desk

Maria Corina Machado, the Venezuelan opposition leader who won the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize, has returned to Venezuela, Venezuelan media reported on Sunday.

If confirmed, it is her first return since she fled the country by boat in December last year, around the time of the Nobel award ceremony, Kyodo News reported from Sao Paulo.

The question

Attention is now on whether she can lead efforts to restore democracy in a country that has remained under authoritarian rule.

Attempts blocked

Machado had tried to return before, including after the major earthquakes that struck Venezuela in June. Some reports said the Trump administration had blocked those attempts out of concern about political turmoil. The extent of any U.S. involvement in her latest return is unclear.

After Maduro

In January the United States carried out a raid in Venezuela and detained President Nicolas Maduro. The interim government that followed, led by Rodriguez, has turned towards co-operation with the United States.

Her standing

Machado won the opposition's primary in 2023 but was barred from running in the 2024 presidential election. Her movement says its candidate won that vote, a claim the authorities rejected.

The prize

The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded her the 2025 peace prize for her struggle for a peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy in Venezuela. Her daughter accepted the prize on her behalf at the ceremony in Oslo on December 10, and Machado reached the Norwegian capital hours later after her escape.

What she wants

Machado has called for free elections and the return of the millions of Venezuelans who left during the economic collapse of the past decade.

Next

How the interim authorities treat her, and whether she can organise openly, will be the first test of the new order.

INTERNATIONAL

Drones Drop Baby Food Into Isolated Oleshky as a Local Ceasefire Nears, While Musk Warns Ukraine's Front Would 'Collapse' Without Starlink

The U.S.-brokered pause begins at 3 a.m. Tuesday Kyiv time; Zelensky says Russia must clear mines from the road into the town

By the International Desk

Ukraine has been dropping baby food and toys by drone into Oleshky, a Russian-occupied town in Kherson region cut off by fighting, as a local ceasefire brokered by the United States to let aid in and residents out approaches.

The ceasefire, announced by both Russia and Ukraine, is due to begin at 3 a.m. on Tuesday, Kyiv time, or 10 a.m. in Japan, Kyodo News reported. A full halt to fighting in any area, however limited, would be unusual in the war.

The drops

The Ukrainian government said on Sunday that it had delivered baby food and toys to the town by drone on Saturday. The area around Oleshky has been mined, and Ukraine has continued to send aid by air.

Zelensky

In an interview broadcast by Ukrainian media on Sunday, President Volodymyr Zelensky said the ceasefire proposed by the United States was expected to last several days from Tuesday. He said Russia must clear the mines on the road into Oleshky and that it would be better for residents to evacuate to Ukrainian-controlled territory.

The plan

Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's human rights commissioner and chief negotiator, said that once the ceasefire took effect the plan was to clear the mines on the road, bring in food, water and other supplies, and move residents who wished to leave.

Musk's warning

Elon Musk, who runs SpaceX, the company behind the Starlink satellite network, accused Ukraine's military on Saturday of using Starlink to operate attack drones that kill people, in breach of the service's terms of use.

"If communications are cut, Ukraine's front lines would collapse immediately. This is not a threat, it is a fact," he wrote on X.

The loophole

Musk said that using Starlink to kill people in drone attacks was not allowed and that he had "closed the loophole last week". He said SpaceX had done more for Ukraine's defence than any other private company and had nothing but contempt for "hypocritical warmongers" who offered no realistic solution.

Zelensky's thanks

Zelensky announced on Saturday that restrictions on Starlink in Ukraine had been lifted and thanked Trump and members of Congress on X, without mentioning Musk, a sign of lingering friction between them.

Why Oleshky matters

Ukraine's negotiators have said that if the local ceasefire succeeds it could open the way to wider pauses in the fighting.

INTERNATIONAL

China's Communist Party Opens a Four-Day Plenum on 'Strict Party Governance' as State TV Shows Detailed Satellite Images of Taipei

Xi warns of 'two-faced' officials in a new article; CCTV's 42-second video marks the day Beijing calls Taiwan's restoration

By Rachel Kim | Asia Correspondent

China's Communist Party opened the fifth plenary session of its 20th Central Committee in Beijing on Monday, with "strict party governance" at the top of its agenda, the state news agency Xinhua reported.

The meeting runs until Thursday and is expected to discuss personnel matters, Kyodo News reported.

Looking past the congress

The party holds its national congress, the five-yearly meeting that chooses its leadership, in the second half of next year. Xi Jinping, the general secretary and state president, is looking beyond it to a possible further term and is expected to tighten his grip on power.

Two faces

An article under Xi's name in this month's issue of Qiushi, the party's theoretical journal, stressed the importance of carrying out central decisions reliably and warned that officials whose words and deeds did not match, "people with two faces", must be watched closely. It said the anti-corruption campaign would continue.

The video

On Sunday, the state broadcaster CCTV released a 42-second video on its news app using detailed satellite images of sites in Taipei, including the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, the National Palace Museum and the Taipei Dome baseball stadium.

"All the streets are clearly visible," CCTV said.

The date

China designated October 25 last year as a day to commemorate the "restoration" of Taiwan, which it says marks Taiwan's return from Japanese rule in 1945. The video is part of a campaign to promote the principle that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China.

Fuzhou

A symposium related to the commemoration was held on Sunday in Fuzhou, the capital of Fujian Province, which faces Taiwan across the strait, Xinhua reported.

The message

Taiwan's government rejects Beijing's claim to the island, which has been governed separately since 1949.

Japan

The plenum comes as relations between Tokyo and Beijing remain strained, with China's Foreign Ministry on Monday telling Japan's current leaders to "deeply reflect".

INTERNATIONAL

Brazil's Run-Off at a Glance

By the International Desk

WINNER: Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, 80, the leftist incumbent.

SHARE: 51.79 per cent.

LOSER: Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, 45, son of the former president.

SHARE: 48.21 per cent.

FIRST ROUND: October 4; Lula was second.

SWEARING-IN: January 5.

TERM: Lula's fourth.

LULA'S WORDS: Brazil is nobody's backyard.

THE CHALLENGE: Bolsonaro seeks annulment over a two-hour extension of voting.

JAPAN'S LINK: The largest community of Japanese descent outside Japan.

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INTERNATIONAL



Smoke rises beside an airport terminal as an airliner stands at a gate, in a file image. The Houthis say they fired ballistic missiles at Riyadh's airport on Sunday, the day it partly reopened after a series of deadly attacks. (File image: WPM Productions)

INTERNATIONAL

Houthis Say They Fired Missiles at Riyadh's Airport on the Day It Reopened, as Saudi, Turkish and Pakistani Officials Prepare to Visit Tehran

Debris from intercepted missiles injured people, the Saudi authorities said; the United States is pulling staff from missions and bases across the region

By the International Desk

Yemen's Houthi movement said on Sunday that it had attacked Riyadh's international airport and Saudi air force and naval bases with ballistic missiles, on the day the Saudi capital's airport partially resumed operations after a series of attacks.

The extent of any damage was unclear. The Saudi authorities said debris had fallen while their forces intercepted the missiles and that people had been injured, Kyodo News reported from Cairo.

The airport

The airport has been hit repeatedly since early October, and people have been killed. It suspended operations on October 10 and announced on Saturday that it would partly reopen on Sunday. Saudi media said it had resumed operations that morning.

The pipeline

The Houthis said on Saturday that they had attacked a Saudi pipeline that carries crude to the Red Sea coast, the route Riyadh has used to export oil away from the Strait of Hormuz.

The alliance

Iranian state television reported on Monday that senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan, members of what it called the Mecca Defence Alliance, a collective defence framework in the Middle East, would visit Tehran. The visit is believed to be aimed at exchanging views on the regional situation.

Americans leaving

The United States is withdrawing personnel from embassies, other diplomatic missions and military bases across the Middle East after intelligence that Iran is stepping up plots to kill U.S. government personnel, The New York Times and other media reported at the weekend.

The threat

U.S. intelligence agencies judge the threat to Americans in the region to be at its highest since Iran was attacked in late February, the reports said. Trump is reported to be leaning towards resuming large-scale military operations against Iran but has not made a final decision.

Travel advice

The State Department updated its advisories for 13 Middle Eastern countries on Friday, rating them at Level 3, reconsider travel, or Level 4, do not travel.

Oil

The attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure have pushed crude prices higher, adding to pressure on energy-importing countries such as Japan.

INTERNATIONAL

Netanyahu Asked Trump Twice in Three Days to Back Him More Strongly Before Tuesday's Election, Even Proposing the Wording, Axios Reports

The White House saw the requests as a sign of desperation, a U.S. source said; the race is expected to be close

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel asked President Donald Trump to express his support more strongly ahead of Tuesday's general election and even proposed the wording of a statement, the U.S. news site Axios reported on Sunday.

Netanyahu spoke to Trump twice in the previous three days and asked him for a stronger public endorsement, Axios said, according to Kyodo News.

Desperation

Citing a U.S. source, Axios said the White House saw the requests as a sign of desperation, suggesting that Netanyahu believed he was behind.

No answer

It was not reported whether Trump had agreed or had made any statement.

The race

The election on Tuesday, October 27, is expected to be a close contest between Netanyahu's camp and the parties opposed to him.

The first since October 7

It is Israel's first general election since Hamas's attack of October 2023, and the government's failure to prevent it has been a central issue.

Protest

More than 100,000 people rallied in Tel Aviv on Saturday to demand a state commission of inquiry into the attack, local media reported.

Trump's role

Trump has praised Netanyahu publicly many times and has urged Israel's president to pardon him in his corruption trial.

Japan time

Polls close on Tuesday evening in Israel, which is seven hours behind Japan now that its clocks have gone back, and exit polls are expected early on Wednesday, Japan time.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump Takes the Midterm Fight to Michigan a Day After Obama, Praising Rogers and Calling His Democratic Rival a 'Jihadist'

Michigan's Senate race could decide control of the chamber; Democrats blame the administration for high oil prices linked to the Iran war

By the International Desk

President Donald Trump campaigned in Michigan on Sunday, a day after former President Barack Obama visited the state, as the two sparred over a Senate race that could decide which party controls the chamber after the midterm elections on November 3.

Speaking at a rally in Port Huron, Trump praised the Republican Senate candidate, Mike Rogers, a former member of the House of Representatives, as a wonderful man who embodied the state, Kyodo News reported.

The attack

Trump called the Democratic candidate, Abdul El-Sayed, who is Muslim, a "jihadist", a claim Kyodo News described as one-sided.

Obama's case

Obama and the Democrats have accused the administration of a string of policy failures, including the rise in oil prices linked to the military operation against Iran.

The map

Michigan is one of the Midwestern states where the Senate race is closest. Democrats need to gain seats to win back control of the Senate.

Audi in Georgia

At a rally in Georgia on Saturday, Trump announced that Audi, the luxury brand of Germany's Volkswagen group, would build its first U.S. factory in the state. "The American auto industry is coming back. New jobs are being created," he said.

The plant

Audi said it would invest about 4 billion dollars and create about 4,500 jobs. Construction is due to start in 2027, with production in the early 2030s and capacity of up to 200,000 vehicles a year. Audi now ships cars to the United States from Europe and Mexico.

The early vote

Trump cast his own ballot early in Florida on Saturday.

Next

Election day is November 3, a week from Tuesday.

INTERNATIONAL

New York's Catholic Archdiocese Agrees to Pay More Than $800 Million to About 1,300 Victims of Clergy Abuse, The New York Times Reports

By the International Desk

The Catholic Archdiocese of New York has agreed to a settlement with people abused as children by clergy, under which about 1,300 victims will receive more than 800 million dollars, about 125 billion yen, The New York Times reported on Saturday.

The settlement is expected to be finalised in early November, Kyodo News reported.

The second largest

The New York archdiocese has the second-largest number of Catholics of any diocese in the United States. The largest, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, agreed in 2024 to pay 880 million dollars, and the New York settlement comes close to that.

The choice

Plaintiffs can choose between a lump sum of at least 250,000 dollars and a larger amount that depends on a review of the severity of the abuse they suffered.

The background

Lawsuits multiplied after New York State temporarily lifted the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse claims in 2019, allowing survivors to sue over abuse that took place decades ago.

A wider reckoning

Dioceses across the United States have paid billions of dollars in settlements since the abuse crisis broke in Boston in 2002, and several have sought bankruptcy protection, including the dioceses of Rockville Centre, on Long Island, and Buffalo in New York State.

The Church's response

The Catholic Church has apologised repeatedly for the abuse and its cover-up and has introduced safeguarding rules, while victims' groups say accountability for bishops remains incomplete.

In yen

At current exchange rates, the minimum lump sum of 250,000 dollars is worth about 39 million yen.

Next

The settlement must be finalised before payments can begin.

INTERNATIONAL

Britain's Prime Minister Burnham Says Restoring Free Movement With the EU Needs 'Frank Discussion'

By the International Desk

Prime Minister Andy Burnham of Britain has said that restoring free movement of people between Britain and the European Union, which ended with Brexit, needs "frank discussion", signalling willingness to consider it, Kyodo News reported from London.

He made the remarks in an interview with The Sunday Times, which reported them on Saturday.

Rejoining

Burnham supports rejoining the EU. At the Labour Party conference in September he said he would give the public an "option" to strengthen long-term ties with the bloc.

The context

His mention of free movement is likely to be meant in the context of rejoining the EU or taking part in its single market, Kyodo News said.

The history

Britain voted to leave the EU in a referendum in 2016 and left in 2020. Free movement ended at the close of the transition period.

The politics

Immigration was one of the main issues in the referendum, and any return to free movement would be fiercely contested.

What free movement means

Under it, citizens of EU countries could live and work in Britain without visas, and Britons could do the same across the bloc.

Japan's interest

Japanese companies with factories and offices in Britain lost easy access to the EU single market after Brexit, and closer ties would ease their trade with the continent.

Next

The government has not set out a timetable for any new arrangement with the EU.

INTERNATIONAL

International in Brief

By the International Desk

SUGIHARA: The daughters of the late Masha Leon, who reached Tsuruga as a child in February 1941 on a transit visa issued by Chiune Sugihara and later settled in the United States, held a concert at their home in New York on Sunday to honour the diplomat. About 20 people heard a piece called "Masha's Thank You" by her third daughter, Nina, played by the eldest, Laura.

RUSSIA: Nine young Russians took part on Sunday in the first online Japanese speech contest held by civic groups in Russia and Japan, including the Kanagawa Japan-Eurasia Association; the winner was Angelina Kozak, 21, a university student in Astrakhan.

BEIJING: About 170 people attended an event promoting Okinawa at the Japanese Embassy in Beijing on Sunday, with island songs, Ryukyu dance and karate, as Chinese visits to Japan fall.

NEW YORK: Four governors, from Miyagi, Nagano, Toyama and Mie, served their prefectures' food at a fair in Brooklyn over the weekend, as 12 prefectures promoted products such as rice, miso, sake and beef.

VENEZUELA: Venezuelan media reported that Maria Corina Machado had returned home.

BRAZIL: Lula won the run-off with 51.79 per cent.

SERBIA: The ruling party conceded defeat in Sunday's election.

ISRAEL: Israelis vote on Tuesday.

CHINA: The Communist Party's plenum runs until Thursday.

UKRAINE: The local ceasefire in Oleshky is due to begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Japan time.

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Nishiyama turns professional, Page 14.

Kawamura wins Game 2, Page 20.

Going To Sky's Kikuka Sho, Page 19.

Editorial: the battle is here, Page 24.

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INTERNATIONAL



President Emmanuel Macron of France, in a file image. Speculation is growing that Christine Lagarde will leave the European Central Bank early so that Macron and other current leaders can choose her successor before next spring's presidential election, in which Marine Le Pen leads the polls. (File photo: WPM Productions)

INTERNATIONAL

Le Pen Promises to Fight 'All Forms of Violence' After the Riots as Talk Grows of Lagarde Leaving the ECB Before France Votes

The far-right leader polls above 30 per cent; French long-term rates are rising, and the ECB president speaks on Thursday

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

Marine Le Pen, who has said she will run in next spring's French presidential election, told a convention of her far-right National Rally in Orleans on Sunday that the country must fight "all forms of violence", condemning the riots that followed nationwide demonstrations on October 17.

"Can a country where arson and looting keep happening still be called a state governed by the rule of law?" she asked, Kyodo News reported.

The riots

Public buildings were attacked, cars set on fire and shops looted in several places, heightening concern about public order. About 410,000 people marched again on Saturday.

The polls

Recent polls put Le Pen's support above 30 per cent, well ahead of other candidates, and the unrest could help her, as she has long campaigned for tougher policing.

The ECB question

In Brussels, speculation is growing that Christine Lagarde, the president of the European Central Bank, will leave before her term ends in October 2027, possibly as early as the first half of next year, Kyodo News reported.

Why

Some see an early departure as a way to let President Emmanuel Macron and other current leaders choose her successor before a far-right government could take office in France.

Her words

Lagarde told French media in September: "We will still be here in 2027. Even if we leave early, it would be a few months at most." She has dismissed suggestions that she might run for president herself as "not a good idea at all".

The markets

French long-term interest rates are rising, and there are fears the pressure could spread to other euro countries. Lagarde holds a news conference after the ECB's Governing Council meets on Thursday, October 29.

Next

The first round of the presidential election is due in April.

BUSINESS

Lunch Out Now Averages 1,338 Yen, and Young Men Are Packing Their Own; Food Makers Chase the 'Bento Boys'

A third of men in their 20s who changed habits are eating more home-made lunches; Nippon Ham sells a 3-cm chicken bite made to fill the gaps in a lunch box

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Restaurants' repeated price rises and the rising cost of living are changing how Japan's office workers eat lunch, and young men in particular are taking to making their own, a trend social media has nicknamed "bento danshi", or bento boys.

Food companies are developing products aimed at the boxed lunches, Kyodo News reported.

The survey

In a survey in March, Hot Pepper Gourmet's research institute on eating out asked workers in the Tokyo, Kansai and Tokai areas about their weekday lunches.

Among those who said they were eating home-made meals or packed lunches more often than a year earlier, men in their 20s made up the largest share of any age group, at 33.5 per cent.

The cost

Across all age groups, the average spent on a lunch eaten out was 1,338 yen, the highest since the survey began in 2020. The average spent on a bento was 439 yen.

The products

Nippon Ham is selling "Potepote Chicken" as part of its new autumn and winter range for 2026, a fried snack made of chicken and potato that can be heated in a microwave.

Each piece is about 3 centimetres square, so it fits easily into the gaps in a lunch box.

The arithmetic

On the survey's averages, a worker who packs a lunch instead of eating out saves about 900 yen a day, or more than 200,000 yen over a working year.

Restaurants feel it

The shift comes as restaurant bankruptcies reached a record 514 in the six months to September, according to Tokyo Shoko Research.

Not only men

Packed lunches are popular across age groups and among both men and women; the survey's finding was that the increase was largest among men in their 20s.

A long tradition

Packed lunches have long been part of Japanese life, from school lunch boxes to station bento, and convenience stores have built large businesses on them.

Three times the price

On the survey's averages, a lunch eaten out now costs about three times as much as a packed one.

Microwaves at work

Products that can be frozen at home and heated in an office microwave, like Nippon Ham's, are aimed at the busy worker who packs a lunch the night before.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

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The seat cut: 45, 31 or 19?, Page 5.

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BUSINESS

Restaurant Bankruptcies Hit a Record 514 in the First Half as Rising Food and Labour Costs Crush Small Operators

Nine in ten failures were businesses with capital of less than 10 million yen; failures blamed on labour shortages rose 57.6 per cent

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

Bankruptcies of restaurant businesses rose 3.4 per cent from a year earlier to 514 in the first half of the fiscal year, from April to September, the highest since records began in fiscal 1989, according to the credit research company Tokyo Shoko Research.

Small businesses accounted for most of the failures as higher costs for ingredients and staff put operators under severe pressure, the company said in figures reported by Monday.

The small end

Companies with capital of less than 10 million yen accounted for 460 of the bankruptcies, about 90 per cent.

The big chains

Large restaurant chains are improving their profits by passing on price increases and switching suppliers of ingredients, while smaller restaurants are hit harder by rising costs and are struggling with cash flow, the research company said.

Prices

Bankruptcies blamed on rising prices increased 23.4 per cent to 79.

Staff

Bankruptcies attributed to labour shortages rose 57.6 per cent to 41.

The customers

Diners are feeling the same pressure. A survey by Hot Pepper Gourmet's research institute found the average weekday lunch eaten out in the Tokyo, Kansai and Tokai areas cost 1,338 yen, the highest since the survey began in 2020, and more young men are bringing lunch from home.

The tax cut

Restaurants are also watching the government's plan to cut the consumption tax on food, which they fear would widen the gap between takeaway food and meals eaten on the premises, which are taxed at 10 per cent.

The weak yen

The yen has stayed weak at around 157 to the dollar, keeping the cost of imported food and fuel high for restaurants.

The record

The total for the six months compares with about 497 in the same period a year earlier, the 3.4 per cent increase reported by the research company.

BUSINESS

Japan, the U.S. and South Korea Look to Indonesia as the First Overseas Market for Small Modular Reactors, to Counter China and Russia

America would design, Korea build and Japan supply key components; Jakarta has already agreed on floating plants with a Russian state company

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

Japan, the United States and South Korea are considering Indonesia as the leading candidate for the first deployment abroad of next-generation small modular reactors they are developing together, several government officials told Kyodo News on Sunday.

The three countries aim to counter China and Russia, which are expanding their influence in the Indo-Pacific through exports of nuclear power.

Demand from AI

Rising demand for electricity, driven partly by the spread of artificial intelligence, has increased interest in small modular reactors across South-East Asia. The three countries hope to use Indonesia as a foothold to expand into Malaysia and the Philippines.

Who does what

The United States would contribute reactor design, South Korea plant construction and Japan the manufacture of key components. The three are considering forming a joint venture of their companies, the officials said, without naming them.

The competition

Indonesia has agreed with a Russian state-owned nuclear company to introduce floating nuclear power plants, and Japanese and U.S. companies are conducting surveys for possible projects of their own, intensifying the competition.

Why exports matter

Nuclear exports create long-term ties, because the exporting country continues to supply fuel and carry out maintenance after a plant is built, giving it lasting economic and security influence.

What an SMR is

Small modular reactors generate up to about 300 megawatts, a fraction of a conventional plant, and are designed to be built in factories and assembled on site, which their developers say makes them cheaper and quicker to build.

Japan's industry

Japanese manufacturers make reactor pressure vessels and other heavy components for nuclear plants around the world, a strength the three-way arrangement is designed to use.

Next

The plan is still under consideration, and no timetable has been set.

BUSINESS

Care Providers Push for a Bigger Fee Rise as 56% Run Deficits; the Health Ministry Simplifies Renewals of Care Certification

The fiscal 2027 revision will decide how much carers are paid; the government is also weighing wider use of 20 per cent co-payments

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

Talks on the fiscal 2027 revision of nursing care fees are set to intensify towards the end of the year, with the size of the rise the main question as providers struggle with rising costs and a shortage of staff.

A survey by care organisations found that 56 per cent of facilities ran a deficit in their monthly accounts for June, Kyodo News reported.

How fees work

Care fees, which are providers' income, are set by the government and are generally revised every three years, so providers cannot raise prices themselves.

Recent rises

The fees were raised by 1.59 per cent in fiscal 2024, and an extraordinary revision in fiscal 2026 raised them by 2.03 per cent. Providers argue that a bigger rise is needed to improve pay and stabilise their finances.

Co-payments

The government is also considering widening the group of users who pay 20 per cent of the cost of services, instead of the usual 10 per cent, to restrain the insurance premiums paid by people aged 40 and over. Concern that the burden on users could become excessive means the negotiations are expected to be difficult.

Simpler renewals

Separately, the health ministry plans to simplify the renewal of care-need certification, which people must hold to use care insurance services. A subcommittee of the Social Security Council approved the plan on Monday.

The change

Municipalities may already skip part of their review for people whose previous certification was valid for 12 months or more. The ministry will extend that to those with a previous validity of six months or more, adding about 60,000 cases a year.

Why

The aim is to reduce the workload on municipalities and shorten the time reviews take. The change could start as early as this fiscal year.

The periods

A first certification is normally valid for six months and a renewal for 12.

The workers

Low pay is widely blamed for the shortage of care workers, whose wages lag behind the average for all industries.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Nishiyama turns professional, Page 14.

Kawamura wins Game 2, Page 20.

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ECONOMY



The Tokyo Stock Exchange at Kabutocho. The Nikkei average fell 503.51 points on Monday to 62,189.65 as doubts about the returns from artificial intelligence hit technology shares, while the Topix rose 7.17. (Photo: TG2 (CC))

ECONOMY

Nikkei Falls 503 Points as Doubts About the Pay-Off From AI Hit Technology Shares; GMO Plunges 15 Per Cent and the Broader Topix Edges Up

Investors lock in profits before Japanese and U.S. technology companies report; the yen trades in a narrow range around 157 to the dollar before the Fed and the Bank of Japan meet

By Ethan Cole | Business & Markets Editor

The Nikkei Stock Average fell for a second day on Monday as worries about the prospects for artificial intelligence businesses led investors to sell technology shares, while the broader Topix index ended slightly higher.

The Nikkei closed at 62,189.65, down 503.51 points from Friday. The Topix rose 7.17 points to 3,972.98. Volume on the main board was 2.13 billion shares, Kyodo News reported.

The worry

Heavy spending on AI by the large U.S. technology companies was seen as a strain on their finances, and investors judged that growth in AI businesses could be slower than the market had expected, pushing down the shares of high-technology groups.

Before the results

With Japanese and American technology companies due to report quarterly results, investors also moved to lock in recent gains.

The session

The Nikkei fell more than 500 points soon after the open, briefly turned higher during the morning and ended the morning session at 62,214, down 478, moving back and forth as weakness in U.S. shares on Friday weighed on prices.

The divergence

The gap between the two indexes reflects their make-up: the Nikkei is a price-weighted average heavily influenced by a small number of high-priced technology and chip-related shares, while the Topix is weighted by market value across the whole of the Prime Market, so falls in a few heavyweights move it less.

GMO

GMO Internet Group fell 590 yen, or more than 15 per cent, to 3,179 yen, and its subsidiary GMO Internet fell 73 yen to 418, on concern about compensation for customers of the cloud service its attacker broke into and the effect on earnings.

The yen

At 5 p.m. in Tokyo the dollar was at 157.12-14 yen, up 17 sen from Friday, and the euro at 176.06-10 yen, up 30 sen. Trading was narrow for lack of fresh factors.

A cautious week

"With the Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan holding policy meetings later this week, there is also a wait-and-see mood," a foreign exchange dealer said.

The calendar

The Federal Reserve meets on Tuesday and Wednesday and the Bank of Japan on Thursday and Friday, and the European Central Bank sets policy on Thursday.

Results season

Japanese companies begin reporting their results for the six months to September in earnest this week, and investors will be looking for signs of how the weak yen and high oil prices have affected profits.

Friday in New York

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 652.82 points on Friday to 52,215.16, its first fall in four days, and the Nasdaq Composite fell 53.52 to 25,955.34.

ECONOMY

Markets at a Glance

By the Markets Desk

NIKKEI 225: 62,189.65, down 503.51.

TOPIX: 3,972.98, up 7.17.

VOLUME: 2.13 billion shares.

MORNING CLOSE: Nikkei 62,214.

GMO INTERNET GROUP: 3,179 yen, down 590 (more than 15%).

GMO INTERNET: 418 yen, down 73.

DOLLAR (5 p.m.): 157.12-14 yen, up 17 sen.

EURO (5 p.m.): 176.06-10 yen, up 30 sen.

DOW (Fri.): 52,215.16, down 652.82.

NASDAQ (Fri.): 25,955.34, down 53.52.

CRUDE (Fri.): $103.27 a barrel, up $3.80.

FEDERAL RESERVE: Meets Oct. 27-28.

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK: Meets Oct. 29.

BANK OF JAPAN: Meets Oct. 29-30.

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Kawamura wins Game 2, Page 20.

Going To Sky's Kikuka Sho, Page 19.

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BUSINESS

Talks Begin on Saving JR Hokkaido's Loss-Making Lines, Section by Section, Starting With the Muroran and Hidaka Lines

Towns stress freight for farm produce and the students who depend on the trains; JR Hokkaido is to propose sightseeing trains

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The transport ministry's Hokkaido bureau began talks with local governments on Monday on eight sections of JR Hokkaido's network that have too few passengers for the company to keep running on its own.

At a working group in Tomakomai on Monday afternoon, participants discussed ways to encourage use of two of the eight: the Muroran Line between Numanohata and Iwamizawa, and the Hidaka Line between Tomakomai and Mukawa, Kyodo News reported.

Closed doors

It was the first meeting of its kind, and apart from the opening it was held behind closed doors. According to the bureau, participants shared examples from around the country of efforts to make trains more convenient for passengers.

The towns' case

Representatives of the municipalities stressed the importance of freight trains carrying agricultural produce and the need to keep a line on which many students depend.

The timetable

The working group for each section will meet about three more times before the end of the fiscal year in March to draw up concrete measures. JR Hokkaido is expected to present proposals next, including the use of sightseeing trains and specific plans for reviewing how the lines are run.

Why it matters

JR Hokkaido has struggled since the national railways were privatised in 1987, as Hokkaido's population has fallen and its towns are far apart. It has already closed several lines.

Freight

Hokkaido supplies much of Japan's potatoes, onions and dairy produce, and rail freight carries farm products to the rest of the country, which is why the routes matter beyond the towns they serve.

The choices

Options for the weakest lines elsewhere in Japan have included local governments taking on the tracks while the railway runs the trains, conversion to bus rapid transit and closure.

The rest

The talks cover all eight sections, and Monday's meeting in Tomakomai dealt with the first two.

ECONOMY

Experts Say the Power to Decide on Nuclear Waste Surveys Weighs Too Heavily on Host Towns as the Government Prepares to Revise Its Disposal Policy

Literature surveys have spread to five places, including Minamitorishima, but no governor has yet agreed to the next stage

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

A panel of experts at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry agreed on Monday that a key obstacle to choosing a site for the final disposal of high-level radioactive waste is that host municipalities bear the burden of deciding whether surveys move to the next stage.

With the basic policy on final disposal due to be revised, the government will begin full-scale discussion of ways to ease that burden, Kyodo News reported.

The new approach

A ministry official told the meeting that, unlike the traditional process in which municipalities apply, the government had approached areas directly, and that literature surveys, the first stage, had begun in quick succession at Minamitorishima, in Ogasawara Village, Tokyo, and in Hitachiomiya, Ibaraki Prefecture.

Five places

Literature surveys are now under way or have been conducted at five locations across the country.

The barrier

Moving to the second stage, the overview survey, requires the consent of the prefectural governor, and no governor has yet given it.

The panel's views

Some members welcomed the government's direct approach. Others said it must not be seen as expanding the state's authority in a way that provoked doubt or backlash.

One member said that respecting local opinion was "a basic premise", but that host municipalities also "bear a burden".

The waste

High-level waste is left over from reprocessing spent fuel from nuclear power plants. Japan plans to vitrify it and bury it more than 300 metres underground, where it must be isolated for tens of thousands of years.

Hokkaido first

The first literature surveys began in 2020 in Suttsu and Kamoenai, in Hokkaido, after Suttsu applied and Kamoenai accepted a request from the state. Genkai, in Saga Prefecture, followed in 2024.

Next

The panel will continue its discussions as the government prepares the revised basic policy.

BUSINESS

Spring Japan Paints Cherry Blossoms on Its Planes in Its First Rebrand Since 2021, as ANA and JAL Space Out Their Okayama Flights

By the Business Desk

Spring Japan, the low-cost carrier based at Narita Airport that flies mainly to China, unveiled a new logo and aircraft livery on Monday built around cherry blossoms, its first brand renewal since 2021.

"It's super cute," the company's president, Tatsuro Asami, told a news conference at Narita, urging passengers to "take lots of photos and make lots of memories", Kyodo News reported.

The design

Cherry blossoms are scattered across the fuselage, rising up to the tail fin. The designers chose them to convey a sense of Japan and the warmth and friendliness of spring.

When

Aircraft in the new livery could enter service as early as mid-November, and the design will also be used on the airline's website and check-in counters.

Okayama

All Nippon Airways and Japan Airlines began a co-ordinated timetable on their Haneda-Okayama route on Sunday, moving apart two flights that had left close together.

The change

ANA's 9:30 a.m. departure from Okayama was moved 20 minutes earlier and JAL's 10:15 a.m. flight 20 minutes later. Staff from both airlines handed out leaflets to passengers.

Rivals co-operating

The two airlines have co-operated on ground handling at Okayama Airport since fiscal 2024 to improve profitability and keep the route running, and plan to extend the co-operation to other airports.

Why

Since the pandemic, the spread of online meetings has cut business travel, and regional routes have continued to struggle.

A passenger's view

An 84-year-old Okayama resident flying with JAL for sightseeing welcomed the change, saying it made travel more convenient.

The airline

Spring Japan has been a consolidated subsidiary of the Japan Airlines group since 2021, the year of its last rebranding.

BUSINESS

Business in Brief

By the Business Desk

AUDI: Audi will invest about 4 billion dollars in its first U.S. factory, in Georgia, creating about 4,500 jobs, with production from the early 2030s.

TIMES CAR: A lawyer said on Monday that he would file a class action within the year against Park24, operator of the Times Car car-sharing service, seeking 30,000 to 50,000 yen per customer for distress caused by a data leak.

SPRING JAPAN: The carrier's cherry-blossom livery could fly from mid-November.

BENTO: Nippon Ham's "Potepote Chicken" is sized at about 3 cm to fit the gaps in a lunch box.

SMRs: Japan, the United States and South Korea are eyeing Indonesia for their first small modular reactor project abroad.

RAIL: JR West's 500 series will run as Nozomi between Himeji and Hakata on some weekends in January and February.

DOCTOR S: JR Central's new inspection train entered passenger service on Monday.

HANAHAKU: About 2.9 million tickets had been sold for next year's horticultural expo in Yokohama by October 18, just under 30 per cent of the target.

GMO: GMO Internet Group shares fell more than 15 per cent.

YEN: 157.12-14 to the dollar at 5 p.m.

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BUSINESS



An N700A train on the Tokaido Shinkansen, in a file photo. Doctor S, Central Japan Railway's new train that will inspect the line while carrying passengers, entered service on Monday. (Photo: Akihiko Maeda)

BUSINESS

Doctor S, Successor to Doctor Yellow, Starts Carrying Passengers on the Tokaido Shinkansen as JR West Brings Back the 500 Series as Nozomi for a Farewell

The 500 series runs between Himeji and Hakata on some winter weekends; Osaka gets direct trains to Wakura Onsen again next year

By the Business Desk

Central Japan Railway put Doctor S, a new Tokaido Shinkansen train that will inspect the tracks and overhead lines while carrying passengers, into commercial service on Monday.

For now the train runs as an ordinary passenger service. After testing, it will start using its inspection equipment in January, Kyodo News reported.

A yellow S

Doctor S succeeds Doctor Yellow, the dedicated inspection train retired in January 2025. Its logo is a yellow letter S, meant to show that it inherits Doctor Yellow's role, and appears in 20 places, on both end cars and on every odd-numbered car.

Four sets

The company is deploying four sets in all, two for inspecting the tracks and two for the overhead lines. Aluminium from Doctor Yellow's body has been reused in parts including the new train's roofs.

The 500 series returns

West Japan Railway said on Monday that it would run the 500 series, once its flagship, as Nozomi trains on the Sanyo Shinkansen on some weekends in January and February, the first time the trains have run as Nozomi for ordinary passengers since 2010.

The details

The trains will run between Himeji and Hakata, with all seats reserved, leaving Himeji at 12:09 p.m. and Hakata at 12:45 p.m., and taking about two hours and 10 minutes.

Retirement

The 500 series, now used on all-stations Kodama services, is to be retired, which JR West announced in June. The company said many people had asked for a last run as Nozomi after the announcement.

Back to Wakura

JR West also said it plans to run three direct limited express trains next year from Osaka to Wakura Onsen, the hot-spring resort in Nanao, Ishikawa Prefecture, one each in spring, summer and autumn, for group tours. They will also pick up passengers at Shin-Osaka and Kyoto.

Why it went

The direct service ended in March 2024, when the Hokuriku Shinkansen was extended to Tsuruga and the Thunderbird limited express from Kansai was cut back to end there. Areas hit by the Noto Peninsula earthquake had asked for it to return.

The governor

The head of JR West's Kanazawa branch reported the plan to Ishikawa's governor on Monday. Travel packages are to be announced by the end of the year.

TECHNOLOGY

Experts Begin Reviewing Japan's AI Act, Weighing Penalties for Malicious Operators as Fears Grow of Runaway Systems and AI-Driven Attacks

Digital Minister Furukawa says Japan must work more closely with other countries on AI safety

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

The government's panel of experts on artificial intelligence policy began discussing on Monday a revision of the AI Act enacted last year, with the main question whether to introduce penalties for operators who act maliciously.

Concern is growing about the risks of the most advanced AI, including the possibility of systems "running out of control" and behaving in ways their developers did not intend, Kyodo News reported.

The risks

The panel will examine risks including increasingly serious cyberattacks that exploit AI and new techniques in which AI dramatically improves its own performance.

The minister

"I have come to feel the need to strengthen co-operation with the countries concerned on AI safety," Toshiharu Furukawa, the digital minister, told the opening of the meeting in Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo. "I would like your opinions on how we should ensure reliability."

What the law does now

The AI Act, Japan's first law dealing specifically with AI, was designed to promote research and use of the technology and relies mainly on guidance and voluntary co-operation. It allows the government to investigate serious incidents and publish the names of companies involved, but it contains no penalties.

The task

The panel will discuss what legal rules are needed for Japan to use AI effectively and will draw up countermeasures.

The political push

A proposal by the Liberal Democratic Party in April called for consideration of penalties for malicious operators.

The context

The review comes as a wave of cyberattacks has hit Japanese companies, and as reports of AI being used to find and exploit software flaws have multiplied. 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.

The balance

Japan has positioned itself as one of the most AI-friendly countries, and supporters of a light-touch approach worry that penalties could deter investment. Supporters of tougher rules say voluntary guidance has proved too weak against bad actors.

Abroad

The European Union's AI Act, which takes a risk-based approach with heavy fines, is being phased in, while the United States has favoured a lighter approach.

TECHNOLOGY

Times Car Customers Plan a Class Action Over the Leak of 6.62 Million Accounts, Seeking Up to 50,000 Yen Each for Distress

The lawyer organising the suit charges no upfront fee and aims to file within the year; Park24 offers 3,000 yen to those whose ID images leaked

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

Customers of the car-sharing service Times Car are preparing a class action against its operator, Park24, over the leak of personal information from about 6.62 million accounts, seeking 30,000 to 50,000 yen each in compensation for mental distress.

Makino, the lawyer recruiting plaintiffs, announced the plan at a news conference at the judicial press club in Kasumigaseki, Tokyo, on Monday, Kyodo News reported. He aims to file the suit within the year.

No upfront fee

Participants will not have to pay the lawyer an upfront fee to join.

The breach

The unauthorised access behind the leak was discovered in late September. Park24 said personal information from about 6.62 million accounts had leaked.

The company's offer

On October 23, Park24 announced it would pay 3,000 yen in cash or vouchers to customers whose driving licence or other identity document images were confirmed to have leaked, about 1.46 million people in total.

Why sue

Japanese courts have awarded compensation for distress in earlier large data breaches, typically small sums per person, but collective suits can add up to large amounts for a company with millions of affected customers.

A precedent

In the case of the 2014 leak at the education company Benesse, the Supreme Court ruled in 2017 that a leak of personal information could constitute an infringement of privacy even without proof of further damage, opening the way for compensation claims.

What customers face

Car-sharing services require members to register driving licences, so a leak of licence images exposes names, addresses, dates of birth and photographs, information that can be used for fraud.

A wider wave

The suit comes as the government steps up its response to a series of breaches, from Sagawa Express's parcel tracking service to Joshin Denki and the e-mail firm Yumilink, which reported on Monday.

Next

The lawyer will continue recruiting plaintiffs before filing.

TECHNOLOGY

A Mobile Battery Catches Fire on a Kyoto Subway Platform, Filling Daigo Station With Smoke; a Tourist Says He Left It Because He Did Not Know What to Do

The Tozai Line stopped for about 30 minutes; no one was hurt

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

A portable battery caught fire at Daigo Station on the Kyoto Municipal Subway's Tozai Line on Monday afternoon, filling the concourse with white smoke, but no one was hurt.

A station employee called the fire service at about 3 p.m. to report the smoke, and staff put out the fire with an extinguisher, the Kyoto City Fire Department said, according to Kyodo News.

Evacuation

Passengers waiting on the platform were evacuated for a time, the city's transportation bureau said. The Tozai Line was suspended for about 30 minutes from 3 p.m.

The camera

Police found a scorched object that appeared to be a mobile battery on the platform floor. Security camera footage showed a male foreign tourist putting it down there.

His explanation

The man told the police that he had noticed the battery was malfunctioning but did not know what to do, so he left it, the Yamashina police station said.

The danger

Mobile batteries use lithium-ion cells, which can overheat and catch fire if they are damaged, defective or overcharged, and fires involving them have risen in Japan in recent years, on trains, in homes and on aircraft.

What to do

The fire services advise anyone whose battery becomes hot, swells, smokes or smells unusual to stop using it, move away from it and tell staff or call 119, rather than leaving it in a crowded place.

On planes

Japanese airlines have tightened rules on carrying mobile batteries on board, asking passengers to keep them where they can be seen during the flight.

Recalls

Some batteries have been recalled for fire risk, and owners can check whether their model is affected on the manufacturer's website or through consumer affairs announcements.

Disposal

Batteries should never be put out with ordinary rubbish, where they can ignite in collection trucks; many electronics shops and local governments collect them.

TECHNOLOGY

2000: The PlayStation 2 Reaches North America, at $299, With Too Few Machines to Go Round

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 26, 2000, Sony's PlayStation 2 went on sale in North America for 299 dollars, more than seven months after its launch in Japan, and quickly sold out.

The console had gone on sale in Japan on March 4 that year and reached Europe on November 24.

Shortages

A shortage of components forced Sony to cut the number of machines it could ship for the North American launch to about half the million it had planned, and queues and resale at inflated prices became part of the story of that holiday season.

The machine

The PS2 was built around the Emotion Engine, a processor developed by Sony and Toshiba, and could play the games of the original PlayStation as well as its own.

The DVD

It also played DVD films. In Japan, where standalone DVD players were still expensive, the console helped spread the new format into living rooms.

The launch games

North American buyers could choose from titles such as the snowboarding game SSX, Tekken Tag Tournament and Madden NFL 2001.

The father

The PlayStation business was led by Ken Kutaragi, the engineer who persuaded Sony to enter the game console market in the 1990s and is often called the father of the PlayStation.

The record

The PS2 went on to become the best-selling game console in history, with sales of more than 155 million units, according to Sony.

A long life

It stayed in production for more than 12 years. Sony ended shipments in Japan at the end of 2012, long after the PlayStation 3 had appeared.

Legacy

Many series that remain popular, from Grand Theft Auto to Kingdom Hearts, became household names on the PS2, and the console helped make games a mass-market entertainment alongside films and music.

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TECHNOLOGY



An illustration of suspected AI-enabled cyberattacks on Japanese companies, in a file image. Joshin Denki and the e-mail delivery firm Yumilink reported possible leaks of up to 6 million and 51.62 million records on Monday; who was behind the intrusions has not been disclosed. (File image: WPM Productions)

TECHNOLOGY

Joshin Says Data on Up to 6 Million Customers May Have Leaked From Three Systems, and an E-Mail Delivery Firm Reports a Possible 51.6 Million Records

The retailer's renovation system held driving licence images, a My Number card and bank account numbers; Yumilink says e-mail addresses were exposed

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

Joshin Denki, the electronics retailer based in Osaka, said on Monday that its network had been accessed without authorisation and that personal information on up to just over 6 million people might have leaked from three of its systems.

Hours later Yumilink, a company that provides e-mail delivery services, said personal information including e-mail addresses might have leaked after unauthorised access from outside, in a cumulative total of about 51.62 million records, Kyodo News reported.

Joshin's three systems

The largest was the server holding its membership database, which contained names, addresses and telephone numbers on up to about 6 million people, the company said.

A second system, for "Joshin no Sabusuku", its subscription service, held member numbers and log-in IDs on up to about 230,000 people.

The most sensitive data

The third, a system related to home renovation work, held images of driving licences and a My Number card and bank account numbers. Two licence images, one My Number card and five account numbers may have leaked, among up to about 800 records in that system.

Yumilink

E-mail delivery services are used by companies and organisations to send newsletters, notices and other messages to large lists of recipients, which is why the number of records held can far exceed the number of customers of any single business.

Unanswered questions

It was not clear from the first reports how the intruders got in, when the access began or whether the data had been misused.

Part of a pattern

The two cases are the latest in a run of breaches that has included possible leaks of up to 53.23 million records from Sagawa Express's parcel tracking service, about 6.62 million accounts at the car-sharing service Times Car and up to 22,000 subscribers to an Environment Ministry newsletter. Critical flaws in the programming language PHP have also forced organisations to take services offline.

The government

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told a meeting of ministers on Monday evening that the situation had become serious and that the government would choose from every response option, including neutralising attack servers. An emergency package is due as early as next week.

What customers can do

Anyone who has dealt with Joshin should watch for messages that use their name or address to appear genuine, avoid clicking links in unexpected e-mails and text messages, and check bank and card statements. People who reuse passwords should change them.

My Number

The My Number card is Japan's identity card, linked to the 12-digit number used for tax and social security. Leaked images of identity documents can be used to try to open accounts or sign contracts in another person's name.

Next

Further details are expected as the two companies confirm the scope of the breaches.

TECHNOLOGY

Only Half of Those Who Got an Earthquake Early Warning Before April's Sanriku Quake Took Steps to Protect Themselves, a Survey Finds

Most of those who acted took cover; few checked their surroundings or warned others

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

About half the people in Aomori, Iwate and Miyagi prefectures who received an earthquake early warning before the shaking of April's magnitude 7.7 earthquake off the Sanriku coast took active steps to keep themselves safe, a survey by Doshisha University and other researchers has found.

The team, led by Kazuya Nakayachi, a professor of social psychology at Doshisha, surveyed 358 people aged from their teens to their 70s in the three prefectures, all of whom received the warning before they felt the quake, Kyodo News reported.

The results

In all, 49.7 per cent took active measures. Most, 44.1 per cent, took protective action such as getting under a desk.

The others

Only 3.6 per cent checked their surroundings, for example to see whether furniture might fall, and 2.0 per cent alerted others, such as telling family members they were in danger.

The quake

The earthquake struck at about 4:52 p.m. on April 20. The strongest shaking, upper 5 on Japan's seismic intensity scale, was recorded in Aomori Prefecture.

Why it matters

An early warning gives at most a few seconds to tens of seconds before strong shaking arrives. Researchers say the value of the system depends on people acting immediately, by protecting their heads, moving away from things that could fall or holding on.

What to do

The Japan Meteorological Agency advises people who hear a warning indoors to protect their heads and move away from furniture, outdoors to watch for falling objects such as signs and glass, and when driving to slow down gradually.

The system

The agency's warnings are triggered when seismometers near the source detect the first, weaker waves of a quake, allowing an estimate of the strong shaking to come.

The researcher

Nakayachi studies how people perceive risks and respond to warnings, and the survey was designed to measure what people actually did in the seconds they were given.

TECHNOLOGY

Kyoto University Team Finds One Brain Circuit Forms a Habit and Another Keeps It Going at the Same Rate, a Clue to Compulsive Disorders

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Researchers at Kyoto University have found that separate circuits in the brain decide whether a behaviour becomes a habit and whether it continues at the same frequency and in the same amount, a finding they say could help explain obsessive-compulsive disorder.

The team published its findings in an international journal, Kyodo News reported on Monday.

The puzzle

Repeating a behaviour is generally thought to turn it into a habit, but how a habitual behaviour keeps the same frequency or amount has not been understood.

The experiment

The researchers trained mice to press a lever until it became a habit. At first the mice were rewarded according to how many times they pressed. Then the rule changed, so that pressing earned a reward only after a set time had passed. The training lasted 13 days.

The difference

Even among mice whose lever-pressing had become a habit, the number of presses varied.

The brain

Analysing the animals' brains, the team found that two different neural circuits governed the two things: whether the behaviour became a habit at all, and whether it continued at the same frequency or amount.

The hope

The findings could help explain conditions in which people repeat certain actions excessively, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder, and contribute to the development of treatments, the team said.

What OCD is

People with obsessive-compulsive disorder experience intrusive thoughts and feel driven to repeat actions, such as washing or checking, far beyond what they recognise as reasonable, which can seriously disrupt their lives.

Habit research

Neuroscientists have long linked habits to the basal ganglia, deep structures of the brain involved in movement and reward.

Next

The researchers will need to confirm whether the same separation of circuits exists in humans.

TECHNOLOGY

2007: Apple Ships Mac OS X Leopard, Delayed by the iPhone, With Time Machine and 'More Than 300 New Features'

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 26, 2007, Apple released Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, the sixth major version of its Macintosh operating system, priced at 129 dollars.

Apple promoted the release as having more than 300 new features.

Time Machine

The best known was Time Machine, an automatic backup system that let users browse earlier versions of their files and restore them, making backups something ordinary users actually did.

Spaces and Quick Look

Spaces gave users several virtual desktops, Quick Look let them preview a file without opening it, and Stacks gathered files in the Dock.

Boot Camp

Leopard also built in Boot Camp, which let Macs with Intel processors start up in Microsoft Windows, a sign of how far Apple's switch from PowerPC chips had changed the Mac.

The delay

Leopard had been due in the spring of 2007. Apple announced in April that it would be delayed to October because it had moved engineers to finish the iPhone, which went on sale in the United States in June.

Sales

Apple said it sold more than 2 million copies in the first weekend.

A certificate

Leopard running on Intel Macs was certified as conforming to the UNIX 03 standard, recognition of the Unix foundations of Mac OS X.

The last for PowerPC

It was the last version of Mac OS X to support Macs with PowerPC processors. Its successor, Snow Leopard, ran only on Intel machines.

Today

The names of big cats gave way to Californian places with OS X Mavericks in 2013, and Time Machine remains part of the Mac nearly two decades later.

TECHNOLOGY

1984: The Terminator Opens in America, and an Imagined AI Called Skynet Enters the Language of Technology Fears

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 26, 1984, The Terminator, a science-fiction film directed by James Cameron, opened in American cinemas, giving the world one of its most lasting images of artificial intelligence turned against humanity.

Arnold Schwarzenegger played a cyborg assassin sent back in time from 2029, Linda Hamilton the young woman he is sent to kill, and Michael Biehn the soldier sent to protect her.

Skynet

In the film's story, a defence computer network called Skynet becomes self-aware, decides that humanity is a threat and starts a nuclear war. The name has since become shorthand for fears of AI escaping human control.

A small budget

The film was made for about 6.4 million dollars and became a hit, making Cameron's name and turning Schwarzenegger into one of the biggest stars of the decade.

The line

Schwarzenegger's "I'll be back" became one of the most quoted lines in cinema.

The sequels

The success led to a series of sequels, beginning with Terminator 2: Judgment Day in 1991, which used pioneering computer graphics.

Recognition

In 2008 the U.S. Library of Congress selected The Terminator for preservation in the National Film Registry as culturally, historically or aesthetically significant.

The real debate

Four decades on, governments are debating how to control advanced AI. In Tokyo on Monday, an expert panel began discussing whether Japan's AI Act needs penalties, amid concern that the most advanced systems could behave in ways their developers did not intend.

Fiction and fact

AI researchers often say the film's killer robots distract from more immediate risks, such as cyberattacks, fraud and misinformation, but its image of a system pursuing its goals without regard for people remains a reference point.

In Japan

The film and its sequels have been popular in Japan, and Schwarzenegger has appeared in Japanese television advertisements.

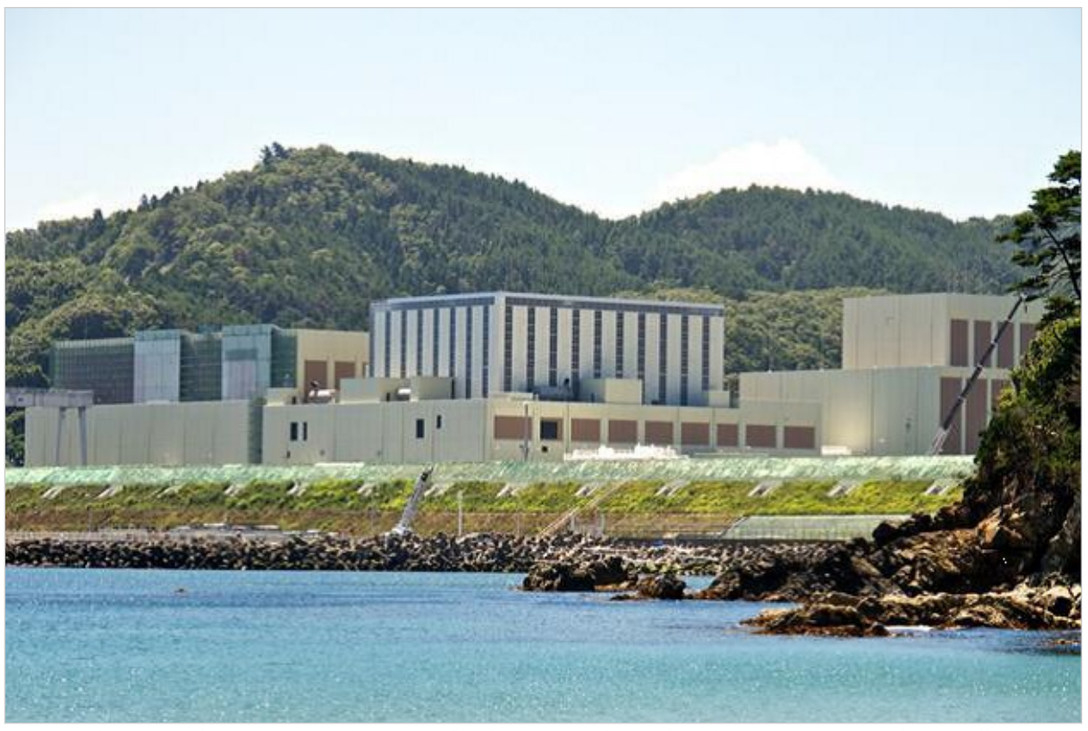
ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Missiles at Riyadh's airport, Page 8.

Nikkei falls 503 on AI doubts, Page 10.

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TECHNOLOGY



The Onagawa nuclear power plant in Miyagi Prefecture, in a file photo. Japan's first nuclear electricity was generated at a small test reactor at Tokai 63 years ago on Monday, the origin of Atomic Energy Day. (File photo: WPM Productions)

TECHNOLOGY

1963: A Small Test Reactor at Tokai Generates Japan's First Nuclear Electricity, the Origin of Atomic Energy Day

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 26, 1963, the Japan Power Demonstration Reactor at the Tokai research establishment of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute in Ibaraki Prefecture generated electricity for the first time, the first nuclear power produced in Japan.

The government later designated October 26 as Atomic Energy Day.

Two anniversaries

The date also marks Japan's signing of the statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was opened for signature on October 26, 1956.

The reactor

The demonstration reactor was a small boiling water reactor supplied by General Electric of the United States, with an electrical output of about 12,500 kilowatts, built to give Japanese engineers experience of running a power reactor.

The first commercial plant

The Tokai Power Station, Japan's first commercial nuclear power plant, a British-designed gas-cooled reactor, began commercial operation in 1966. Boiling water and pressurised water reactors of American design later became the standard.

Dismantled

The demonstration reactor was shut down in the 1970s and became the first power reactor in Japan to be completely dismantled, in work carried out from 1986 to 1996 that served as a model for later decommissioning.

The rise

By the 2000s nuclear power supplied about a third of Japan's electricity, from more than 50 reactors.

The break

After the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in March 2011, all of Japan's reactors were shut down for safety reviews under new regulations. Reactors have restarted gradually since 2015.

The other view

Opponents of nuclear power mark October 26 as an anti-nuclear day, holding gatherings to call for an end to nuclear generation.

Today

Sixty-three years on, Japan's energy policy calls for making maximum use of nuclear power, while the country has yet to choose a site for the final disposal of the waste, a question an expert panel took up again on Monday.

TECHNOLOGY

Rina Takagi, a Physicist Developing Materials for Faster, Denser Memory, Wins the Shining Women Scientists Award

Okayama University is honoured for its women's tenure-track system, introduced in 2009

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The Japan Science and Technology Agency has given this year's Shining Women Scientists Award to Rina Takagi, 40, an associate professor at the University of Tokyo who works in condensed matter physics.

The award, also known as the Jun Ashida Award, recognises outstanding young women researchers. It is in its eighth year, having begun in fiscal 2019, Kyodo News reported.

Her research

Takagi is developing new materials for next-generation memory devices that could store large amounts of information in a small area and be read and written at high speed.

The prize

The winner receives 1 million yen from a fund created with a donation from the late fashion designer Jun Ashida.

The institution

The agency's award for institutions that promote women in research went to Okayama University, for its Women Tenure Track system, introduced in 2009, which recruits women researchers, offers training and supports them towards senior positions.

The ceremony

The awards were presented at a ceremony in Koto Ward, Tokyo, on Sunday afternoon, attended by Okayama University's president, Yasutomo Nasu.

The gap

Women make up a smaller share of researchers in Japan than in most other advanced economies, at about one in five, and the government has set targets for raising the proportion, especially in science and engineering.

Why memory matters

The amount of data produced by artificial intelligence and other computing is growing fast, and memory that is denser, faster and uses less power is one of the main goals of materials research.

Ashida

Jun Ashida, who died in 2018, was one of Japan's best-known fashion designers and designed clothes for Empress Michiko when she was crown princess.

Next year

The agency invites nominations for the award each year.

TECHNOLOGY

'It Crosses a Line': Scientists Condemn Nagoya University's First Selection for a Defence Ministry Research Fund

The programme offers up to 2 billion yen over five years; 47 projects from universities and companies were chosen this year

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Researchers opposed to a Defence Ministry programme that funds basic research held a news conference in Nagoya on Sunday to condemn the selection of Nagoya University for the first time.

"If the Defence Ministry uses it for military purposes, it is military research. It crosses a line that must not be crossed," said Satoru Ikeuchi, a professor emeritus of Nagoya University, Kyodo News reported.

The programme

The Security Technology Research Promotion Program provides up to 2 billion yen over five years for basic research that could be applied to defence technology. Forty-seven projects from universities and companies were selected for fiscal 2026.

Nagoya's project

Nagoya University's selected project concerns next-generation communications technology.

The statement

The researchers released a statement calling on scientists to keep their pride by refusing to take part in military research.

A warning

Ikeuchi said the number of universities being selected was rising and likened accepting such funding to a drug: once taken, he said, it is impossible to cut ties.

The history

The Science Council of Japan declared in 1950 and 1967 that scientists would not conduct research for the purpose of war, and in 2017 it issued a statement inheriting those positions and expressing concern about the programme, which began in 2015.

The other view

Supporters of the programme argue that much of the research is dual-use, with civilian applications, and that Japan's security depends on drawing on the strengths of its universities.

Universities' choices

Each university decides whether to allow its researchers to apply, and several have set up committees to screen applications.

The context

The government has increased defence spending sharply and is putting more emphasis on cutting-edge technology, from drones to space and cyber capabilities.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology in Brief

By the Technology Desk

MINISTERS: The prime minister told ministers on Monday that Japan would use every option, including neutralisation, against cyberattacks whose nature had been established.

GMO: The attacker who broke into Onamae.com Desktop Cloud demanded 50 million dollars, GMO's president said; the company refused.

JOSHIN: Data on up to just over 6 million people may have leaked.

YUMILINK: About 51.62 million records may have leaked from the e-mail delivery firm.

AI ACT: An expert panel began reviewing the AI Act, including possible penalties.

DOCTOR S: JR Central's new track and overhead-line inspection train entered passenger service.

BATTERY: A mobile battery caught fire at a Kyoto subway station; no one was hurt.

SMRs: Japan, the United States and South Korea are considering Indonesia for small modular reactors.

STARLINK: Elon Musk said Ukraine's front would collapse if Starlink were cut off.

SATELLITES: China's state broadcaster released detailed satellite images of Taipei.

TECHNOLOGY

2012: Windows 8 Goes on Sale With Its Tiles and No Start Button, Alongside Microsoft's First Own-Brand Computer, the Surface

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 26, 2012, Microsoft put Windows 8 on general sale, the most radical redesign of its operating system since Windows 95, and on the same day began selling the Surface RT, the first computer to carry its own brand.

Windows 8 had been unveiled at an event in New York the day before.

The tiles

Windows 8 replaced the familiar Start menu with a Start screen of large, colourful "live tiles" designed for touch screens, aiming to make one system work on both tablets and traditional computers.

The missing button

The Start button that had anchored Windows since 1995 was removed from the desktop, a change that confused many users.

Windows RT

A version called Windows RT ran on chips based on the ARM designs used in smartphones, the first version of desktop Windows for such processors.

The Surface

The Surface RT, a tablet with a kickstand and an optional cover that doubled as a keyboard, started at 499 dollars. It ran Windows RT and could not use most existing Windows programs.

A costly start

Sales disappointed, and in July 2013 Microsoft took a charge of about 900 million dollars on Surface RT inventory.

The retreat

Windows 8.1, released in October 2013, restored a Start button, and Windows 10, in 2015, brought back the Start menu.

The lasting part

The Surface line survived and became established, especially the Surface Pro, which runs full Windows. Microsoft's decision to make its own hardware influenced the whole personal computer industry.

In Japan

Windows 8 went on sale in Japan the same day, with late-night launch events at electronics shops in Akihabara.

Today

The tension Windows 8 tried to resolve, between touch and keyboard, phone and computer, is still shaping how software is designed.

TECHNOLOGY

1958: Pan Am Flies the Boeing 707 Across the Atlantic, Opening the American Jet Age

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 26, 1958, Pan American World Airways flew its first scheduled transatlantic service with the Boeing 707, from New York to Paris, beginning America's jet age in international travel.

The aircraft, named Clipper America, carried more than 100 passengers.

A stop on the way

Strong headwinds forced the flight to stop for fuel at Gander, in Newfoundland, a reminder of the limits of the first jet airliners.

Second across

Pan Am was not the first to fly jets across the Atlantic. Britain's BOAC had begun service between London and New York with the de Havilland Comet 4 three weeks earlier, on October 4.

The 707

The 707 grew out of a prototype that Boeing first flew in July 1954 at its own risk, and it could carry far more passengers than the Comet at higher speed.

What changed

Jets halved journey times compared with propeller aircraft and, by carrying more people more cheaply, began the transformation of air travel from a luxury into something available to millions.

Japan

Japan Airlines introduced jets on its Pacific routes in 1960, with the Douglas DC-8, the 707's great rival.

The family

Boeing built hundreds of 707s for airlines and air forces, and the design led to a line of jets that dominated civil aviation for decades.

Pan Am

Pan Am, the airline that launched the 707, went out of business in 1991.

Today

Twin-engined jets have replaced four-engined designs on long routes, but the layout the 707 popularised, with swept wings and engines in pods beneath them, remains the basic form of the airliner.

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TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY

1977: A Hospital Cook in Somalia Becomes the Last Person to Catch Smallpox in Nature, With a Japanese Doctor Leading WHO's Final Push

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

On October 26, 1977, Ali Maow Maalin, a 23-year-old hospital cook in Merca, Somalia, developed the rash of smallpox. He was the last person in the world to catch the disease naturally.

He recovered, and an intensive search found no further cases outside laboratories.

The disease

Smallpox, caused by the variola virus, killed about three in ten of those it infected and left many survivors scarred or blind. It is estimated to have killed hundreds of millions of people in the 20th century alone.

The campaign

The World Health Organization began an intensified eradication programme in 1967, using vaccination around each case to break chains of transmission, a strategy known as ring vaccination.

A Japanese leader

Isao Arita, a Japanese doctor, headed WHO's smallpox eradication unit from 1977, overseeing the final stage of the campaign and the work of confirming that the disease was gone.

The last death

In 1978 a medical photographer in Birmingham, England, was infected from a laboratory and died, the last recorded death from smallpox.

The declaration

The World Health Assembly declared on May 8, 1980, that smallpox had been eradicated, the first human disease to be wiped out.

Maalin's later life

Maalin later worked as a volunteer in the campaign to eradicate polio in Somalia, persuading parents to vaccinate their children. He died in 2013.

The stocks

Samples of the virus are still kept at two laboratories, in the United States and Russia, and whether to destroy them remains a matter of debate.

The lesson

The campaign showed what international co-operation could achieve, and its methods have been used against other diseases ever since.

TECHNOLOGY

October 26 in Science and Technology

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

1825: The Erie Canal opens, linking the Great Lakes with New York and the Atlantic.

1956: The statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency is opened for signature; Japan signs.

1958: Pan Am flies the Boeing 707 from New York to Paris.

1963: Japan's power demonstration reactor at Tokai generates the country's first nuclear electricity.

1977: Ali Maow Maalin, in Somalia, is the last person to catch smallpox naturally.

1984: The Terminator opens in American cinemas.

2000: The PlayStation 2 goes on sale in North America.

2007: Apple releases Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard.

2012: Windows 8 goes on general sale, with Microsoft's first Surface tablet.

TODAY IN JAPAN: Atomic Energy Day.

SOCIETY

Sendai's Twin Polar Bears, Umi and Sora, Will Leave Home for Zoos in Toyohashi and Kagoshima to Give Their Parents a Chance to Breed

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Yagiyama Zoological Park in Sendai said on Monday that it would send its twin polar bears, born in December 2024, to zoos in Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture, and Kagoshima City before the end of the year.

The zoo hopes the move will help the young bears become independent and encourage their parents to breed again, Kyodo News reported.

The dates

The male, Umi, will move to Nonhoi Park, the Toyohashi zoo and botanical park, on November 25. The female, Sora, will move to Hirakawa Zoological Park in Kagoshima on December 23.

Last days

Each bear's last day on public view at Yagiyama will be the day before it leaves. The zoo will hold farewell events on November 20 and November 22.

Why they go

According to the zoo, parent polar bears find it harder to engage in breeding behaviour when their young are nearby.

Breeding programme

Polar bears are an endangered species, and zoos around the country co-operate in breeding them.

Toyohashi

Nonhoi Park in Toyohashi combines a zoo, a botanical garden and an amusement area.

Kagoshima

Hirakawa Zoological Park, on the southern edge of Kagoshima City, is known for its koalas.

A photograph

The two were photographed together at Yagiyama in August.

Visiting

Visitors who want to say goodbye should check the zoo's schedule for the farewell events.

SOCIETY

Takuya Kimura Hands Chiba 20 Million Yen for Victims of the Summer Floods and Typhoon, Calling the Prefecture 'the Place That Made Me'

The actor visited Inba-numa, where a levee broke in Typhoon No. 25; the money came from a body funded by SMILE-UP.

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The actor Takuya Kimura visited the Chiba prefectural government office on Monday and presented donations of 20 million yen for people affected by heavy rain in August and Typhoon No. 25 in September.

The money was prepared by an organisation funded by SMILE-UP., formerly Johnny & Associates, the agency that managed him for many years, Kyodo News reported.

His Chiba

Kimura, who spent his childhood in Chiba, said he still enjoyed the sea and golf there and called the prefecture "the place that built my foundation".

Inba-numa

He had visited Inba-numa, a lake where a levee broke during the typhoon. "I was shocked when I saw the footage," he said. "I want to keep doing what I can."

The governor

Governor Toshihito Kumagai thanked him and said the prefecture would make sure the money reached those affected.

The disasters

Chiba was hit by heavy rain in August and by Typhoon No. 25 in September, during which a levee at Inba-numa broke.

SMILE-UP.

SMILE-UP. was created from Johnny & Associates in 2023 after the agency's founder, Johnny Kitagawa, was found to have sexually abused boys and young men over decades, and it is responsible for compensating victims.

Kimura's career

Kimura, a former member of the group SMAP, is one of Japan's best-known actors and has appeared in many television dramas and films.

The handover

He handed Kumagai a certificate of the donation at the prefectural office on Monday afternoon.

Recovery

Recovery work in the affected areas is continuing.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Going To Sky's Kikuka Sho, Page 19.

SOCIETY

Tomoka Nishiyama Will Become the First Woman Professional Shogi Player, Using a New Rule Based on Her Five Hakurei Titles

She is promoted to 4-dan on April 1; no woman had passed through the Shoreikai or the transfer exam in 65 years of trying

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Tomoka Nishiyama, the 31-year-old holder of the women's Hakurei title, said on Monday that she would take up her right to become a full professional shogi player, and she will become the first woman to do so when she is promoted to 4-dan on April 1.

Nishiyama, who holds four women's titles, announced her decision at a news conference at the Shogi Kaikan in Tokyo, Kyodo News reported. Her choice had been closely watched since she qualified.

Her reason

She said she wanted to play stronger opponents and aim higher.

The new rule

She is the first to use a rule adopted by the Japan Shogi Association that allows a player to join the professional ranks on the strength of results in women's competition, specifically five Hakurei titles. The association's general meeting approved the rule by a majority in 2025, amid both support and criticism.

Two worlds

Full professionals, known as kishi, are separate from the women's professional system. Until now, becoming a kishi required either graduating from the Shoreikai, the association's training school, or passing a transfer examination.

The barrier

No woman had cleared it, partly because so few women play competitive shogi.

The pioneers

The first woman to enter the Shoreikai was Akiko Takojima, now an 80-year-old women's 6-dan, who joined in 1961. Several women have since tried to break through, including Nishiyama herself and Kana Fukuma, 34, another leading women's player.

What it means

As a professional, Nishiyama will play in the same tournaments as the men, including the qualifying rounds of the major titles.

The debate

The rule drew both support and criticism in the shogi world, because it opens a route to professional status outside the Shoreikai, whose members must win promotion through a fiercely competitive league.

April 1

Her promotion to 4-dan takes effect on April 1 next year.

SOCIETY

Soja City's Barrier-Free Map Marked 13 Places With an 'X' for Refusing Assistance Dogs, Which the Law Says They Must Accept

The city has taken the map offline and will change the symbols; experts say it ran against the intent of two laws

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Soja, a city in Okayama Prefecture, published a map of the accessibility of local facilities that marked 13 of them with an "X" in the column for assistance dogs, showing that they refused to let the dogs accompany their users, Kyodo News reported on Monday.

Experts said the map might run against the intent of the law on assistance dogs, which requires places open to the public to accept them, and of the law on eliminating discrimination against people with disabilities, which calls for reasonable accommodation.

Taken down

The city removed the map, called the Barrier-Free Map, from its website on October 21 and is revising the symbols with a view to publishing it again.

How it was made

The city's welfare division compiled the map in 2014 from interviews with facilities. It covered 68 places, including public buildings, restaurants and supermarkets, and listed features such as accessible parking and ramps as well as whether assistance dogs were accepted, marked with a circle, an X or a dash.

The 13

According to the city, the X was probably given to facilities that answered no when asked whether they would allow users to be accompanied by assistance dogs.

Assistance dogs

Assistance dogs include guide dogs for blind people, hearing dogs and service dogs that help people with physical disabilities. They are trained not to disturb others and are certified.

The law

The law on assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities, in force since 2002, obliges public facilities, public transport, shops, restaurants and hotels to accept them, except in special circumstances.

Still refused

Surveys by users' groups have found that many guide dog users are still turned away from restaurants and taxis despite the law.

Reasonable accommodation

Since April 2024, private businesses have also been legally obliged to provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities under the revised anti-discrimination law.

SOCIETY

Government Completes Its Network of Regional Stockpiles for Disasters, Signing With Toyama to Hold Supplies for Hokuriku and Niigata

Cardboard beds and portable toilets will be sent to stricken towns without waiting to be asked

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The government signed an agreement with Toyama Prefecture on Monday on a base for disaster stockpiles, completing its plan to divide the country into 10 regions, each with its own stockpiles, Kyodo News reported.

Under the agreements, prefectures provide storage space free of charge and the national government stocks supplies such as cardboard beds and portable toilets.

Push-type support

When a disaster strikes, the supplies will be sent to affected municipalities without waiting for a request, an approach known as push-type support.

The minister

"The period immediately after a disaster is when the Disaster Prevention Agency's role matters most," Goshi Hosono, the minister in charge of disaster management, said at a signing ceremony at the Cabinet Office. He said he wanted the national government to be able to deliver supplies to people affected.

Toyama

The Toyama base, in Toyama City, will hold supplies for Niigata Prefecture and the three Hokuriku prefectures of Toyama, Ishikawa and Fukui.

The governor

Governor Hachiro Nitta told reporters that the prefecture had gained knowledge from supporting the areas hit by the Noto Peninsula earthquake in 2024 and wanted to fulfil its role properly.

Lessons from Noto

In the Noto earthquake, roads cut by landslides delayed supplies to isolated communities, and evacuees endured weeks in crowded shelters, prompting the government to strengthen its stockpiles and shelter standards.

Kumamoto 2016

The government first used push-type support on a large scale after the Kumamoto earthquakes of 2016, sending food, water and other supplies before local governments asked for them, and used it again after the Noto earthquake.

Shelters

Cardboard beds keep evacuees off cold floors and reduce the risk of deep vein thrombosis and other illnesses linked to life in shelters.

Ten regions

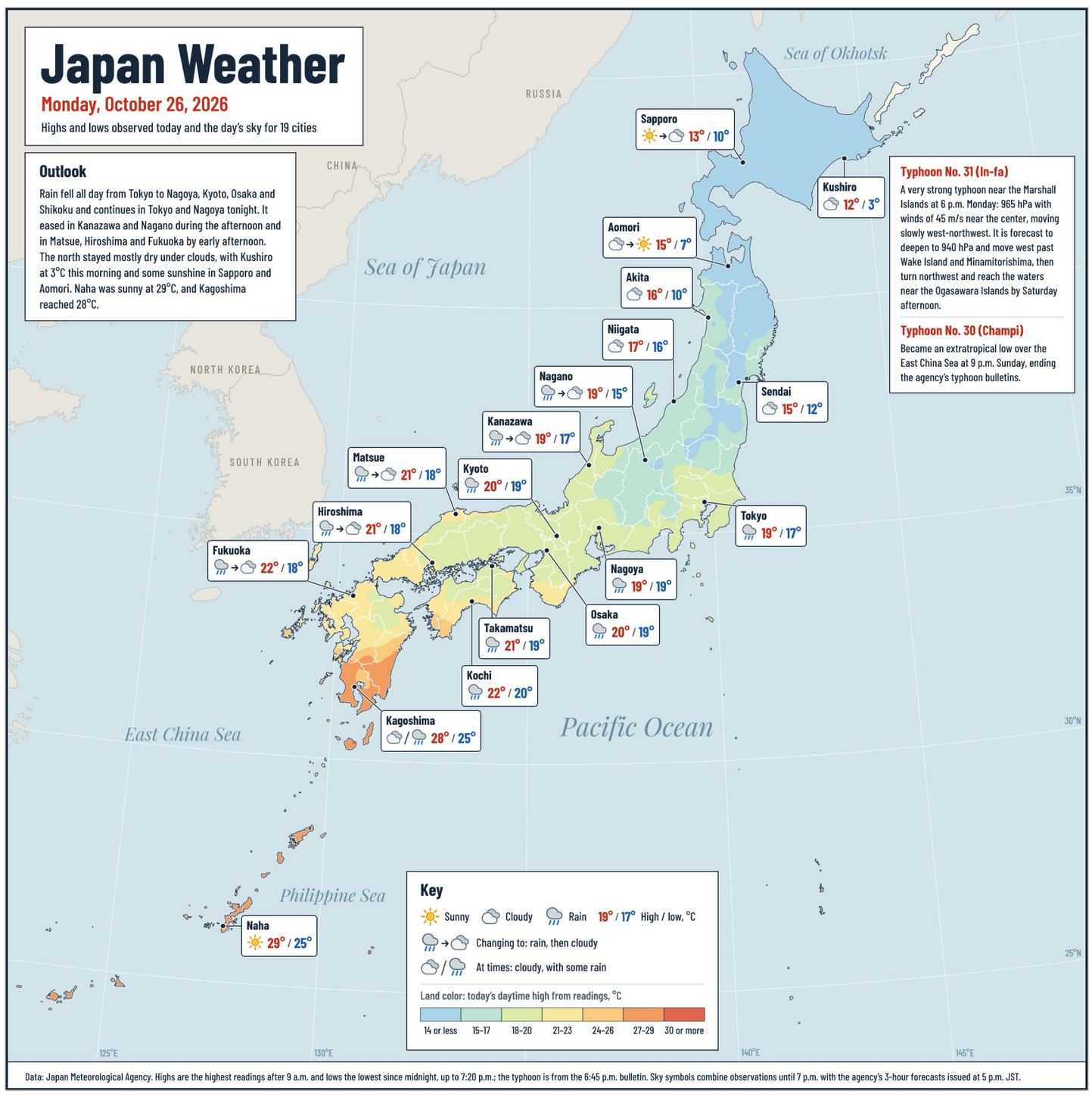
With Monday's agreement, each of the 10 regions into which the government divided the country now has a stockpile base.

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WEATHER & SOCIETY

19°C

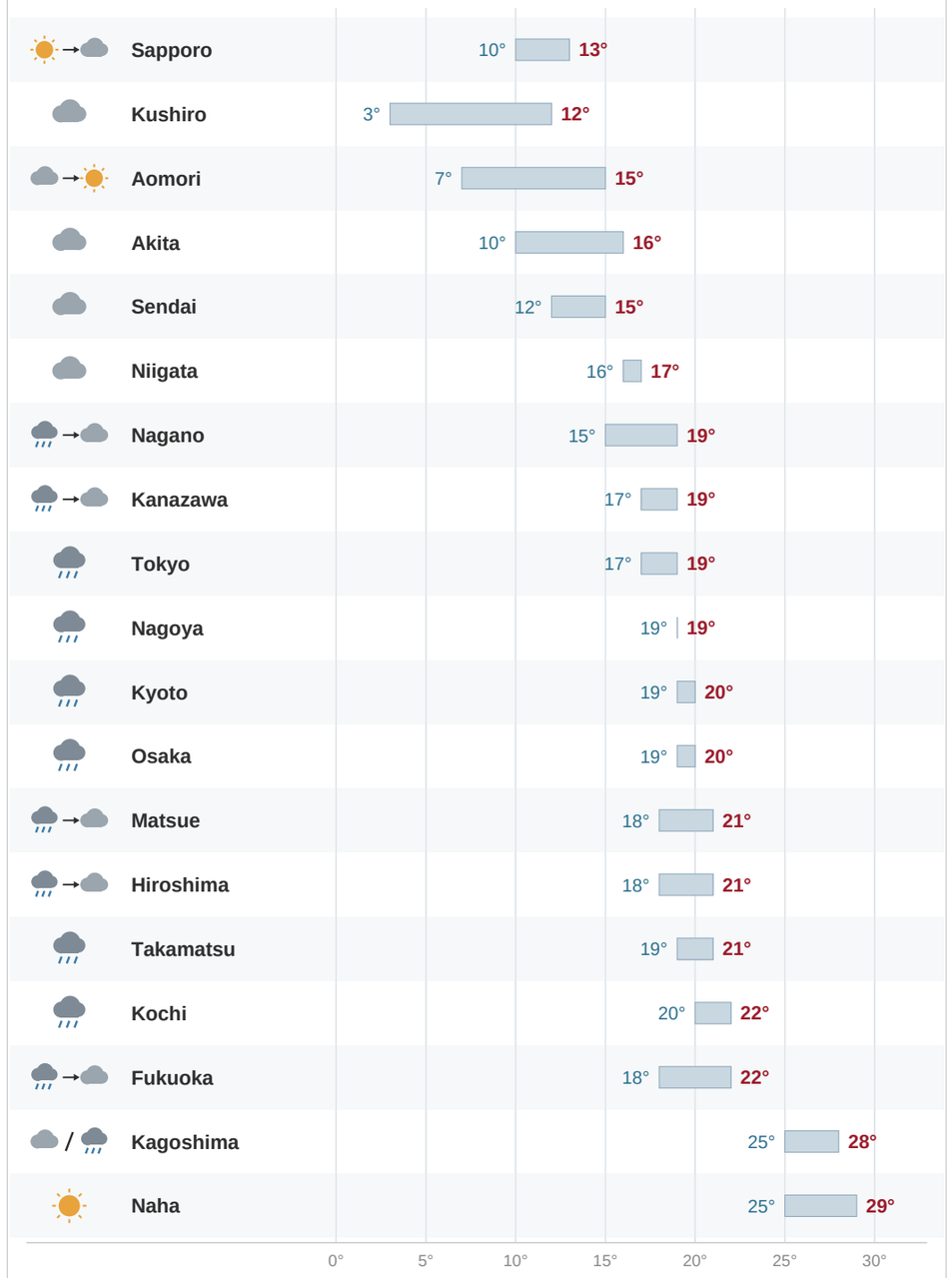
Low 17°C · Rain all day, continuing tonight · Naha 29°C, sunny · In-fa at 965 hPa



Data: Japan Meteorological Agency. Highs are the highest readings after 9 a.m. and lows the lowest since midnight, up to 7:20 p.m.; the typhoon is from the 6:45 p.m. bulletin. Sky symbols combine observations until 7 p.m. with the agency's 3-hour forecasts issued at 5 p.m. JST.

TODAY'S HIGHS AND LOWS — 19 CITIES

Highs and lows observed today, from today's weather map, °C, north to south. An arrow: the sky changed. A stroke: at times.



TODAY'S WEATHER

Rain fell all day from Tokyo to Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka and across Shikoku, and was continuing in Tokyo and Nagoya into the night. It eased in Matsue, Hiroshima and Fukuoka by early afternoon and in Kanazawa and Nagano during the afternoon. The north stayed mostly dry under cloud, with Kushiro down to 3 degrees this morning and some sunshine in Sapporo and Aomori. Naha was sunny at 29 degrees, the highest on the map, and Kagoshima, cloudy with some rain, reached 28.

HOW TODAY COMPARES

Sunday's map gave forecast highs and today's gives observed highs, so the comparison is approximate. Every city was cooler than Sunday's forecast or level with it. Tokyo, at 19, and Osaka, at 20, were 7 degrees lower, Kushiro 6 lower and Sendai 5 lower, while Matsue was level at 21. Mornings were colder in the north: Aomori fell to 7, 7 degrees below Sunday's low, and Kushiro to 3, 6 below. Nagano, at 15, was the only city with a milder low than on Sunday.

RANGES

Nagoya stayed at 19 degrees all day, a range of zero, and Niigata, Kyoto and Osaka varied by only a degree. Kushiro had the widest range, from 3 to 12, followed by Aomori, from 7 to 15. Naha and Kagoshima had the warmest lows, 25.

THE LAND COLOURS

The colours on the map show today's daytime highs from readings. Light blue, for 14 or less, covers Hokkaido and northern Tohoku, with greens of 15 to 20 over the rest of Tohoku and the mountains of central Japan. Yellow-greens and yellows of 18 to 23 cover Kanto, Chubu, Kinki, Chugoku and Shikoku. Kyushu shades from yellow in the north to orange in the south, with 27 to 29 around Kagoshima, and Okinawa is orange.

THE STORMS

At 6 p.m. In-fa, Typhoon No. 31, was a very strong typhoon near the Marshall Islands, at 965 hPa with winds of 45 metres a second near the centre, moving slowly west-northwest. It is forecast to deepen to 940 hPa and to move west, passing far south of Minamitorishima on Thursday and north of Saipan on Friday, and to reach the waters near the Ogasawara Islands by Saturday afternoon. Champi, Typhoon No. 30, became an extratropical low in the East China Sea at 9 p.m. on Sunday, ending the agency's typhoon bulletins.

RAIN AND RIVERS

In the 24 hours to Monday morning, 283.5 mm of rain fell at Fukue, in Goto, Nagasaki Prefecture, and 160.5 mm at Imari, Saga Prefecture, both October records. The weather agency warned that another low was making the air very unstable, with warning-level heavy rain possible around the Izu Islands, and urged people to watch for landslides, flooding of low-lying land and rising rivers.

SUNRISE AND SUNSET

Tokyo: sunrise 5:57 a.m., sunset 4:54 p.m.; Osaka: sunrise 6:12 a.m., sunset 5:12 p.m.; Sapporo: sunrise 6:00 a.m., sunset 4:37 p.m.; Fukuoka: sunrise 6:31 a.m., sunset 5:33 p.m.; Naha: sunrise 6:34 a.m., sunset 5:53 p.m.; all times calculated for today and rounded to the minute.

ABOUT THE MAP

The map cites the Japan Meteorological Agency: the highs are the highest readings after 9 a.m. and the lows the lowest since midnight, up to 7:20 p.m.; the typhoon is from the 6:45 p.m. bulletin. Its sky symbols combine observations until 7 p.m. with the agency's three-hourly forecasts issued at 5 p.m. A single symbol means one sky all day, as in Tokyo, rain, and Naha, sunny. Two symbols joined by an arrow mean the sky changed during the day, as in Sapporo, sun then cloud, and Fukuoka, rain then cloud. Two symbols divided by a stroke mean one sky with the other at times, as in Kagoshima, cloudy with some rain.

SOCIETY

Rain Falls All Day From Tokyo to Osaka and Shikoku and Holds Tokyo to 19 Degrees; Kushiro Drops to 3 and Naha Is Sunny at 29

Every city on the map was cooler than Sunday's forecast or level with it; Nagoya's temperature stayed at 19 all day

By the Weather Desk

Rain fell all day on Monday from Tokyo to Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka and across Shikoku, keeping temperatures down across central and western Japan, while the north stayed mostly dry under cloud and Naha was sunny at 29 degrees, according to the weather map for 19 cities, which gives the highs and lows observed today.

Tokyo reached only 19 degrees, with a low of 17, and the rain was continuing in Tokyo and Nagoya into the night. Osaka's high was 20 and Kyoto's 20, with lows of 19.

Level all day

Nagoya recorded a high and a low of 19, a range of zero, the narrowest on the map. Niigata, Kyoto and Osaka varied by only a degree.

Easing in the west

The rain eased in Matsue, Hiroshima and Fukuoka by early afternoon, and in Kanazawa and Nagano during the afternoon. Fukuoka's high was 22 and Matsue's and Hiroshima's 21. Takamatsu had rain all day at 21 and Kochi at 22.

The north

The north stayed mostly dry under clouds. Kushiro fell to 3 degrees this morning, the coldest reading on the map, and reached only 12. Sapporo had some sunshine before cloud, at 13, and Aomori brightened later in the day, reaching 15 after a low of 7. Akita, Sendai and Niigata were cloudy, at 16, 15 and 17.

The far south

Naha was sunny at 29, the highest on the map, and Kagoshima, cloudy with rain at times, reached 28. Both had lows of 25, the warmest on the map.

Against Sunday

Sunday's map gave forecast highs and Monday's gives observed ones, so the comparison is approximate. Every city was cooler than Sunday's forecast or level with it. Tokyo and Osaka were 7 degrees lower, Kushiro 6 and Sendai 5. Matsue was level at 21.

Colder mornings

Aomori's low of 7 was 7 degrees colder than Sunday's and Kushiro's 3 was 6 degrees colder. Akita was 5 degrees colder, at 10. Nagano was the only city with a milder low than on Sunday, at 15.

The widest range

Kushiro's range of 9 degrees, from 3 to 12, was the widest on the map, followed by Aomori's 8.

The storms

Champi, Typhoon No. 30, became an extratropical low in the East China Sea at 9 p.m. on Sunday. In-fa, Typhoon No. 31, became a very strong typhoon near the Marshall Islands on Monday and is forecast to reach the waters near the Ogasawara Islands by Saturday afternoon.

SOCIETY

Today's Weather in Numbers

By the Weather Desk

WARMEST: Naha, 29, sunny; Kagoshima, 28.

COOLEST HIGH: Kushiro, 12; Sapporo, 13.

COLDEST MORNING: Kushiro, 3; Aomori, 7.

WARMEST LOW: Naha and Kagoshima, 25.

NO CHANGE: Nagoya, 19 all day.

WIDEST RANGE: Kushiro, 3 to 12.

RAIN ALL DAY: Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Osaka, Takamatsu and Kochi.

BIGGEST DROP FROM SUNDAY'S FORECAST: Tokyo and Osaka, 7 degrees.

TOKYO: 19, rain; low 17.

OSAKA: 20, rain; low 19.

SAPPORO: 13, sun then cloud; low 10.

EDITORIAL

Today's Numbers

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

$50 MILLION: The attacker's demand to GMO, about 7.9 billion yen; refused.

51.62 MILLION: Records that may have leaked from the e-mail firm Yumilink.

6 MILLION: People whose data may have leaked from Joshin.

15%: The fall in GMO Internet Group's shares.

503.51: Points lost by the Nikkei.

90: The age at which Yasuo Fukuda died.

51.79%: Lula's share in Brazil's run-off.

2:55:14: Masatora Kawano's world record in the marathon race walk.

16-3: Haruto Takahashi's record in his Sawamura Award season.

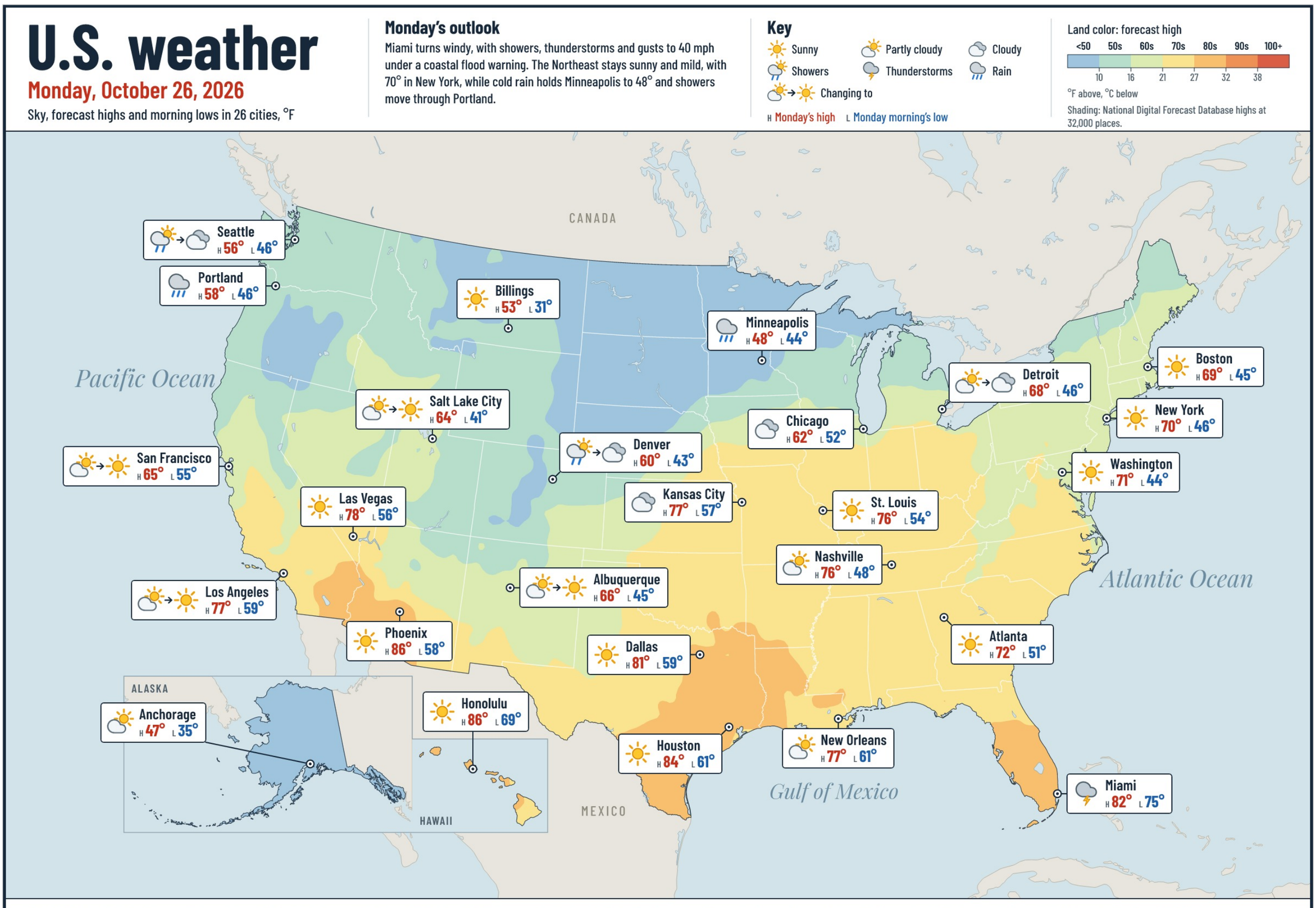
4-3: SoftBank's win in 10 innings in Game 2.

940 hPa: In-fa's forecast pressure from Wednesday.

283.5 mm: Rain in 24 hours at Fukue, an October record.

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WEATHER ABROAD



Data: U.S. National Weather Service. Highs and lows: Selected Cities forecast, 8:50 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 25; lows are for Sunday night into Monday morning. Sky symbols: zone forecasts issued Sunday and early Monday. Land color: gridded forecast highs, 6 a.m. EDT Monday.

United States weather for Monday, October 26, 2026: the sky, forecast highs and morning lows in degrees Fahrenheit for 26 cities, in the map supplied for this edition. (Data: U.S. National Weather Service Selected Cities forecast issued at 8:50 p.m. EDT on Sunday, October 25, with lows for Sunday night into Monday morning; zone forecasts issued on Sunday and early Monday; land colours from gridded forecast highs at 6 a.m. EDT on Monday, shaded from National Digital Forecast Database highs at 32,000 places)

SOCIETY

Chicago Cools 10 Degrees to 62 and Cold Rain Holds Minneapolis to 48, While New York Reaches 70 in Sunshine and Miami Braces for Storms and Coastal Flooding

Salt Lake City warms 7 degrees to 64; Phoenix and Honolulu share the highest reading, 86

By the Weather Desk

Cold rain holds Minneapolis to 48 degrees Fahrenheit on Monday, while the Northeast stays sunny and mild, with 70 in New York, and Miami turns windy with showers, thunderstorms and gusts of up to 40 mph under a coastal flood warning, according to the map supplied for this edition.

Minneapolis's high is 6 degrees lower than on Sunday's map, and its low of 44 leaves a range of only 4 degrees, the narrowest on the map.

Chicago

Chicago is cloudy at 62, 10 degrees cooler than on Sunday, the biggest drop of any city. Detroit turns from partly cloudy to cloudy at 68.

The Northeast

New York is sunny at 70, 4 degrees warmer than on Sunday, Boston sunny at 69 and Washington sunny at 71. Their mornings were cool, at 46, 45 and 44.

The Northwest

Portland has rain, with a high of 58, and Seattle's showers give way to cloud, at 56.

The Rockies

Billings, in Montana, is sunny at 53, 5 degrees warmer than on Sunday, after a low of 31, the coldest morning on the map. Salt Lake City clears to sunshine at 64, 7 degrees warmer than on Sunday, the biggest rise on the map, and Denver's showers give way to cloud, at 60.

The South and Southwest

Phoenix is sunny at 86, Las Vegas at 78, Dallas at 81 and Houston at 84. Atlanta is sunny at 72 and New Orleans partly cloudy at 77. Kansas City is cloudy at 77, St Louis sunny at 76 and Nashville partly cloudy at 76. Albuquerque clears to sunshine at 66.

Miami

Miami has thunderstorms, with a high of 82 after a low of 75, the warmest night on the map.

California

Los Angeles and San Francisco both start partly cloudy and turn sunny, at 77 and 65. San Francisco is 5 degrees cooler than on Sunday.

Alaska and Hawaii

Anchorage is partly cloudy at 47, 4 degrees warmer than on Sunday, and Honolulu is sunny at 86, level with Phoenix as the highest on the map.

The widest ranges

Nashville, from 48 to 76, and Phoenix, from 58 to 86, share the widest daily range, 28 degrees.

The colours

The land colours show highs below 50, light blue, over Montana, Wyoming, the Dakotas, most of Minnesota and the high ground of Idaho and Colorado, and over Alaska; the 50s and 60s over the interior Northwest, Utah, Nebraska and the upper Midwest; the 60s and 70s from the Great Lakes to New England and down the East Coast; the 70s across the central Plains, the Southeast and coastal California; and the 80s, orange, over much of Texas, the deserts of Arizona and southern California, southern Florida and Hawaii.

SOCIETY

The U.S. Map at a Glance

By the Weather Desk

HOTTEST: Phoenix and Honolulu, 86.

COLDEST: Anchorage, 47; Minneapolis, 48, with rain.

COLDEST MORNING: Billings, 31.

WARMEST NIGHT: Miami, 75; Honolulu, 69.

BIGGEST FALL FROM SUNDAY'S MAP: Chicago, down 10 to 62.

ALSO COOLER: Minneapolis, down 6; San Francisco, down 5.

WARMER: Salt Lake City, up 7; Billings, up 5; New York, Phoenix and Anchorage, up 4.

RAIN: Portland and Minneapolis; showers in Seattle and Denver.

STORMS: Miami, with gusts to 40 mph and a coastal flood warning.

WIDEST RANGE: Nashville and Phoenix, 28 degrees.

NARROWEST: Minneapolis, 44 to 48.

NEW YORK: 70, sunny.

SOCIETY

The U.S. Map in Celsius

Monday's highs and lows, converted and rounded to the nearest degree

By the Weather Desk

NEW YORK: 21 / 8.

WASHINGTON: 22 / 7.

BOSTON: 21 / 7.

CHICAGO: 17 / 11.

MINNEAPOLIS: 9 / 7.

DENVER: 16 / 6.

LOS ANGELES: 25 / 15.

SAN FRANCISCO: 18 / 13.

SEATTLE: 13 / 8.

BILLINGS: 12 / -1.

PHOENIX: 30 / 14.

DALLAS AND HOUSTON: 27 / 15 and 29 / 16.

MIAMI: 28 / 24.

HONOLULU: 30 / 21.

ANCHORAGE: 8 / 2.

ATLANTA AND KANSAS CITY: 22 / 11 and 25 / 14.

LAS VEGAS: 26 / 13.

SOCIETY

Women and Professional Shogi: Milestones

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

1961: Akiko Takojima becomes the first woman to enter the Shoreikai.

THE BARRIER: For 65 years, no woman passed the Shoreikai or the transfer examination.

2025: The Japan Shogi Association approves a new route, five Hakurei titles.

THE HAKUREI: A women's title Nishiyama has won five times.

OCT. 26, 2026: Tomoka Nishiyama, 31, says she will use the new rule.

APRIL 1, 2027: She is promoted to 4-dan, the first woman professional.

HER TITLES: She holds four women's titles.

OTHERS WHO TRIED: Kana Fukuma, 34, among them.

KISHI: A full professional, separate from the women's professional system.

NEXT: Tournaments alongside the men.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Joshin and Yumilink leaks, Page 12.

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SOCIETY



The Empress, the Emperor and their daughter, Princess Aiko, in a file photo. The Emperor and Empress opened the National Cultural Festival in Kochi on Sunday and on Monday met students from a school for the blind. (File photo: WPM Productions)

SOCIETY

The Emperor Signs His Greeting to a Deaf Master of Ceremonies as He and the Empress Open the National Cultural Festival in Kochi

The Empress tells a yosakoi dancer that Princess Aiko once danced it at her school sports day

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The Emperor and Empress visited Kochi Prefecture on Sunday and attended the opening ceremony of the 41st National Cultural Festival and the 26th National Arts and Culture Festival for Persons with Disabilities at a prefectural sports park gymnasium in Kochi City.

In his address, the Emperor said he hoped the appeal of local traditions and culture would be rediscovered, that cultural and artistic activities would spread more widely and that this would lead to the creation of new culture, Kyodo News reported.

Yosakoi

The ceremony included performances of yosakoi naruko odori, the dance of Kochi's Yosakoi festival, in which dancers keep time with wooden clappers, and the couple applauded with smiles.

In sign language

Afterwards they spoke with the performers. The Emperor used sign language to tell a woman with a hearing impairment who had served as the ceremony's master of ceremonies that he was glad to meet her.

Aiko's dance

The Empress told a woman who had danced that their daughter, Princess Aiko, had once danced yosakoi at her elementary school sports day.

Two festivals

The National Cultural Festival, held in a different prefecture each year, brings together amateur performers and artists from around the country, and since 2017 it has been held together with the festival for people with disabilities.

The venue

The ceremony was held at the Haruno General Sports Park gymnasium, one of the prefecture's main sports facilities.

Monday

On Monday morning the couple visited the library of the Otepia complex in Kochi City and met students from the prefectural school for the blind, before travelling to Ino to see the town's paper museum.

Yosakoi's spread

The Yosakoi festival began in Kochi in 1954 and has spread across Japan, inspiring festivals such as Sapporo's Yosakoi Soran.

Across the prefecture

The festival's events, from music and dance to exhibitions of crafts and art, are held at venues around the prefecture.

SOCIETY

'Is There Anything You Would Like to Read?' The Emperor Asks Students From a School for the Blind at a Kochi Library

The couple try a page-turning machine, meet volunteers who record audiobooks and visit the Tosa washi paper museum in Ino

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The Emperor and Empress visited the library of the Otepia complex in Kochi City on Monday morning to see books designed for people with disabilities, including cloth picture books that can be understood by touch.

They met junior and senior high school students from the Kochi Prefectural School for the Blind who were reading braille books. "Is there anything you would like to read?" the Emperor asked them, Kyodo News reported.

The machine

The library has a device that turns pages automatically for people who have difficulty using their hands, and the couple tried operating it.

The volunteers

They also met women who volunteer to turn books into audio recordings for people with visual impairments.

Barrier-free reading

A law enacted in 2019 to promote reading for people with visual and other impairments requires national and local governments to expand access to braille, audio, large-print and electronic books.

Tosa washi

Afterwards the couple travelled to Ino, a town west of Kochi City, where they visited the Ino Paper Museum, which tells the history of Tosa washi, the traditional paper made in the area.

The artisans

They heard from papermakers and toured an exhibition of prints being held as part of the National Cultural Festival.

The paper

Tosa washi, made from fibres of plants such as kozo, is known for being thin yet strong, and the town has produced it for centuries.

The trip

The visit to Kochi was made to attend the opening of the National Cultural Festival on Sunday.

Otepia

Otepia, which opened in 2018, houses the prefectural and city libraries together with a science museum and a library of braille and audio books for people with visual impairments.

SOCIETY

Court Rules Fukushima Acted Lawfully in Ending Free Housing for Voluntary Evacuees and Orders 11 Families Out of Civil Servant Flats

The evacuees, who left areas outside the evacuation zones after the 2011 nuclear accident, must also pay unpaid rent

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The Tokyo District Court ruled on Monday that Fukushima Prefecture acted lawfully when it ended free housing for people who evacuated from outside the government's evacuation zones after the 2011 nuclear accident, rejecting claims for damages by 11 of them.

The plaintiffs had lived in national civil servant housing in Tokyo and Saitama Prefecture and argued that the governor's decision to end the free provision was illegal, Kyodo News reported.

The ruling

"No deviation from discretionary authority can be found in the policy judgment," said the presiding judge, Tomoko Ikeda.

The counter-suit

The court upheld a separate suit by the prefecture, ordering the plaintiffs to leave the housing and to pay unpaid rent and related amounts.

The timeline

The plaintiffs moved into the housing free of charge after the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi plant in March 2011. Free provision ended at the end of March 2017. From April 2017 they paid under two-year contracts, and most stayed on after those expired at the end of March 2019.

Voluntary evacuees

People who left areas outside the zones the government ordered evacuated are often called voluntary evacuees. Many left out of fear of radiation for their children, and received far less compensation and support than those ordered to leave.

Why they stayed

Evacuees in similar disputes have said they could not afford to move or did not feel safe returning home.

Fifteen years on

Tens of thousands of people from Fukushima were displaced by the accident, and many have not returned more than 15 years later.

Next

The plaintiffs can appeal to the Tokyo High Court.

SOCIETY

Doshisha Sets Up a Committee on 'Educational Neutrality' After a Student's Death on a School Trip off Henoko

The education ministry said the high school's teaching leaned towards particular views; the chairman will explain on Friday

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Doshisha, the educational foundation in Kyoto, said on Monday that it had set up a committee on the neutrality and appropriateness of education, after a 17-year-old student from its international high school died when two boats carrying students capsized off Henoko, in Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, during a study trip in March.

The committee took effect on October 22, and the foundation will hold a news conference on Friday to explain it, Kyodo News reported.

The school

The student, Chika Takeishi, attended Doshisha International High School in Kyotanabe, Kyoto Prefecture.

Her parents

Her parents met Okinawa's governor, Genta Koja, this month and asked for safety guidelines for school trips that could be shared by schools, host organisations and travel companies, noting that the two boats had not been registered as businesses under the Maritime Transport Act.

The ministry's view

The Ministry of Education had said that the school's teaching leaned towards particular points of view. The foundation responded that it would form a committee of outside experts with no interests in the foundation to examine neutrality and related matters.

Members not named

The foundation has not disclosed who will sit on the committee.

The news conference

The chairman, Eiji Hatta, and other officials are expected to attend Friday's news conference and to explain the committee's outline and measures to prevent another accident.

Henoko

The waters off Henoko are the site of the land reclamation for the planned relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma air station, which has been opposed by many in Okinawa and has been the scene of protests at sea.

A Christian foundation

Doshisha was founded in 1875 by Joseph Hardy Neesima, a pioneer of Christian education in Japan, and runs schools from kindergarten to university.

Next

The news conference is on Friday, October 30.

SOCIETY

Yokohama's Horticultural Expo Has Sold Under 30 Per Cent of Its Tickets Five Months Before Opening, After Its Mayor and a Minister Departed

The first top-class international horticultural expo in Japan since Osaka in 1990 opens in March

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The international horticultural exposition in Yokohama, due to open in March, has sold about 2.9 million advance tickets, just under 30 per cent of its target, as of October 18, and the government and organisers say raising public awareness is urgent.

The expo has been through a series of setbacks, including the resignation of Yokohama's mayor and the dismissal of the agriculture minister responsible for the government's exhibit, Kyodo News reported.

The expo

The exposition, on the theme of flowers, greenery and the latest green technology, will feature exhibits by national governments, local authorities and companies. It is in the top category of international horticultural expositions, the first held in Japan since Osaka in 1990, 37 years earlier.

The mayor

Yokohama's mayor, Takeharu Yamanaka, resigned in September after a third-party investigation found that he had committed power harassment.

The minister

The agriculture minister, Kazuo Yana, was dismissed this month over remarks about sharply cutting road budgets for some local governments. The agriculture minister shares responsibility for the government's exhibit with the land minister.

An absence felt

At a news conference in Tokyo in September, six months before the opening, the mayor was absent. "Leading from the front is the mayor's job, so there was an effect," an official of the land ministry said.

The minister's visit

Tatsunori Ibayashi, the land, infrastructure, transport and tourism minister, inspected the site in Yokohama on Sunday.

A critical moment

The government and the organisers describe the situation as a turning point and are discussing how to respond.

The site

The expo is being held on the site of a former U.S. military communications facility in the city.

Next

The expo opens in March and runs into the autumn.

EDITORIAL

Quotes of the Day

By the Editorial Desk

"Against cyberattacks whose nature we have established, we will strategically select and carry out every response option, including neutralisation measures." Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi.

"The attacker exploited that gap." Masatoshi Kumagai, GMO Internet Group.

"Japan's current leaders should deeply reflect." China's Foreign Ministry, on Yasuo Fukuda.

"Mr Fukuda's teaching was that we must value our relationship with China sincerely." Shigeru Ishiba.

"We share values and perceptions." Antti Hakkanen, Finland's defence minister, in Tokyo.

"There are very few pitchers who can build a surplus of 13 wins." Tsuneo Horiuchi.

"Baseball keeps renewing itself." Kyuji Fujikawa.

"If communications are cut, Ukraine's front lines would collapse immediately." Elon Musk.

"I was shocked when I saw the footage." Takuya Kimura, on Inba-numa.

"Is there anything you would like to read?" The Emperor, to students from a school for the blind.

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SOCIETY



Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, in the city of Ginowan, Okinawa, seen from the air in May 2010. A 20-year-old Marine assigned to the base was indicted on Sunday for the robbery and murder of a woman at a hotel in Naha. (Photo: Sonata, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0)

SOCIETY

U.S. Marine, 20, Is Indicted for the Robbery and Murder of a Woman in a Naha Hotel; Her Family Asks That He 'Atone'

Investigators say he returned to his base after the killing and went out again; the Marines promise full co-operation

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Prosecutors in Naha on Sunday indicted a 20-year-old U.S. Marine on charges of robbery and murder over the killing of a woman at a hotel in the city earlier this month.

Lance Corporal Devin Ballard, who is assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Ginowan, has made statements partly hinting at his involvement, investigative sources said. He had at first denied the allegations, saying he did not know anything, Kyodo News reported.

The charges

According to the indictment, on October 3 at a hotel in Naha he wrapped a telephone cord around the woman's neck, killing her, and took a backpack containing her wallet. The victim, a 39-year-old Naha resident, died of asphyxiation.

After the killing

It has emerged that after the incident Ballard returned for a time to his quarters on the base, then went out again. The Okinawa prefectural police found him in Okinawa City and arrested him on October 4.

The prosecutor

Hiroya Ishii, the deputy chief prosecutor in Naha, said his office would make its case at trial accurately, on the basis of the law and the evidence.

The family

The woman's family issued a statement through their lawyer on Monday saying they hoped he would atone in a way "commensurate with what he has done". She had lost her life at only 39 and "surely wanted to live much longer", they said, adding that they would "follow the trial to the very end".

The Marines

The III Marine Expeditionary Force, headquartered at Camp Courtney in Uruma, said it recognised the seriousness of the indictment and would continue to co-operate fully with the Japanese authorities.

The curfew

U.S. forces in Okinawa began a 30-day period of reflection on October 9, barring personnel from going out between midnight and 5 a.m. The prefectural assembly passed a resolution of protest the same day.

The governor

Governor Genta Koja has expressed strong indignation over the killing.

Next

As a robbery-murder case, it will be tried before lay judges in the Naha District Court.

SOCIETY

Kadena Air Base Bars BYD Cars, Citing an 'Unacceptable Risk' as Concern Grows That Their Cameras and Sensors Could Leak Data

The Pentagon listed the Chinese carmaker as a military company in June; similar steps may follow at U.S. bases in South Korea

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The U.S. Air Force's 18th Wing, which runs Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, said on Monday that it had banned vehicles made by the Chinese carmaker BYD from entering the base.

"We judged that it poses an unacceptable risk to our personnel and missions," Lieutenant Colonel Stormer of the 18th Wing told reporters, Kyodo News reported.

The reason

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the measure was probably intended to prevent information about the base from leaking through the vehicles' onboard cameras and sensors, and reported that similar steps could be taken at U.S. bases in South Korea.

The listing

In June the U.S. Defense Department added BYD to its list of Chinese military companies, those it says are linked to the Chinese armed forces.

The base

Kadena, in the town of Kadena, is the largest U.S. Air Force base in East Asia and is regarded as a strategic base aimed at China, Russia and North Korea.

Connected cars

Modern cars carry cameras, radar, microphones and constant internet connections, and governments in the United States and Europe have raised concerns that data from Chinese-made vehicles could be accessed in China.

BYD in Japan

BYD began selling electric cars in Japan in 2023 and has been expanding its dealer network, offering models at lower prices than many rivals.

How many

The wing did not say how many BYD vehicles had been entering the base before the ban.

Next

The measure took effect on Monday, as announced last week.

SOCIETY

Tochigi Orders Utsunomiya Hospital to Improve After Finding Faults in Its Involuntary Admissions

A man with no mental illness won 3 million yen last year after being forced into the psychiatric hospital

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Tochigi Prefecture has issued an improvement order to Hotokukai Utsunomiya Hospital, a psychiatric hospital in Utsunomiya, under the law on mental health and the welfare of people with mental disabilities, after finding problems with its involuntary admissions, Kyodo News reported on Monday.

The order concerns admissions for medical protection, a form of involuntary hospitalisation that requires the consent of a family member and the judgment of a designated psychiatrist.

The lawsuit

A man from Toyama City sued the hospital, saying he had been forced into hospital although he had no mental illness. In May last year the Utsunomiya District Court ordered the hospital to pay him 3 million yen.

The investigation

After the ruling, the prefecture began investigating the hospital in July last year and found problems with the procedures and documents used for the admissions.

Records

The prefecture also said that the hospital had responded inadequately when asked several times to report on doctors' working records.

The director

The director, Suzuki, said in a statement that the hospital took the gravity of the situation very seriously and sincerely reflected on it, and that it would draw up an improvement plan and do everything possible to prevent a recurrence.

A notorious past

The hospital became notorious in 1984, when it emerged that two patients had died after being beaten by staff. The scandal led to the revision of the mental health law in 1987 to strengthen patients' rights.

The system

Japan has more psychiatric beds per person than almost any other country, and critics have long argued that involuntary admissions are used too readily and last too long.

Next

The hospital must submit an improvement plan to the prefecture.

SOCIETY

Sakata Remembers the Great Fire of 1976, 50 Years On, With a Silence for the Fire Chief Who Died and a Display of Water Jets

'We had to retreat while we fought it,' a firefighter recalls; the mayor calls mutual support the best disaster prevention

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Sakata, in Yamagata Prefecture, held a ceremony on Sunday to hand down the memory and lessons of the fire that burned its city centre in 1976, ahead of the 50th anniversary on Thursday.

About 800 people observed a moment of silence for the chief of the local fire union, who died fighting the blaze, Kyodo News reported.

Water jets

After the ceremony, members of the local volunteer fire corps sprayed water together from a nearby riverbank to pray for the area's safety.

The mayor

"Making use of the many lessons and the spirit of mutual support in building our town is the greatest disaster prevention," Mayor Akiko Yaguchi said.

Memories

Footage of the firefighting and of the streets just after the fire was shown. Doi, a 70-year-old who fought the fire as a firefighter, said: "The flames were so strong that we had no choice but to retreat while we kept fighting."

The fire

The fire broke out on the evening of October 29, 1976, at a cinema and was driven through the city centre by strong winds, destroying more than 1,700 buildings and leaving more than 3,000 people homeless.

The rebuilding

The city was rebuilt with wider roads and fire-resistant buildings, and its reconstruction became a model for disaster recovery.

Lessons today

The fire is often recalled alongside more recent blazes, such as the one at Saganoseki in Oita City last November, as an example of how wind can spread fire through densely built areas.

The anniversary

The anniversary falls on Thursday, October 29.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

In-fa deepens to 940 hPa, Page 3.

The seat cut: 45, 31 or 19?, Page 5.

Lula wins a fourth term, Page 7.

Missiles at Riyadh's airport, Page 8.

Nikkei falls 503 on AI doubts, Page 10.

Joshin and Yumilink leaks, Page 12.

Nishiyama turns professional, Page 14.

SOCIETY

Oita City Finishes Clearing the Buildings Burned in the Saganoseki Fire, 171 in All, Nearly a Year After the Blaze

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Oita City said on Monday that it had finished demolishing, at public expense, the buildings damaged by the large fire in the Saganoseki district in November last year, completing the work on October 23.

Of the 196 buildings that burned, the city removed the 171 that were half-destroyed or worse, Kyodo News reported.

The work

The city carried out the demolition on behalf of the owners. The work began on January 15 and produced about 10,700 tonnes of disaster waste.

Next

The owners will now carry out final inspections of their land.

The mayor

Mayor Shinya Adachi announced the completion at a news conference at City Hall on Monday afternoon.

The fire

The fire broke out in a densely built fishing district of narrow lanes and wooden houses and spread quickly in strong winds, making it one of the largest urban fires in Japan in recent years.

Rebuilding

The district now faces the question of how to rebuild with wider roads and safer buildings while keeping the community together, as many residents are elderly.

Lessons

Fire experts say the Saganoseki fire showed the danger posed by old wooden neighbourhoods across Japan, where narrow lanes make it hard for fire engines to reach.

Sakata

The anniversary of a similar wind-driven fire, in Sakata, Yamagata Prefecture, falls this week, 50 years on.

Support

Residents who lost their homes have been living in temporary housing and other accommodation.

SOCIETY

The Naha Killing: How the Case Has Unfolded

By the Society Desk

OCT. 3: A 39-year-old woman is killed at a hotel in Naha.

OCT. 4: Police arrest Lance Corporal Devin Ballard, 20, of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, in Okinawa City.

AFTER THE KILLING: He returned to his quarters on the base and then went out again, investigators say.

OCT. 9: U.S. forces in Okinawa begin a 30-day period of reflection with a curfew from midnight to 5 a.m.

OCT. 9: The prefectural assembly passes a resolution of protest.

OCT. 22: Kadena bans drinking for junior airmen and brings their curfew forward to 10 p.m.

OCT. 25: Ballard is indicted for robbery and murder.

OCT. 26: The woman's family asks that he atone in a way "commensurate with what he has done".

THE MARINES: The III Marine Expeditionary Force promises full co-operation with the investigation.

THE TRIAL: Before lay judges at the Naha District Court.

SOCIETY

Around the Nation

By the Society Desk

YAMAGUCHI: Police arrested two men, aged 27 and 26, on suspicion of robbery and murder over the death in August of an 80-year-old confectioner in Mine, whose wife was also injured and whose safe was stolen; security camera footage led to the arrests.

OARAI: Ibaraki police re-arrested a 30-year-old company employee on suspicion of murdering a

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SOCIETY

72-year-old restaurant owner with garden shears on October 4.

MINAMI: Osaka police arrested a 46-year-old man at a bar on suspicion of attempted murder after a 44-year-old customer was struck on the head with an axe; the bar's manager had reported threats the day before.

MISHIMA: A gust blew away a tent at a Halloween event on Sunday, slightly injuring four people, including a child.

HIROKAWA: A woman died after a light truck and a car collided at a signalled crossroads in Fukuoka Prefecture on Sunday; four other people were taken to hospital.

INUYAMA: Prosecutors sought eight years in prison for a 35-year-old mother charged over the death of her 7-year-old daughter in 2024; the verdict is due on Friday.

NAGOYA: Prosecutors sought five years for a 72-year-old man whose car killed or injured three pedestrians near Nagoya Station last October; the verdict is on December 3.

SHOGI: Tomoka Nishiyama will become the first woman professional shogi player on April 1.

POLAR BEARS: Sendai's twins leave for Toyohashi and Kagoshima.

BATTERY: A mobile battery fire stopped Kyoto's Tozai Line for 30 minutes.

SPORTS

Hanshin Extends Fujikawa's Contract Through 2029 After the Club's First Back-to-Back Central League Pennants

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

The Hanshin Tigers said on Monday that their manager, Kyuji Fujikawa, had signed a new contract running through the 2029 season, a reward for leading the club to its first back-to-back Central League pennants.

The club's president, Kazuo Awai, announced the three-year deal, Kyodo News reported. Fujikawa, 46, took over in 2025 on a three-year contract.

The longest since Okada

If he completes the new contract, his tenure will be the longest since Akinobu Okada's from 2004 to 2008.

His words

Speaking at the club's facilities in Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture, Fujikawa said he had been prepared to accept and wanted to build a team that was attractive, supported by its fans and always strong. "Baseball keeps renewing itself," he said. "I will create in many areas."

The season

Despite injuries to key hitters and pitchers, the Tigers won a close race with the Yomiuri Giants this season.

The Climax Series

The Tigers lost the Climax Series final stage to DeNA, who went on to the Japan Series.

The pitcher

Fujikawa was one of Japan's best relief pitchers of his generation, closing for the Tigers before playing in the major leagues.

His staff

The club began its autumn training camp last week, with Fujikawa saying he was determined to win a third straight pennant.

Takahashi

On the same day, the Tigers' Haruto Takahashi won the Sawamura Award.

SPORTS

Going To Sky Wins the Kikuka Sho by a Nose, Giving Yutaka Take His Sixth Victory in the Race; the Favourite Lovcen Finishes 14th

The Triple Crown bid ends far down the field; Take wins the 3,000-metre classic for the first time in seven years

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Going To Sky, the third favourite, won the 87th Kikuka Sho at Kyoto Racecourse on Sunday by a nose, giving the jockey Yutaka Take his sixth victory in the race and his first in seven years, as the favourite Lovcen's bid for the Triple Crown ended in 14th place.

The colt ran the 3,000 metres on turf in 3 minutes 4.5 seconds, holding off Basteel, the eighth favourite, in a close finish. Danon History, the second favourite, was third, a length behind the runner-up, Kyodo News reported.

Through the pack

Going To Sky made his way through the field in the final straight and held on in a photo finish.

The winner

It was Going To Sky's first Grade 1 win and his second in a graded race, after the Aoba Sho in the spring. The winner's prize was 200 million yen.

The trainer

It was the first win in the race for the trainer Yuki Uehara.

Take

Take, 57, has won more races than any other jockey in Japan. His previous Kikuka Sho victory came with World Premiere in 2019.

Lovcen

Lovcen had won the Satsuki Sho and the Tokyo Yushun, the Japanese Derby, and was trying to become the first Triple Crown winner since Contrail in 2020. He started as the favourite in a field of 18 but never threatened.

Contrail's son

Going To Sky is by Contrail, the 2020 Triple Crown winner, so the son of the last Triple Crown winner ended the latest bid.

The race

The Kikuka Sho, the last leg of the Triple Crown for three-year-olds, is the longest of Japan's classic races and tests stamina.

Next

The autumn Grade 1 season continues with the Tenno Sho (Autumn) at Tokyo next Sunday.

SPORTS

Yuri Yoshida Comes From Four Behind for Her First LPGA Win in Korea; Fujimoto and Kuwaki Win at Home; Bermuda's Final Round Is Blown Out

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Yuri Yoshida came from four shots behind to win the BMW Ladies Championship at Pine Beach Links in Haenam, South Korea, on Sunday, for her first victory on the LPGA Tour.

Yoshida shot a 4-under 68, with an eagle, four birdies and two bogeys, to finish at 17 under par on 271, one shot ahead of Yu Hae-ran and Choi Hye-jin of South Korea. She won 352,500 dollars, about 55 million yen, Kyodo News reported.

The others in Korea

Nasa Hataoka shot a 66 to tie for sixth at 14 under. Akie and Chisato Iwai tied for 15th at 11 under, Erika Hara was 41st and Rio Takeda 49th.

Fujimoto at Narita

Yoshinori Fujimoto led from start to finish to win the Fortinet Players Cup at Narita Hills Country Club in Chiba, shooting a bogey-free 66 for a 15-under total of 269 and a four-shot victory. It was his second win of the season and the fourth of his career on the Japan Golf Tour. He won 30 million yen.

Four in second

Shugo Imahira, Sunakawa, Ryosuke Kinoshita and Takeyama tied for second, and Mikumu Horikawa was among five players tied for sixth.

Kuwaki in Hyogo

Shiho Kuwaki held on to win the Nobuta Group Masters GC Ladies in Hyogo Prefecture by one shot, shooting a 69 for a 15-under total of 273. It was her fourth win of the season in Japan and the seventh of her career, in a year in which she also won the AIG Women's Open. She won 36 million yen.

The chasers

Ayame Morii, seeking her first tour win, shot a 68 to finish second. Akari Sakuma, the defending champion, and Takano tied for third, and Ai Suzuki finished fifth after gaining four shots in the final round.

Bermuda

Strong winds forced the cancellation of the final round of the PGA Tour's Bermuda Championship at Port Royal Golf Course, leaving Austin Smotherman of the United States and Seamus Power of Ireland tied for the lead. They were to settle the title in a play-off on Monday, local time.

The Japanese in Bermuda

Kensei Hirata finished 34th, and Takumi Kanaya and Ren Yonezawa tied for 44th.

The season's end

The Japan women's tour ends in late November with the JLPGA Tour Championship Ricoh Cup.

SPORTS

Meijo University Win the National University Women's Ekiden for the First Time in Three Years, in a Course Record

They led from the second stage, where Kondo set a stage record; defending champions Josai are third

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Meijo University won the All-Japan University Women's Ekiden in Sendai on Sunday for the first time in three years and the ninth time in all, covering the six stages and 38 kilometres in 2 hours 2 minutes 21 seconds, a record for the course used since 2023.

Meijo took the lead on the second stage and never gave it up, Kyodo News reported.

The stage record

Kondo set a stage record on the second stage to put the team in front.

A freshman

Kimura, a first-year student, won the fifth stage.

The finish

Hashimoto ran the anchor stage and crossed the line first at the stadium in Sendai.

The others

Daito Bunka University finished second, 1 minute 10 seconds behind, and Josai University, the defending champions, were third.

Next year

The top eight earn seeded places in next year's race: Meijo, Daito Bunka, Josai, Tohoku Fukushi, Juntendo, Tsukuba, Nippon Sport Science University and Osaka Gakuin.

The race

The race starts and finishes at the athletic stadium in Sendai, where it has been held for many years.

Next

The university women's season continues with the Fujisan Women's Ekiden in December.

SPORTS

FC Tokyo Thrash Mito 6-0 to Draw Level With Leaders Machida, and Mito Sack Kimori After Six Straight Defeats

Real Madrid beat Barcelona in the Clasico; Junya Ito and Shogo Taniguchi score in Belgium and Yamamoto debuts for Freiburg

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

FC Tokyo beat Mito HollyHock 6-0 at Ajinomoto Stadium on Sunday to move level on 27 points with the J1 leaders, Machida Zelvia, and into second place on goal difference, and Mito sacked their coach, Daisuke Kimori, on Monday.

Nakagawa scored twice for FC Tokyo and Anzai added the third early in the second half, Kyodo News reported.

Mito's change

The defeat was Mito's sixth in a row and left them 17th. Kimori, 49, had led the club in its first season in J1. He will be replaced by Naoki Mori, 48, the club's football director, who coached the team from the middle of 2024 through 2025 and led it to the J2 title and its first promotion. His first match is expected to be the Levain Cup tie against Cerezo Osaka on Wednesday.

The rest of the round

Kawasaki Frontale beat Fagiano Okayama 2-1 for a third straight win and 22 points. Urawa Reds beat V-Varen Nagasaki 1-0 at Saitama Stadium with a second-half goal from Matheus Savio, also a third straight win, to reach 21. Yokohama F. Marinos and Nagoya Grampus drew 1-1, and Cerezo Osaka came back late to draw 2-2 with JEF United Chiba, who are bottom with 7 points.

The Clasico

Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-1, ending the leaders' nine-match winning start. Barcelona, chasing a third straight title, remain top with 27 points, and Real Madrid have 24.

England

Aston Villa beat Manchester City 2-1 on Saturday, City's first defeat, though they stay top with 21 points. Arsenal, the champions, beat Everton 2-0 to reach 21. Daichi Kamada played the full match as Crystal Palace lost 2-0 at home to Newcastle, and Ao Tanaka played until the 89th minute of Leeds' goalless draw at Sunderland.

Germany

Bayern Munich won 3-1 at Freiburg. Hiroki Ito came on for Bayern late in the game, Yuito Suzuki played the full match for Freiburg, and Rihito Yamamoto made his Bundesliga debut, coming on in the 58th minute. Koki Machida played throughout Hoffenheim's 3-0 win over Leverkusen. Bayern and Dortmund are level on 17 points.

Belgium

Junya Ito scored Genk's first goal, his second of the season, in a 2-1 win over Standard Liege. Shogo Taniguchi scored in stoppage time for Sint-Truiden, his first of the season, in a 3-2 defeat at Club Brugge.

France

Ayumu Seko played the full match for Le Havre in a 4-3 defeat at Marseille, and Mizuta set up their third goal in the 89th minute.

Italy

Inter Milan and Lazio both won to stay level on 22 points.

SPORTS

Kokushikan Win the Student Judo Team Title for the First Time in 10 Years; Uchijima Loses on the First Day of the Toray Pan Pacific

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Kokushikan University beat Meiji University 2-0 in the final of the All-Japan Student Weight-Class Team Judo Championships in Amagasaki on Sunday to win for the first time in 10 years and the fifth time in all.

Meiji, who won the all-Japan student championships in June, missed a double, Kyodo News reported.

Tokai's bid ends

Tokai University, seeking the first three-peat in the men's event, lost a close semi-final to Meiji and shared third place with Tenri University. Tsukuba University, whose Tanaka won the world title at 73 kg this month, went out to Tokai in the third round.

The women

International Pacific University won the women's title for the second year running and the seventh time, beating Ryukoku University on content after a 2-2 draw. Kindai and Tsukuba were third.

Athletics

At the Tajima Naoto memorial meeting in Yamaguchi, Oda of Toyota Industries won the men's 400 metres hurdles in a meeting record of 49.27 seconds, ahead of the Paris Olympian Ken Toyoda in 49.46. Sorato Shimizu, the high school sprinter who has run 10.00 for the 100 metres, ran 21.10 in a 200-metre heat and did not start the final.

Tennis

Moka Uchijima, a wild card, lost 6-4, 6-2 to the fifth seed, Elise Mertens of Belgium, in the first round of the Toray Pan Pacific Open at Ariake on Monday. Rain postponed Shuko Aoyama's doubles match until Tuesday.

Osaka

Naomi Osaka rose one place to 18th in the women's world rankings released on Monday. Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan is first, Aryna Sabalenka second and Mirra Andreeva third.

Football

Japan's under-17 women beat Venezuela 2-0 in Rabat for their third straight win in the group stage of the World Cup in Morocco.

Baseball

Hosei's Sukegawa pitched a three-hit shutout as Hosei beat the University of Tokyo 3-0 in the Tokyo Big6 league; the second game was moved to Tuesday because of the weather forecast.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Joshin and Yumilink leaks, Page 12.

Nishiyama turns professional, Page 14.

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SPORTS



SoftBank Hawks players celebrate a title, in a file photo. SoftBank beat DeNA 4-3 in 10 innings on Sunday to lead the Japan Series 2-0; Game 3 is in Fukuoka on Tuesday. (File photo: WPM Productions)

SPORTS

Kawamura, Who Hit No Home Runs All Season, Wins Game 2 in the 10th After Yamakawa's Pinch-Hit Homer Saves SoftBank in the Ninth

Tsutsugo's three-run homer had put DeNA ahead in the eighth; SoftBank win in extra innings for the second night running and lead the Japan Series 2-0

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Yuto Kawamura, a substitute who did not hit a home run all regular season, drove a changeup over the centre-field wall in the 10th inning on Sunday night to give the SoftBank Hawks a 4-3 win over the Yokohama DeNA BayStars in Game 2 of the Japan Series, a game they had been one out from losing.

SoftBank, who are seeking a second straight national title, won in extra innings for the second night in a row at Yokohama Stadium and lead the best-of-seven series 2-0.

Yamakawa's swing

DeNA led 3-2 going into the ninth, and their closer, Reynolds, got the first out. Hotaka Yamakawa, sent up as a pinch-hitter, then hit a solo home run into the left-field stands to tie the game.

Kawamura's winner

In the 10th, Kawamura, who had entered the game as a substitute, hit a changeup from Hiromu Ise over the screen behind centre field.

Tsutsugo's blow

The lead had changed hands in the eighth. SoftBank's reliever Yuki Matsumoto gave up a hit to Ryuki Watarai and hit Shugo Maki with a pitch, and Yoshitomo Tsutsugo drove a 153 km/h pitch into the left-field stands for a three-run home run that put DeNA ahead 3-2. Matsumoto had also given up Maki's tying home run in the eighth inning of Game 1.

Moinelo

SoftBank's starter, Livan Moinelo, pitched seven scoreless innings, allowing five hits and striking out eight. He escaped a jam in the second after Shion Matsuo singled and Inoue doubled, and in the fourth struck out Naruse looking with a runner on second.

The first runs

Tomoya Masaki gave SoftBank the lead in the third, hitting a full-count 150 km/h fastball from DeNA's starter, Ogata, 124 metres for a solo home run. In the fourth, with two out and a runner on first, Shoji doubled to right-centre to make it 2-0.

"I struck out on a fastball in my first at-bat, so I went up determined not to be beaten by the fastball," Shoji said, according to Daily Sports. "I think I reacted well to the forkball."

The save

Kazuki Sugiyama closed out the 10th for his second save of the series.

The odds

Teams that have won the first two games of a Japan Series have gone on to win it 28 times out of 37, about 76 per cent, Kyodo News reported. Including its years as Nankai and Daiei, the SoftBank franchise has started 2-0 eight times and won the series six times, including against DeNA in 2017.

A warning from 2024

The exceptions include the 2024 series, when SoftBank won the first two games against DeNA and then lost four in a row.

Next

After a rest day on Monday, the series moves to Mizuho PayPay Dome in Fukuoka for Games 3, 4 and 5. Games 6 and 7, if needed, will be played at Yokohama Stadium.

SPORTS

Game 3 Moves to Fukuoka on Tuesday: SoftBank Send Hare Matsumoto Against DeNA's Ace Katsuki Azuma

Both sides worked out at Mizuho PayPay Dome on Monday; DeNA, third in the Central League, need a win to avoid falling 3-0 behind

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

The SoftBank Hawks and the Yokohama DeNA BayStars worked out at Mizuho PayPay Dome in Fukuoka on Monday ahead of Game 3 of the Japan Series on Tuesday, with SoftBank leading the series 2-0.

SoftBank named Hare Matsumoto as their starter, and DeNA named Katsuki Azuma, their ace, Kyodo News reported.

Practice

Both teams' starters played catch and did their preparatory throwing, and some of DeNA's fielders took fielding practice to loosen up.

SoftBank

SoftBank, the Pacific League champions, are seeking a second straight Japan Series title and have won both games in extra innings on the road.

DeNA

DeNA, who finished third in the Central League and reached the series through the Climax Series, are seeking their first title in two years. They won in 2024 after losing the first two games, then winning four in a row.

Home advantage

SoftBank now play three games at home. A sweep of Games 3 to 5 would give them the title in Fukuoka.

The bullpens

Both games so far have gone to extra innings, putting a strain on the relief pitchers, and both managers will be looking for length from their starters.

DeNA's bats

DeNA's hitters have scored four runs in 21 innings in the series, three of them on Tsutsugo's home run in Game 2.

The format

The series ends when one team wins four games. Games 3 to 5 are at Mizuho PayPay Dome and Games 6 and 7, if needed, at Yokohama Stadium on October 31 and November 1.

The weather

The dome's roof means the Fukuoka games will be unaffected by the rain that has fallen across western Japan.

SPORTS

Scoreboard

Sunday's results

By the Sports Desk

JAPAN SERIES, GAME 2: SoftBank 4, DeNA 3 (10 innings). SoftBank lead 2-0. HR: Masaki, Yamakawa, Kawamura (SoftBank); Tsutsugo (DeNA). S: Sugiyama.

WORLD SERIES, GAME 2: Milwaukee 5, Tampa Bay 4. Milwaukee lead 2-0. W: Uribe. L: Wells. S: Ashby. HR: Hicks (TB), Frelick (MIL).

KIKUKA SHO (3,000 m): 1, Going To Sky (Yutaka Take) 3:04.5; 2, Basteel, nose; 3, Danon History, 1 length. 14, Lovcen.

J1: FC Tokyo 6, Mito 0; Kawasaki 2, Okayama 1; Urawa 1, Nagasaki 0; Yokohama FM 1, Nagoya 1; Cerezo Osaka 2, Chiba 2.

GOLF: Fortinet Players Cup: Yoshinori Fujimoto -15. Nobuta Group Masters GC Ladies: Shiho Kuwaki -15. BMW Ladies (LPGA): Yuri Yoshida -17. Bermuda (PGA): final round cancelled; Smotherman and Power to play off.

RACE WALK, TAKAHATA: Men's marathon walk: Masatora Kawano 2:55:14 (world record); 4, Hayato Katsuki 2:56:59.

UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S EKIDEN: 1, Meijo 2:02:21; 2, Daito Bunka; 3, Josai.

WRESTLING WORLDS: Greco-Roman 60 kg: 1, Gomi.

FIGURE SKATING, GP DE FRANCE: Men: 1, Adam Siao Him Fa (FRA) 284.24; 2, Kao Miura 247.96; 5, Sota Yamamoto 224.24.

GYMNASTICS WORLDS: Horizontal bar: 1, Tang Chia-hung (TPE) 14.966; 2, Shinnosuke Oka 14.800.

F1, U.S. GRAND PRIX: 1, Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes).

SKI JUMPING, NHK CUP: Women: Yuki Ito 272.5. Men: Yukiya Sato 273.4.

B PREMIER: Nagoya D 96, Sunrockers Shibuya 85; Chiba Jets 87, Osaka 65.

NBA: Oklahoma City 108, LA Clippers 101 (Hachimura 5 points).

SPORTS

Hanshin's Haruto Takahashi Wins His First Sawamura Award After Going 16-3 With a 1.87 Earned Run Average

The selection committee's chairman, Tsuneo Horiuchi, says few pitchers can win 13 more games than they lose

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Haruto Takahashi of the Hanshin Tigers won the Sawamura Award, given to the best starting pitcher in Japanese professional baseball, for the first time on Monday after leading the Central League in wins and winning percentage.

The 30-year-old left-hander went 16-3 in 23 starts, all as a starter, with a winning percentage of .842 and an earned run average of 1.87, a close second in the league, the selection committee announced in Tokyo, Kyodo News reported.

His numbers

He pitched 159 innings, struck out 150 batters and threw five complete games, helping the Tigers win the league.

The criteria

He fell short of three of the committee's criteria: starts, complete games and innings pitched.

The chairman

"Wins, earned run average and winning percentage carry great weight," said the chairman, Tsuneo Horiuchi, a former Giants pitcher. "There are very few pitchers who can build a surplus of 13 wins."

A comeback

Takahashi spent several seasons fighting injuries before this year's breakthrough, which made him the anchor of the Tigers' rotation.

The playoffs

He started Game 2 of the Climax Series final stage against DeNA at Koshien on October 15.

The award

The award is named after Eiji Sawamura, the Giants pitcher of the 1930s who struck out Babe Ruth and other American stars in an exhibition game in 1934 and was killed in the Second World War.

The Tigers' other news

Hanshin also announced on Monday that it had extended the contract of its manager, Kyuji Fujikawa, through 2029.

Next

The season's individual awards, including the most valuable player, are announced after the Japan Series.

SPORTS

Masatora Kawano Sets the First World Record in the Marathon Race Walk, 2 Hours 55 Minutes 14 Seconds, at Takahata

Asian Games champion Katsuki finishes fourth inside the national standard and books his place at next year's worlds in Beijing

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Masatora Kawano set a world record in the men's marathon race walk at the national race walking meeting in Takahata, Yamagata Prefecture, on Sunday, winning in 2 hours 55 minutes 14 seconds.

The meeting was also a trial for next September's World Athletics Championships in Beijing, Kyodo News reported.

The threshold

World Athletics set a time of 2:56:30 as the threshold for recognising a world record in the event for performances from January 1 this year. Kawano, of Asahi Kasei, was the first to beat it, by 76 seconds.

The new event

The marathon race walk replaced the 35-kilometre race walk, a change decided in December 2024.

Second

Kazuya Iwai, of the Self-Defense Forces, finished second, 41 seconds behind.

Katsuki

Hayato Katsuki, also of the SDF, finished fourth in 2:56:59. He won the race walk at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games this autumn, and his time beat the Japan Association of Athletics Federations' standard of 2:58:00, earning him selection for his second successive world championships.

The women

Ayane Yanai, of Fujitsu, won the women's race in 3:29:10.

Kawano's record

Kawano, a world championship medallist in the longer walks, has been one of the world's leading walkers for years.

Japan's strength

Japanese walkers have won world titles and Olympic medals in recent years, and the long-distance walks have become one of the country's strongest events in athletics.

Beijing

The 2027 world championships will be held in Beijing in September.

SPORTS

The Sports Week Ahead

By the Sports Desk

TUE. 27: Japan Series Game 3, Fukuoka; World Series Game 3, 9 a.m. Japan time; Toray Pan Pacific Open continues at Ariake.

WED. 28: Japan Series Game 4; World Series Game 4; Levain Cup, Mito v Cerezo Osaka; Kyushu high school baseball quarter-finals resume in Kumamoto.

THU. 29: Japan Series Game 5, if needed; World 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; Tenno Sho (Autumn) at Tokyo.

NOV. 2: Kyushu high school baseball final.

NOV. 3-4: Ryuo match Game 3, Kyoto.

NOV. 7: Japan v Wales in the Nations Championship.

NOV. 8: Kyushu sumo tournament opens, Fukuoka.

NOV. 11: Women's Honinbo Game 3, Tokyo.

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SPORTS



Milwaukee Brewers and Tampa Bay Rays players in action at a base, in a file photo supplied for this edition. The Brewers came from 4-0 down to win Game 2 of the World Series 5-4 and lead 2-0. (File photo: WPM Productions)

SPORTS

Brewers Come Back From Four Down to Beat the Rays 5-4 and Lead the World Series 2-0; Pratt's Seventh-Inning Hit Wins It

Frelick ties the game with a home run in the sixth; Milwaukee's bullpen shuts Tampa Bay out for eight innings

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

The Milwaukee Brewers recovered from a four-run first inning to beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-4 in Game 2 of the World Series in Milwaukee on Saturday night, local time, and lead the best-of-seven series 2-0.

Cooper Pratt drove in the go-ahead run with a single in the seventh inning after Sal Frelick tied the game with a solo home run in the sixth.

The first inning

The Rays scored four times in the top of the first against Logan Henderson, the Brewers' starter. Liam Hicks hit a two-run home run, and Junior Caminero and Chandler Simpson each drove in a run.

The reply

Milwaukee answered with two in the bottom of the first, on run-scoring hits by Garrett Mitchell and William Contreras against Drew Rasmussen, and David Hamilton drove in a run in the fourth to make it 4-3.

The comeback

Frelick homered off Ian Seymour in the sixth to tie the game at 4-4, and Pratt's hit off Tyler Wells in the seventh put the Brewers ahead.

The bullpen

After Henderson's three innings, the Brewers' relievers, JoJo Romero, Dustin May, DL Hall, Abner Uribe and Aaron Ashby, held the Rays scoreless for the last six innings. Milwaukee's pitchers did not allow a run after the first.

The decisions

Uribe was credited with the win and Wells with the loss, and Ashby earned the save with an inning and two-thirds of work.

The hits

The Brewers out-hit the Rays 11 to 7. Frelick and Contreras had two hits each, as did Jackson Chourio.

Game 1

Milwaukee won the opener 3-2.

Next

The series moves to St Petersburg for Game 3 on Monday night, local time, which is Tuesday morning in Japan, and Game 4 on Tuesday night. Game 5, if needed, is on Wednesday.

SPORTS

Shinnosuke Oka Takes Silver on the High Bar as the World Gymnastics Championships Close; Japan Leave Rotterdam With Four Medals

Taiwan's Tang Chia-hung wins his first world title; Zou Jingyuan wins the parallel bars for a fifth time and Nemour adds beam gold

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Shinnosuke Oka won the silver medal on the horizontal bar on the final day of the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Rotterdam on Sunday, scoring 14.800, as Japan finished the championships with four medals.

Tang Chia-hung of Taiwan won the event with 14.966 for his first world title, and Japan's Kawakami was fourth with 14.600, Kyodo News reported.

The parallel bars

Zou Jingyuan of China won the parallel bars for the second year running and the fifth time in all. Daiki Hashimoto was fourth with 14.600 and Oka fifth.

The women

Kaylia Nemour of Algeria won the balance beam for her first title on the apparatus, adding to her gold on the uneven bars. Japan's Okamura fell and finished eighth. Claire Pease of the United States won the floor exercise for her first world title.

Japan's medals

Japan won the men's team title, Hashimoto won the individual all-around, the women's team took bronze and Oka added his silver on the final day.

Oka's week

Oka, the Paris Olympic all-around champion, had finished fourth on the rings on Saturday before his medal on the bar.

Hashimoto

Hashimoto's all-around title restored him to the top of the sport after the Paris Games, where Oka took the individual gold.

The rivals

China remained Japan's main rivals in the men's events, while the apparatus finals were spread among several countries.

Next

The next world championships will be held next year as the cycle towards the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics continues.

SPORTS

Gomi Becomes World Champion at 60 kg on His First Appearance, Beating an Iranian in the Greco-Roman Final in Astana

Tanabe loses in the quarter-finals at 63 kg; Horikita goes out in the repechage

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Gomi, 22, won the 60 kg Greco-Roman title at the World Wrestling Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Sunday, becoming world champion at his first attempt by beating an Iranian wrestler in the final.

Gomi, who wrestles for Gunma Yakult Hanbai, had beaten the Paris Olympic silver medallist and the reigning world champion on his way to the final on Saturday, Kyodo News reported.

The others on Sunday

Yuta Nara lost his first bout at 130 kg to an Italian by technical superiority. Tsuruta lost his first bout at 97 kg. Sogabe won his first bout at 72 kg but lost in the second round.

Horikita

Horikita, who had lost his first bout at 77 kg to a wrestler who reached the final, went out in the second round of the repechage.

Monday

On the third day, Tanabe won two bouts in the 63 kg class, which is not an Olympic weight, before losing to a Russian by technical superiority in the quarter-finals. Endo lost his first bout at 67 kg and Sakabe his first at 87 kg.

Greco-Roman

In Greco-Roman wrestling, wrestlers may not attack the legs or use their own legs to trip or lift an opponent, so throws from the upper body decide many bouts.

The 60 kg class

The 60 kg class is an Olympic weight, and Gomi's title makes him a contender for a place at the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

The championships

The championships continue in Astana this week with the freestyle and women's events.

Japan's women

Japan's women wrestlers have won a large share of world and Olympic titles in recent decades.

SPORTS

Kao Miura Climbs From Ninth to Second With the Second-Best Free Skate in France; Siao Him Fa Wins at Home

Sota Yamamoto finishes fifth; Ami Nakai, who won the women's event, says she has found her feet

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Kao Miura rose from ninth after the short programme to second place at the Grand Prix de France in Angers on Sunday, scoring 175.29 in the free skate, the second-best of the day, for a total of 247.96.

Adam Siao Him Fa of France won in front of his home crowd with 284.24, after placing first in both programmes, for his fifth Grand Prix victory, Kyodo News reported.

Yamamoto

Sota Yamamoto, eighth after the short programme, was fourth in the free skate and finished fifth with 224.24.

Nakai

Ami Nakai, who came from behind to win the women's event on Saturday for her second straight title in France, spoke the next day about the confidence the win had given her.

The pairs

Anastasia Metelkina and Luka Berulava of Georgia, the Milano Cortina Olympic silver medallists, won the pairs with 204.65 for their third Grand Prix victory.

The series

The Grand Prix de France was the first of the season's six Grand Prix events, and the top six skaters in each discipline qualify for the final in Chongqing, China, in December.

Miura's comeback

Miura had a slow start in the short programme but recovered with a free skate that only the winner bettered.

Next

The Grand Prix series continues next weekend.

SPORTS

Antonelli Wins the U.S. Grand Prix From Pole for His Ninth Victory of the Season; Honda-Powered Aston Martins Finish 15th and 16th

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes won the United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, on Sunday from pole position, his ninth victory of the season, Kyodo News reported.

The race was the 18th round of the Formula One world championship.

Honda

Lance Stroll of Canada and Fernando Alonso of Spain, driving for Aston Martin with Honda power units, finished 15th and 16th.

A young winner

Antonelli, who turned 20 in August, is Mercedes' young Italian driver and has become one of the leading figures of the season under the new technical rules.

Honda's season

Honda began supplying Aston Martin this season under the new power unit regulations.

The circuit

The Circuit of the Americas in Austin has staged the race since 2012.

Next

The championship moves on to Mexico City.

Japan

The Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka was held in the spring.

Mercedes

Mercedes have returned to the front this season after several years behind Red Bull and McLaren.

SPORTS

Yuki Ito and Yukiya Sato Win the NHK Cup Jumping at Okurayama; Kasai, 54, Is Ninth; a Course Record in the 10,000 Metres at M-Wave

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Yuki Ito won the women's NHK Cup ski jumping competition at Sapporo's Okurayama jump on Sunday with leaps of 137.5 and 139.5 metres for 272.5 points, and Yukiya Sato won the men's event with 133 and 142.5 metres for 273.4 points.

The hill has a size of 137 metres, Kyodo News reported.

Kasai

Noriaki Kasai, 54, the eight-time Olympian who jumps for Tsuchiya Home, finished ninth in the men's event.

The jumpers

Ito, of Tsuchiya Home, competed at the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics. Sato jumps for Snow Brand Megmilk.

Speed skating

The All-Japan Distance Championships ended at M-Wave in Nagano. A Rikkyo University student who skated at the Milano Cortina Olympics won the women's 1,500 metres in 1:57.84 for her first national title, 0.03 seconds ahead of Kubo of JTB.

The men's 1,000

Kazuya Yamada of Wellnet, also an Olympian, won the men's 1,000 metres in 1:09.15, his second national title and his first in three years.

The 10,000

Kikuchi, of Sanpachigo Kotsu, won the men's 10,000 metres in 13:18.68, a championship record, for his first title.

The season

The distance championships decide places in the national team for the opening World Cup events.

Ski jumping's season

The World Cup ski jumping season opens in November, and the NHK Cup is one of the last domestic competitions before it.

Okurayama

The Okurayama jump was used for the large-hill event at the 1972 Sapporo Olympics and still stages World Cup competitions.

SPORTS

Takahashi's Sawamura Season in Numbers

By the Sports Desk

STARTS: 23.

RECORD: 16 wins, 3 losses.

WINNING PERCENTAGE: .842, the league's best.

WINS: The league's most.

ERA: 1.87, a close second in the league.

INNINGS: 159.

STRIKEOUTS: 150.

COMPLETE GAMES: 5.

CRITERIA MISSED: Three, starts, complete games and innings.

AGE: 30.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Nishiyama turns professional, Page 14.

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SPORTS



A poster for the Grand Sumo Thailand Tournament of 2011, showing top-division wrestlers, in a file image. The rankings for the Kyushu tournament, released on Monday, make Churanoumi the first wrestler from Okinawa to reach sanyaku. (File image: WPM Productions)

SPORTS

Churanoumi Becomes the First Wrestler From Okinawa to Reach Sanyaku as the Rankings for the Kyushu Tournament Are Released

At 33 he is the fourth-oldest new sanyaku since the war; Tamawashi, nearly 42, returns to the top division and Shodai drops to juryo

By Kenji Tanaka | Sports Desk

Churanoumi was promoted to komusubi on Monday, becoming the first wrestler from Okinawa Prefecture to reach the sanyaku ranks, as the Japan Sumo Association released the rankings for the Kyushu tournament, which opens at Fukuoka Kokusai Center on November 8.

At 33 years and 5 months, he is the fourth-oldest wrestler to make his sanyaku debut since the Second World War, and his 63 tournaments from his debut are the slowest for a wrestler from a university background, Kyodo News reported.

The yokozuna

Onosato, who won the September tournament, is ranked first, at east yokozuna, and seeks his seventh title. Hoshoryu, who has withdrawn from the last three tournaments, stays at west yokozuna.

The ozeki

Aonishiki is the east ozeki and Kotozakura the west, with Kirishima in the second east position.

The sekiwake

Fujinokawa, who won 11 bouts in September, is the east sekiwake for the second straight tournament and is trying to build a case for promotion to ozeki. Atamifuji holds the west sekiwake rank for a fourth straight tournament.

The komusubi

Churanoumi is the east komusubi and Yoshinofuji returns to sanyaku at west komusubi after two tournaments away.

Into the top division

Three wrestlers reach the top division for the first time, including Dewanoryu, from Mongolia. Tamawashi, at 41 years and 11 months, returns to the top division, the oldest wrestler to do so since the Showa era began, and Kitanowaka and Daiseizan also return.

Shodai

Shodai, a former ozeki, drops to juryo for the first time since the Kyushu tournament of 2015.

Onosato's tour

The autumn regional tour ended in Ube, Yamaguchi Prefecture, on Sunday after 19 days. "I was glad I completed it without falling ill or leaving," Onosato said. Last year in Kyushu he injured his left shoulder and missed the final day while sharing the lead. "I want to build a body that can fight for all 15 days," he said.

Hoshoryu's knee

Hoshoryu, who had surgery on his right knee in late July, joined the tour on October 10 and took part in practice bouts from the middle of the tour, and his knee has gradually improved, Kyodo News reported.

SPORTS

Denso Become the First Japanese Club to Win Asia's Women's Club Title; Nagoya Diamond Dolphins Extend Their Perfect Start to 8-0

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Denso, last season's W League champions, beat a Chinese club 81-63 in the final of the Basketball League Asia women's tournament in Bengaluru, India, on Sunday, becoming the first Japanese team to win the competition, which began in 2024.

Kasagi of Denso was named the tournament's most valuable player, Kyodo News reported.

B Premier

The Nagoya Diamond Dolphins beat Tokyo SR 96-85 at Toyota Arena Tokyo to extend their unbeaten start to eight games. Tokyo SR fell to 8-4. The Chiba Jets beat Osaka 87-65 for their fourth win against seven defeats, and Osaka are 1-10.

The NBA

Rui Hachimura started for the Los Angeles Clippers in a 108-101 defeat by the Oklahoma City Thunder, scoring five points on 2-of-11 shooting with four rebounds in 28 minutes 47 seconds.

W League

Hirashita, Toyota's captain, said at a news conference before the new W League season that her team would make use of its height.

Denso's year

The Asian title adds to Denso's domestic championship and gives the club, based in Aichi Prefecture, a strong start to the season.

The tournament

Basketball League Asia brings together club teams from across the region.

The new league

The B Premier is the new top division the B.League introduced this season, with stricter requirements for clubs' arenas and finances. Monday's game in Tokyo was played at Toyota Arena Tokyo, the arena on the capital's waterfront that opened last year.

Next

The W League's new season is about to begin.

CULTURE

The Tokyo International Film Festival Opens on a Wet Red Carpet, With Three Japanese Films Among 15 Competing for the Top Prize

Mayu Matsuoka, Sairi Ito and Judy Ongg are among the guests; the festival runs until November 4

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The 39th Tokyo International Film Festival opened on Monday at cinemas and other venues in the Hibiya district of Tokyo, with 15 films competing for the top prize, three of them by Japanese directors.

The red carpet event before the opening was held in the rain, Kyodo News reported. The festival runs until November 4, when the awards will be announced.

The Japanese entries

The Japanese films in competition are "Otoko Tomodachi", directed by Yukiko Mishima; "Yokai, Bakemono o Hirou", directed by Akira Ikeda; and "Katai", directed by Yamamoto.

On the carpet

Mayu Matsuoka, who stars in "Otoko Tomodachi", walked the red carpet with Mishima. Sairi Ito, who stars in the film version of "Tora ni Tsubasa", which is screened in the Gala Selection section, also appeared.

Judy Ongg

The singer Judy Ongg appeared for the Taiwanese film "Hidamari no Uta ga Kikoeru", in which she acts.

The opening film

The opening film is "SUKIYAKI", Takahisa Zeze's film about the making of Kyu Sakamoto's hit song "Ue o Muite Aruko", starring Junichi Okada, Tori Matsuzaka and Taiga Nakano.

Tora ni Tsubasa

"Tora ni Tsubasa" was NHK's morning drama series in 2024, starring Ito as a woman who becomes one of Japan's first female lawyers and judges, and was one of the most popular dramas of recent years.

The centrepiece

"Godzilla -0.0", Takashi Yamazaki's sequel to the Oscar-winning "Godzilla Minus One", is the festival's centrepiece, ahead of its release on November 3.

The market

TIFFCOM, the content market held alongside the festival, runs from Wednesday to Friday.

Hibiya

First held in 1985, the festival is Japan's main international film festival and moved its main venues to the Hibiya, Yurakucho and Ginza area in 2021.

Mishima

Mishima's earlier films include "Bread of Happiness" and "Dear Etranger", and she has often portrayed families under strain.

CULTURE

Governors of 34 Prefectures Ask for State Money to Train the Next Generation of Kagura Performers Ahead of a UNESCO Listing Bid

They suggest the departure tax could fund the Shinto music and dance traditions, which are nominated for 2028

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

An alliance of governors from 34 prefectures and groups that preserve kagura, the Shinto music and dance performed at shrines across Japan, asked the education ministry on Monday for state funding to train successors and strengthen the groups' finances.

The government formally nominated kagura in March for inscription on UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage in 2028, Kyodo News reported.

The argument

The falling birth rate, the ageing population and population decline are making it harder to pass kagura on, the petition said. "Public support is indispensable for maintaining traditional culture whose value cannot be measured by economic rationality alone," it said.

The money

It suggested using the international tourist tax, the departure tax paid by travellers leaving Japan, as a stable source of funding.

The listing

The petition also asked the ministries concerned to work together to make sure the 2028 inscription is achieved.

The handover

A representative of the governors' alliance handed the petition to a parliamentary vice-minister of education at the ministry on Monday afternoon.

What kagura is

Kagura covers a wide range of performances, from the solemn dances of shrine maidens to the dramatic masked plays of the Iwami region of Shimane and the night-long Takachiho kagura of Miyazaki, many of them performed by local preservation groups.

Under threat

Many groups depend on volunteers whose numbers are falling as young people leave rural areas, and some have stopped performing.

Already listed

Two local forms, Hayachine kagura in Iwate and Sada Shin Noh in Shimane, have been inscribed by UNESCO in their own right, in 2009 and 2011.

Japan's list

Japan already has more than 20 elements on UNESCO's intangible heritage list, including washoku, washi papermaking, traditional skills for conserving wooden buildings and traditional sake making.

Next

UNESCO's committee will examine the nomination before deciding in 2028.

CULTURE

Island Songs, Ryukyu Dance and Karate at Japan's Embassy in Beijing, as Okinawa Woos Chinese Visitors Ahead of Shuri Castle's Reopening

By Rachel Kim | Asia Correspondent

An event to promote Okinawa's culture to Chinese audiences was held at the Japanese Embassy in Beijing on Sunday, with performances of island songs, Ryukyu dance and the sanshin, Okinawa's three-stringed instrument.

About 170 people attended the event, which aimed to show Okinawa's appeal as a destination at a time when relations between Japan and China have cooled and the number of Chinese visitors to Japan has fallen, Kyodo News reported.

Karate

Because Okinawa is regarded as the birthplace of karate, the programme included karate demonstrations and lessons in self-defence.

Shuri Castle

The main hall of Shuri Castle in Naha, which burned down in 2019, has been restored and will open to the public in November.

The invitation

"We hope people from China will come to Okinawa, taking the revival of Shuri Castle as an opportunity," said Kenji Maeda, the head of Okinawa Prefecture's Beijing office.

Old ties

The Ryukyu Kingdom, which ruled Okinawa until the 19th century, paid tribute to the Chinese court for centuries, and its culture shows strong Chinese influences, from music to architecture.

The castle

Shuri Castle was the royal palace of the Ryukyu Kingdom. The 2019 fire destroyed the main hall, which had been rebuilt in 1992 after being destroyed in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945.

Next

The restored main hall opens to the public in November.

SPORTS

The Kyushu Tournament: The Top Ranks

By the Sports Desk

YOKOZUNA: Onosato (east), Hoshoryu (west).

OZEKI: Aonishiki (east), Kotozakura (west), Kirishima (east, second).

SEKIWAKE: Fujinokawa (east), Atamifuji (west).

KOMUSUBI: Churanoumi (east, new), Yoshinofuji (west).

FIRST FROM OKINAWA: Churanoumi, the first Okinawan in sanyaku.

NEW IN THE TOP DIVISION: Three, including Dewanoryu of Mongolia.

RETURNING: Tamawashi, 41, Kitanowaka and Daiseizan.

DOWN TO JURYO: Shodai, the former ozeki.

OPENS: November 8, Fukuoka Kokusai Center.

ONOSATO: Seeking his seventh title.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

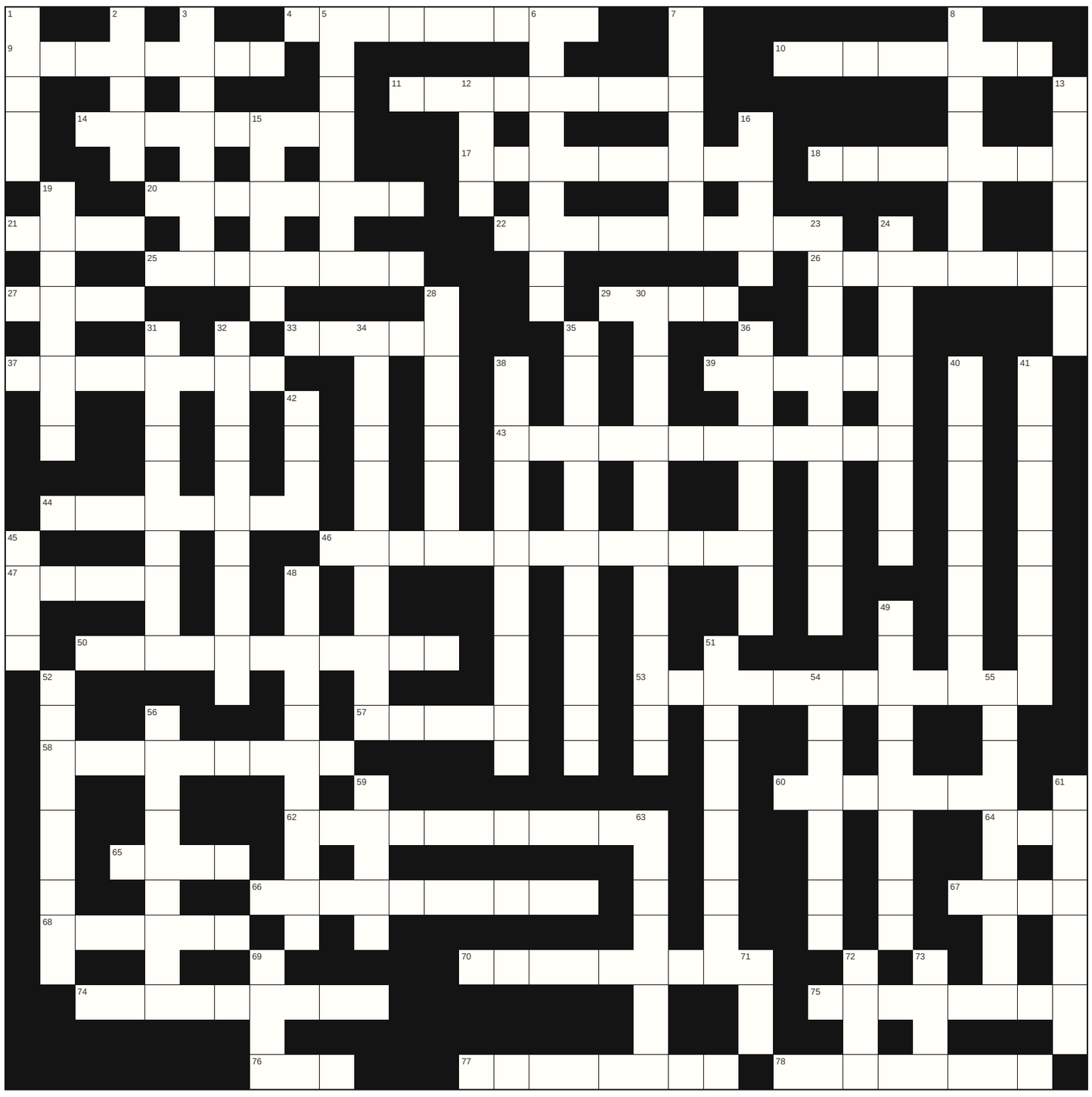
Crossword, Page 23.

In-fa deepens to 940 hPa, Page 3.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Today's Professional Puzzle — Constructed by James O'Neill — 78 Words



Solution will appear in tomorrow's edition. Puzzle difficulty: Professional.

ACROSS

4. Sapporo ski jump (9)
9. Former Hyogo vice-governor who lost (8)
10. City of the victory speech (8)
11. The LDP's compromise figure (9)
14. Niigata's mayor, now in a third term (8)
17. Seats in the ruling parties' bill (9)
18. His new rank (8)
20. Islands near In-fa (8)
21. Sunny at 29 (4)
22. Country whose prime minister arrived (10)
25. E-mail firm reporting 51.62 million records (8)
26. Land minister at the expo site (8)
27. Jockey Yutaka, 57 (4)
29. Judy, singer at the festival (4)
33. Somali town where he worked (5)
37. Diplomat honoured with a concert (8)
39. Favourite who finished 14th (6)
43. Record 514 among restaurants (12)
44. Lost to Mertens at Ariake (8)
46. North Korea-linked group behind the DMM theft (13)
47. Assembly that spent most on trips abroad (5)
50. Console sold in America from 2000 (11)
53. Covert foreign ___ to be punished (12)
57. Ishikawa city of the hot springs (5)
58. City of the JR Hokkaido talks (9)
60. British prime minister open to free movement (7)
62. Express cut back to Tsuruga (11)
64. Polar bear going to Toyohashi (3)
65. World champion at 60 kg (4)
66. Student judo team champions (10)
67. Yamaguchi city of the robbery-murder (4)
68. One end of the farewell run (6)
70. Training school no woman had passed (9)
74. Country she returned to (9)
75. Heating fuel whose supply must be secured (8)
76. Islands facing heavy rain (3)
77. Sire of the Kikuka winner (8)
78. Finnish defence minister in Tokyo (8)

DOWN

1. Last Tigers manager to serve as long (5)
2. Ibaraki town of a restaurant killing (5)
3. Yokohama flower expo, for short (8)
5. Father of the PlayStation (8)
6. Bangladeshi port and power complex (9)
7. Founder of Doshisha (7)
8. Go player one win from seven straight (8)
12. Typhoon No. 31 (4)
13. Danger after a big data leak (8)
15. Texas city of the race (6)
16. What the mice pressed (5)
19. Award won by Haruto Takahashi (8)
23. Ibaraki city where a waste survey began (12)
24. Oita district whose ruins are cleared (10)
28. What Brazil is not, said its president (8)
30. Option Takaichi put on the table against attack servers (14)
31. Ogasawara island 250 km from that area (10)
32. New York body settling abuse claims (11)
34. Foreign agent ___ system proposed (12)
35. Capability the long-range missiles provide (13)
36. Michigan city of Trump's rally (9)
38. Joshin service with 230,000 log-in IDs (12)
40. Joshin system that held ID images (10)
41. What unused powers fail to provide (10)
42. Okayama city with the barrier-free map (4)
45. South African currency sold in a victim's account (4)
48. Suit planned by Times Car customers (11)
49. Cameron film of 1984 (10)
51. City of the hospital ordered to improve (10)
52. Leader seeking Trump's backing (9)
54. Digital minister at the AI panel (8)
55. The 1972 document Beijing cited (10)
56. Event at which a tent blew away (9)
59. Goto town with 283.5 mm (5)
61. Seats the DPP would cut (8)
63. Foundation that set up a committee (8)
69. Carmaker building its first U.S. plant (4)
71. Town of the paper museum (3)
72. Junya Ito's Belgian club (4)
73. Polar bear going to Kagoshima (4)

SPORTS

Sports in Brief

By the Sports Desk

GIANTS: The Giants released six players, including Shogo Asano, the outfielder drafted first out of Takamatsu Shogyo High School, and plan to offer them developmental contracts; Asano had right knee surgery in late August.

YAKULT: The Swallows promoted their batting coach Kawabata to the first-team staff.

GO: Rina Fujisawa beat Risa Ueno in 239 moves in Noshiro, Akita Prefecture, to lead the Women's Honinbo title match 2-0, one win from a seventh straight title; Game 3 is on November 11.

SUMO: The Kyushu tournament opens on November 8.

VOLLEYBALL: Osaka Bluteon won their first two games of the new SV League season.

BASEBALL: SoftBank lead the Japan Series 2-0; Game 3 is on Tuesday in Fukuoka.

WORLD SERIES: Milwaukee lead Tampa Bay 2-0; Game 3 is on Tuesday morning, Japan time.

HACHIMURA: Five points in a Clippers defeat.

RACE WALKING: Masatora Kawano set a world record of 2:55:14.

RACING: Going To Sky won the Kikuka Sho.

SAWAMURA: Hanshin's Haruto Takahashi won his first Sawamura Award.

CULTURE

Culture in Brief

By the Culture Desk

FILM: The 39th Tokyo International Film Festival opened in Hibiya on Monday; awards are announced on November 4.

SHOGI: Tomoka Nishiyama will become the first woman professional shogi player on April 1.

GO: Rina Fujisawa leads the Women's Honinbo match 2-0.

KAGURA: Governors asked for state funding to train performers.

IMPERIAL FAMILY: The Emperor and Empress opened the National Cultural Festival in Kochi on Sunday.

PAPER: The couple visited the Ino Paper Museum, which tells the history of Tosa washi, on Monday.

MUSIC: A piece called "Masha's Thank You" was played in New York to honour Chiune Sugihara.

LANGUAGE: A Japanese speech contest for young Russians was held online for the first time.

OKINAWA: Shuri Castle's restored main hall opens to the public in November.

EXPO: Yokohama's horticultural expo has sold just under 30 per cent of its ticket target.

EDITORIAL

Festivals and Events This Week

By the Culture Desk

TOKYO: The Tokyo International Film Festival in Hibiya, until November 4.

NARA: The Shosoin Exhibition at the Nara National Museum, until November 9.

KOCHI: The National Cultural Festival, opened by the Emperor and Empress on Sunday.

UENO: The Tate's Turner exhibition at the National Museum of Western Art, until February 21.

FUKUOKA: Japan Series Games 3 to 5 at Mizuho PayPay Dome, Tuesday to Thursday.

YOKOHAMA: Japan Series Games 6 and 7, if needed, October 31 and November 1.

SAKATA: The 50th anniversary of the Sakata fire, Thursday.

SENDAI: Farewell events for the twin polar bears at Yagiyama, November 20 and 22.

HALLOWEEN: Saturday, October 31.

NOVEMBER 3: Culture Day, with the Order of Culture ceremony at the Imperial Palace.

EDITORIAL

Words in the News

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

NEUTRALISATION: Accessing and disabling servers used in cyberattacks, under the active cyber defence laws.

FOREIGN AGENT REGISTRATION: A system requiring those who lobby for a foreign government to register.

RANSOM: Money demanded by attackers to stop leaking or disrupting.

HAKUREI: A women's shogi title; five wins now open the way to professional status.

SHOREIKAI: The Japan Shogi Association's training school.

SAWAMURA AWARD: The prize for the best starting pitcher.

KIKUKA SHO: The 3,000-metre final leg of the Triple Crown.

KOMUSUBI: The fourth-highest sumo rank.

EXTRATROPICAL LOW: A storm that has lost its tropical structure.

PUSH-TYPE SUPPORT: Sending disaster supplies without waiting for a request.

STUDENT LIST: The Serbian political force born of student protests.

POLITICS

The Seat Cut: Where the Parties Stand

By the Political Desk

THE HOUSE: 465 seats, 289 in single-seat districts and 176 by proportional representation.

THE RULING PARTIES' BILL: Cut 45 proportional seats.

THE LDP'S COMPROMISE: Cut 31, with a formula that helps smaller parties.

ISHIN: "A cut of 45 is the main course"; response left to its executives.

DPP: A cut of 19 is desirable; no position yet on 31.

KOMEITO: Opposes cutting only proportional seats.

DEMOCRATIC REFORM ASSOCIATION: Opposes the 31-seat plan.

TEAM MIRAI: Opposes the 31-seat plan.

THE AIM: A conclusion by the end of October.

THE SESSION: Ends on December 12.

TECHNOLOGY

The Joshin Breach: Three Systems

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

MEMBER DATABASE: Names, addresses and telephone numbers, up to about 6 million people.

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE: Member numbers and log-in IDs, up to about 230,000.

RENOVATION SYSTEM: Up to about 800 records in all.

IN IT: Two driving licence images, one My Number card and five bank account numbers.

DISCLOSED: Monday, October 26.

CAUSE: Unauthorised access to the company's network.

WHAT TO DO: Beware of messages that use your name or address.

ALSO: Check bank statements and change reused passwords.

YUMILINK: About 51.62 million records, also disclosed on Monday.

GOVERNMENT: An emergency package due as early as next week.

EDITORIAL

Cyberattacks on Japan: A Timeline

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

SEPT. 2022: Pro-Russian hackers knock government websites, including the e-Gov portal, offline.

JULY 2023: Ransomware halts the container terminals at the port of Nagoya for more than two days.

MAY 2024: About 48.2 billion yen in bitcoin is stolen from DMM Bitcoin; police and the FBI later blame North Korea's TraderTraitor.

JUNE 2024: A ransomware attack on Kadokawa takes the Niconico video service offline for weeks.

DEC. 2024: Attacks flooding systems with traffic disrupt Japan Airlines and major banks.

JAN. 2025: The National Police Agency attributes the MirrorFace campaign to actors linked to China.

MAY 2025: The Diet enacts the active cyber defence laws.

SEPT.-OCT. 2025: Ransomware hits Asahi Group, halting shipments, and then the office supplier Askul.

OCT. 1, 2026: The laws' main provisions, including neutralisation, take effect.

OCT. 2026: Breaches at GMO, Sagawa Express, Times Car, Joshin and Yumilink; ministers meet on October 26.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Missiles at Riyadh's airport, Page 8.

Nikkei falls 503 on AI doubts, Page 10.

Joshin and Yumilink leaks, Page 12.

Nishiyama turns professional, Page 14.

Kawamura wins Game 2, Page 20.

Going To Sky's Kikuka Sho, Page 19.

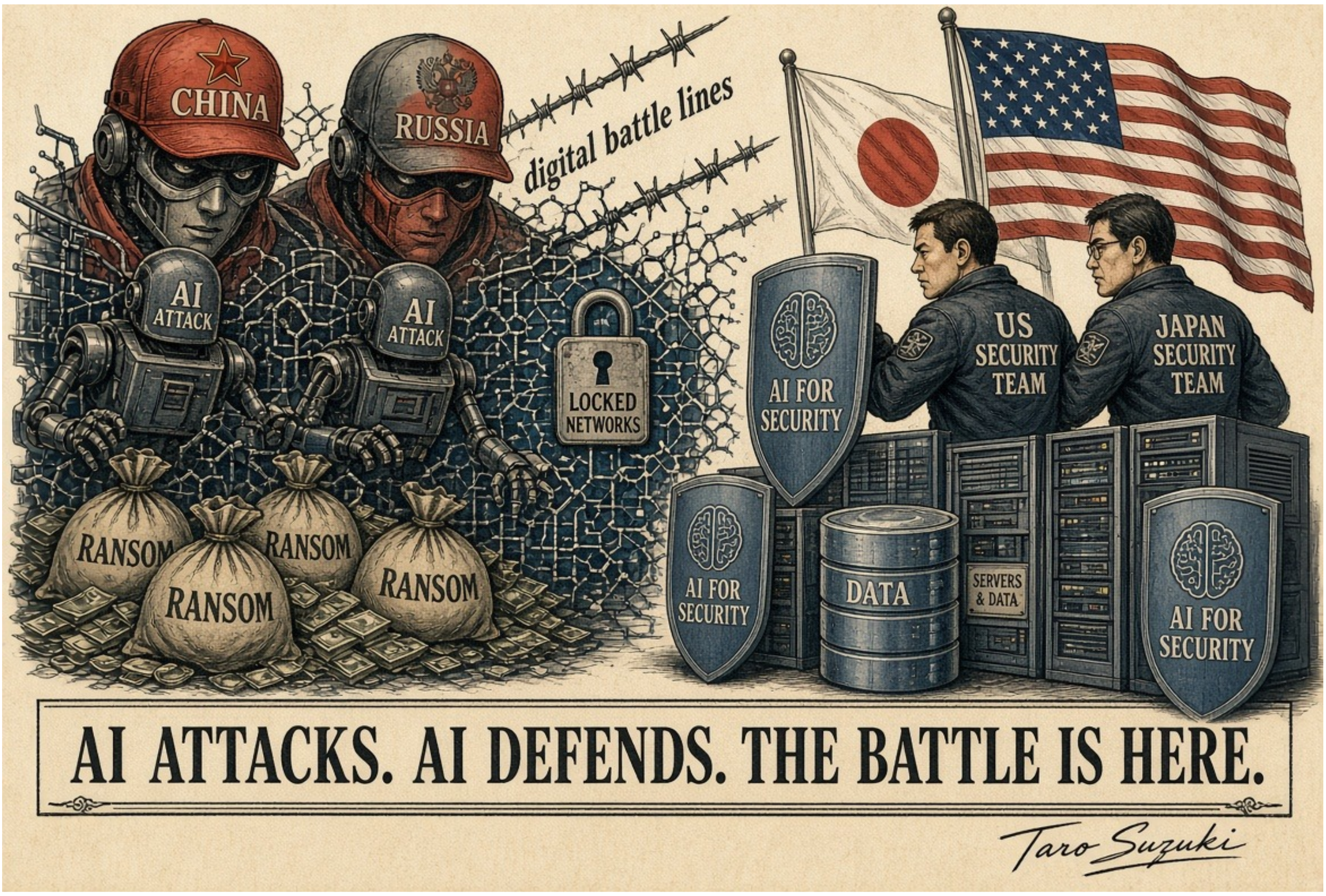
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EDITORIAL & OPINION



Editorial cartoon by Taro Suzuki for The Japan Morning Post.

EDITORIAL

The Battle Is Already Here. Japan Must Answer Machine-Speed Attacks With Machine-Speed Defence, Its New Powers and Its Allies

The prime minister was right to say every option is on the table, including neutralising the servers behind the attacks. Next week's emergency package must turn that promise into deterrence, protect the data companies hold, refuse ransoms on principle and put artificial intelligence to work for the defenders

By Samantha Ortiz | Editorial Page Editor

On Monday evening Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi sat down with the ministers responsible for Japan's defence against cyberattacks and said what the country needed to hear. "The situation has become serious, and we need to strengthen our measures urgently," she told them. "Against cyberattacks whose nature we have established, we will strategically select and carry out every response option, including neutralisation measures." An emergency package of measures, she said, would be put together as early as next week.

The words matter because of what preceded them. In the space of a single day, the chairman of GMO Internet Group disclosed that the attacker who broke into its Onamae.com Desktop Cloud service had demanded 50 million dollars, about 7.9 billion yen. Joshin Denki, the electronics retailer, said that information on up to just over 6 million people might have leaked from three of its systems, including images of driving licences, a My Number card and bank account numbers held in a system used for home renovation work. Yumilink, a company that delivers e-mail for businesses, said that a cumulative total of about 51.62 million records, including e-mail addresses, might have been exposed. A lawyer announced a class action on behalf of customers of the car-sharing service Times Car, whose operator has said data from about 6.62 million accounts leaked. And all of this came on top of possible leaks of up to 53.23 million records from Sagawa Express's parcel tracking service, unauthorised orders in customers' accounts at Iwai Cosmo Securities and the exposure of an Environment Ministry newsletter's subscriber list.

The cartoon on this page puts it in eight words: AI attacks. AI defends. The battle is here. It is not an exaggeration. Japan is not facing a run of bad luck or a cluster of careless companies. It is facing a change in the economics of attack, driven by tools that let intruders find weaknesses faster, write convincing lures in flawless Japanese and move through networks at a speed no human defender can match. The question for the government, for business and for every citizen is whether the defence will change as quickly.

What has changed

For most of the past two decades, Japan treated cybersecurity as a technical matter for information technology departments, a cost to be minimised and a subject for guidelines rather than law. Breaches were apologised for, passwords were reset, and life went on. That approach was always inadequate. It is now dangerous.

A Kyodo News analysis published this month found that about 85,000 software vulnerabilities had been registered so far this year, 2.2 times as many as in the same period last year. The rise reflects, in part, the use of artificial intelligence to find flaws that would once have taken skilled researchers weeks to uncover. Critical vulnerabilities in the programming language PHP, which runs a large share of the world's websites, have forced ministries and companies to take services offline in recent days, and many smaller operators are thought to be slow to apply the fixes. Microsoft reported this month on a large campaign by a China-based group that used AI agents against hundreds of organisations around the world.

The same tools serve defenders. An AI system that can find a flaw can help to fix it, and one that can read millions of log entries can spot an intruder that a tired analyst would miss. But the advantage goes, at first, to whoever moves first and cares least about the damage done. Attackers need to succeed once; defenders need to succeed every time. That asymmetry has always existed. AI widens it, unless defenders adopt the same tools as quickly and as boldly.

Who is attacking

We do not know who broke into GMO's service, Joshin's networks or Yumilink's systems, and it would be wrong to guess. Many attacks are the work of criminal gangs seeking money, and the demand made to GMO looks like extortion of the familiar kind.

But it would be equally wrong to pretend that the threat to Japan is only criminal. In December 2024 Japan's National Police Agency and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation attributed the theft of about 48.2 billion yen in bitcoin from the exchange DMM Bitcoin to TraderTraitor, a group linked to North Korea. In January last year the police agency attributed a long campaign of attacks on Japanese ministries, think tanks, politicians and journalists, known as MirrorFace, to actors linked to China. Pro-Russian groups have repeatedly flooded Japanese government and corporate websites with traffic to knock them offline. States that are hostile to Japan's interests, and criminal groups that operate from their territory with impunity, are part of the picture whether or not they are behind any particular incident.

That is why the prime minister's words were well chosen. She did not promise to strike at whoever happened to be accused. She spoke of attacks "whose nature we have established". Attribution must come first. But once it is established, Japan must be prepared to act.

The new powers

The tools for acting exist. The active cyber defence laws enacted in May last year, whose main provisions took effect on October 1, allow the government to analyse communications data to detect attacks and permit the police and, in serious cases, the Self-Defense Forces to access and disable the servers used in attacks, including servers abroad, with the approval of an independent commission. Operators of critical infrastructure in 15 sectors must report serious incidents and share information about their systems.

On Saturday GMO asked the government to use those powers for the first time. Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara answered on Monday that the government would decide whether to neutralise attack servers regardless of whether anyone had asked. That is the correct principle. A power that any company could summon by request would quickly become a private security service paid for by taxpayers, and the government would lose control of the timing and targets of operations that can carry diplomatic and legal risks. The state must decide on its own judgment.

But the state must also decide. A system that is never used deters no one. The first use of neutralisation will be studied closely by attackers, by allies and by the public, and it should be chosen with care: against an adversary whose responsibility is well established, whose operations threaten large numbers of citizens or the functioning of essential services, and in a way that can later be explained. An attack that drains ordinary people's trading accounts across more than 70 brokers and then demands millions of dollars is not a minor nuisance. If the facts support it, the government should not hesitate merely because the victim is not on the list of critical infrastructure.

Never pay

GMO was right to refuse the demand, and the company deserves credit for saying so publicly. Paying a ransom does not guarantee that stolen data will be deleted, that it will not be sold, or that the attacker will not return. It funds the next attack, and it marks the payer as someone who pays.

The emergency package should make Japan's position unmistakable. The government should state as policy that it will not pay ransoms and that it expects companies and public bodies not to pay either. It should require any organisation that is asked for a ransom to report the demand promptly to the police and to the National Cybersecurity Office, whether or not it pays, so that the state can see the scale of extortion and trace the money. Our allies have moved in this direction, and Japan, a country whose companies are seen as wealthy and reluctant to resist, should not be the soft target of last resort.

The warning that was ignored

The most troubling sentence of the day came from GMO's own chairman. Masatoshi Kumagai wrote that engineers inside the company had pointed out security problems "that should be improved" before the attack, that the company's response had been inadequate, and that "the attacker exploited that gap". He apologised, and his candour is welcome. But the admission describes a failure that is far from unique to his company.

In Japanese organisations, as in many others, security staff often know where the weaknesses are long before an intruder finds them. What they lack is the

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authority to stop a service until it is fixed, the budget to fix it, and a board that treats their warnings as seriously as a warning from the finance department. Security is still too often treated as a cost centre rather than as a condition of doing business.

That must change, and the law can help. Directors of listed companies should be expected to receive regular reports on cyber risk, to record their decisions on known weaknesses, and to answer for those decisions when breaches occur. Investors are already doing their part: GMO Internet Group's shares fell more than 15 per cent on Monday. The market has priced the cost of failure. The law should make sure that the cost is weighed before failure, not only after it.

The data no one should have kept

The Joshin disclosure contains a detail that deserves attention. Images of driving licences, a My Number card and bank account numbers were held in a system used for home renovation work. The numbers involved are small, a handful of records among hundreds, but the principle is large. Japanese companies have accumulated enormous stores of personal information, often for purposes that have long since passed, and every record kept is a record that can be stolen.

An e-mail delivery company holding more than 50 million records is not unusual; that is the nature of the business. But it makes such companies extraordinarily valuable targets, because one breach exposes the customers of hundreds of client businesses at once. Sagawa's tracking service and Times Car's membership database tell the same story.

Japan's personal information law has required companies since 2022 to report serious leaks to the Personal Information Protection Commission and to notify the people affected. That was a step forward. The next step should be stronger enforcement of the principle that companies keep only the data they need, for only as long as they need it, and protect it in proportion to the harm its loss would cause. Identity document images, in particular, should be deleted as soon as the check they were collected for is complete. The commission needs the staff and the powers to make that principle bite.

Help for the small

Large companies can buy security. Small ones often cannot. The PHP vulnerabilities showed the problem clearly: patches were available, but many small operators of websites and online shops had neither the staff to apply them nor, in many cases, the knowledge that they needed to. A chain is as strong as its weakest link, and in Japan's economy the weakest links are often the small suppliers and service providers through whom attackers reach larger targets.

The emergency package should include practical help: subsidised security assessments for small and medium-sized companies, shared services that monitor networks and apply critical fixes on their behalf, and clear, plain-language alerts when a flaw is being exploited. The Liberal Democratic Party's own cybersecurity task force has already asked for more support for smaller companies. The government should act on that request quickly.

Put AI to work for the defence

If AI is accelerating attacks, it must accelerate defence. The government should fund the use of AI to find vulnerabilities in the software Japanese companies and public bodies depend on before attackers do, and to share the results with those responsible for fixing them. It should encourage the development of domestic capability in AI-driven security monitoring, so that Japan does not depend entirely on foreign vendors for the tools that protect its networks. And it should press software suppliers, at home and abroad, to ship products that are secure by design rather than relying on customers to patch them after the fact.

The expert panel that began reviewing the AI Act on Monday has a role here too. Its members are considering whether to introduce penalties for malicious operators, and Toshiharu Furukawa, the digital minister, spoke of the need to work more closely with other countries on AI safety. Penalties aimed squarely at those who build or sell AI tools for crime are justified. The panel should take care, however, not to burden the legitimate developers whose work will be essential to the defence. Japan has said it wants to be the most AI-friendly country in the world. It should also be the country that uses AI best to protect itself.

People

No tool will compensate for a shortage of skilled people. Estimates of Japan's shortfall of cybersecurity workers run to more than 100,000. The government and business should treat the training of security engineers as a national priority, from university programmes and scholarships to mid-career retraining and pay that reflects the value of the work. The Self-Defense Forces and the police, who will carry out any neutralisation, need to be able to recruit and keep specialists who could earn far more in the private sector.

Allies

The cartoon shows the American and Japanese security teams standing side by side, and that is as it should be. The United States and Britain already have agencies that act against hostile servers abroad, and Japan's system was built in part to allow it to work alongside them. Intelligence sharing with the United States and other partners is essential to attribution, which in turn is essential to any lawful and proportionate response.

Japan should deepen that co-operation: joint exercises, shared analysis of attack infrastructure and, where it makes sense, co-ordinated action against the same networks. An attacker who operates from a third country is best confronted by allies acting together. The alliance that has kept the peace in this region for decades must extend its protection to the networks on which modern life depends.

Openness at home

The new powers touch on rights the Constitution protects, including the secrecy of communications. That is why the law requires an independent commission to approve the analysis of communications data and the neutralisation of servers. The government should be as open as security allows about how the powers are used: how often, against what kinds of target, with what results. A summary report to the Diet after each operation, or at least each year, would build the public confidence on which the system depends.

Yasuo Fukuda, the former prime minister whose death was announced on Monday, championed the Public Records and Archives Management Act, which obliges government bodies to keep their records and transfer them to the national archives. The principle he fought for applies here. Operations carried out in the public's name should be recorded, and the records kept, so that they can be examined later. Secrecy at the moment of action is sometimes necessary. Secrecy forever is not.

The foreign hand

On the same day, the government proposed a foreign agent registration system and penalties for covert interference in Japanese politics and public opinion. The two subjects belong together. Hostile states use cyber intrusion, influence operations and covert payments as parts of a single toolkit. A country that defends its networks but leaves its politics open to concealed foreign influence has defended only half of itself. The proposal should be pursued, with careful definitions that protect academic exchange and news gathering, as the experts advised.

What citizens can do

Citizens cannot defend themselves against a breach at a company they trusted. But they can make stolen data less useful. Use a different password for each important service and a password manager to keep track of them. Turn on two-step verification. Be suspicious of any message that uses your name, address or purchase history to seem genuine, because the people sending it may have just read those details in a stolen database. Check bank and card statements. The burden of security must fall chiefly on those who hold the data, but these habits make the attacker's work harder.

Lessons already paid for

Japan has not lacked warnings. In July 2023 a ransomware attack stopped the container terminals at the port of Nagoya, the country's busiest by cargo, for more than two days. In June 2024 an attack on the publisher Kadokawa took the Niconico video service offline for weeks and exposed the personal information of employees and business partners. Last autumn a ransomware attack halted order processing and shipments at Asahi Group, forcing the brewer to suspend much of its domestic production for a time, and the office supplies company Askul was hit soon afterwards. Each incident was treated as a shock. Together they describe a pattern that companies and government should long since have planned for.

Beyond the list

The active cyber defence system was built around 15 sectors of critical infrastructure, and that was a sensible place to begin. But the events of this month show how much of daily life now runs through companies that are not on the list: cloud services on which thousands of small businesses depend, parcel carriers whose tracking systems hold the addresses of tens of millions of people, e-mail delivery firms that serve hundreds of clients at once, and trading platforms that hold ordinary families' savings. The government should review whether some of these services, or at least the largest among them, should be brought into the system's reporting and information-sharing obligations. A breach that exposes the data of 50 million people is a national problem, whatever the legal classification of the company that suffered it.

The cost of delay

Every month in which known weaknesses go unfixed is a month in which attackers can exploit them. The government should set deadlines for its own ministries and agencies to apply critical patches and should publish how well they meet them, so that the public sector leads by example rather than lecturing the private sector from behind.

The package

The prime minister has promised an emergency package as early as next week. It should contain, at a minimum, six things: a clear statement that Japan will not pay ransoms, with mandatory reporting of demands; practical support for small and medium-sized companies; stronger enforcement of the rule that companies keep only the data they need; investment in AI-driven defence and in the people to run it; a framework for the use of neutralisation that is decisive in action and open in accounting; and deeper co-operation with the United States and other partners.

The battle is here

Japan has spent years debating whether it needed the powers it now has. That debate is over. The attacks are not hypothetical, the damage is not abstract, and the adversaries, criminal and state-backed, are not waiting for Japan to finish its deliberations. The prime minister said on Monday that every option is on the table. The test now is whether the government will pick one up.

OPINION

Fukuda Was a Realist Who Valued Dialogue With China. Beijing Should Not Use His Death to Lecture His Successors

By William | Senior Political Analyst

Yasuo Fukuda was not a politician who sought the spotlight. He came to elected office late, after years in the oil business, and reached the top only after Shinzo Abe's sudden resignation in 2007. His year in office was spent fighting a divided Diet. Yet he leaves a record worth remembering.

The secretary

As chief cabinet secretary for about three and a half years under Yoshiro Mori and Junichiro Koizumi, he was the government's steady voice, dry and sometimes sharp, but rarely careless.

The prime minister

As prime minister he showed a willingness to use the full powers of the lower house when the upper house blocked him, re-passing the refuelling law in 2008 to keep Japan's commitment to its allies. That took resolve.

Records

His most durable domestic legacy is the Public Records and Archives Management Act. A government that keeps its records is a government that can be held to account, and his insistence on that principle deserves more credit than it usually receives.

China

He believed in dialogue with China, and he signed the 2008 joint statement with Hu Jintao that committed both countries to a "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests". That was a reasonable aim, and it remains one.

Beijing's message

But China's Foreign Ministry did him no honour on Monday when it used its condolences to tell Japan's current leaders that they "should deeply reflect". Fukuda's approach assumed respect on both sides. Beijing's coercion of its neighbours, its pressure on Taiwan and its call on its own citizens to avoid travelling to Japan are not the fault of Japanese leaders.

The lesson

The lesson of Fukuda's career is not that Japan should defer to China. It is that patient diplomacy and firmness can go together. He kept channels open while keeping Japan's alliance with the United States at the centre of its policy.

For Takaichi

The present government should keep the door to dialogue open, as Fukuda did, and decline Beijing's invitation to treat a funeral as an occasion for self-criticism.

A quiet man

Japan has lost a quiet, capable public servant. He should be remembered for what he built.

OPINION

Neutralisation Will Only Deter if It Is Used, and It Will Only Be Trusted if Its Use Is Explained

By Maya Suzuki | Technology Correspondent

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's promise on Monday to use "every response option, including neutralisation measures" against attacks whose nature has been established marks a turning point in Japan's approach to cybersecurity.

The shift

Until now Japan has mostly defended by patching, warning and cleaning up. The active cyber defence laws allow something different: reaching into the servers that attackers use and disabling them.

The decision

Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara made clear that the government will decide for itself, whether or not a company asks. That is right. The timing and targets of such operations have diplomatic and legal consequences that only the state can weigh.

The first case

The first use will set the template. It should be against a clearly identified attacker whose activity threatens many citizens or essential services, and it should be planned with allies where infrastructure crosses borders.

Attribution

The hardest part is knowing who is responsible. Attackers rent servers, borrow tools and hide behind one another. Japan's analysts will need the help of partners, especially the United States, to be confident.

The commission

The independent commission that must approve neutralisation is the safeguard the Constitution demands. It should be given the expertise to examine technical evidence, not merely to sign forms.

Reporting

After each operation, the government should tell the Diet what was done, in as much detail as security allows. Trust grows from accountability.

Not a substitute

Neutralisation will not replace basic security. Most breaches still begin with unpatched software, stolen passwords or a careless click. Companies must fix those weaknesses themselves.

The message

Attackers have assumed that Japan would absorb the blows. Monday's words suggest that assumption may soon be wrong. The package due next week should prove it.

OPINION

Lula's Narrow Win Is a Reminder That Washington's Hemisphere Is Not Its Backyard, and That Japan Needs Brazil Whoever Governs

By Jonathan Mercer | Diplomatic Correspondent

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's victory over Flavio Bolsonaro, by 51.79 per cent to 48.21, was narrow, but it was decisive enough to check a wave.

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OPINION

The wave

In recent years several Latin American countries have elected right-wing governments friendly to the Trump administration, which has pursued what critics call the "Donroe Doctrine" of dominance in the Western Hemisphere.

Lula's answer

Lula told supporters that Brazil was "nobody's backyard". The phrase will play well at home and in much of the region.

The challenge

Bolsonaro's call to annul the result because voting was extended by two hours in bad weather should be rejected. Brazil's electoral system has proved its reliability, and losing candidates should accept results.

Washington's choice

The Trump administration may be tempted to increase pressure on Lula. It should not overreach. Brazil is too large and too important to be bullied, and pressure risks pushing it closer to China.

Japan's stake

For Japan, Brazil is a partner in food, energy and minerals, and home to the largest community of Japanese descent outside Japan. Tokyo's interest is in a stable Brazil that trades openly with all.

The alliance

Japan should support the United States in defending freedom of navigation and resisting coercion. But it can also show, as a trusted ally, that partnership works better than pressure.

Lula's task

At 80, Lula faces a divided country and a fragile economy. His fourth term will be judged on whether he governs for the 48 per cent who voted against him as well as for his supporters.

The region

Latin America's direction will be decided by its voters, not by Washington or Beijing. Sunday's vote was a reminder of that.

OPINION

From Its Plenum to Its Satellite Pictures of Taipei, Beijing Is Telling Its Neighbours It Is in No Mood to Compromise

By Rachel Kim | Asia Correspondent

China's Communist Party opened a four-day plenum on Monday devoted to "strict party governance", and Xi Jinping used the party's journal to warn against "two-faced" officials. The message is discipline at home ahead of next year's party congress.

The pictures

The day before, the state broadcaster released a video of detailed satellite images of Taipei, from the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall to the city's baseball dome, saying that "all the streets are clearly visible".

The meaning

The video was released on the day Beijing designated last year to mark Taiwan's "restoration". Its purpose is intimidation, dressed up as commemoration.

Japan

China's Foreign Ministry used its condolences for Yasuo Fukuda on Monday to tell Japan's current leaders to "deeply reflect". Taken together, these are not the signals of a government seeking compromise.

The response

Japan's answer should be calm firmness: maintain dialogue, protect the economy from coercion, and strengthen defences, as the government is doing with its first long-range missile unit and its partnerships from Finland to the Philippines.

Taiwan

Peace across the Taiwan Strait matters directly to Japan, whose westernmost islands lie a little over 100 km from Taiwan. Japan should say so plainly and work with partners to deter any use of force.

The plenum

Personnel decisions at the plenum will show whether Xi continues to purge the military and party elite. Instability at the top can make a government more, not less, assertive abroad.

The economy

China's slowing economy gives Beijing reasons to want stable relations with Japan's investors. That is leverage Tokyo should use.

The test

The test of China's intentions is not its words of condolence but its conduct at sea and in the air around Japan.

OPINION

Nishiyama's Breakthrough Should Be the Beginning of a Wider Opening of Shogi, Not the End of a Debate

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

Tomoka Nishiyama will become the first woman professional shogi player on April 1. It took 65 years from the day Akiko Takojima entered the Shoreikai.

Her achievement

Nishiyama earned her place by winning the Hakurei title five times and by years of competing against the best. She came close to turning professional through the Shoreikai itself.

The rule

The rule she used, which allows a player with five Hakurei titles to become a professional, was controversial. Its critics questioned whether a separate route to professional status should exist alongside the Shoreikai's brutal league.

The answer

The answer will come on the board. If she wins against established professionals, the debate will fade. If she struggles, the association should not take it as proof that women cannot compete, but as proof that more girls need to play from childhood.

The pipeline

Few girls play competitive shogi, which is the main reason no woman had broken through before. Schools, clubs and the association should work to change that.

Role models

A woman playing in the same tournaments as the men will do more to attract girls than any campaign.

Her words

Nishiyama said she wanted to play stronger opponents and aim higher. That is the spirit of a professional.

Fukuma

Kana Fukuma, another leading player, has also tried to break through. The association should keep every fair route open.

The sponsors

Newspapers and companies that sponsor the title matches have a part to play too, by giving women's events the attention and prize money that build the next generation of players.

Tradition

Shogi is a tradition, and traditions survive by renewing themselves. April 1 will be a day to celebrate.

OPINION

Monday's Market Had Two Messages: Investors Are Questioning AI's Pay-Off, and Security Failures Now Have a Price

By Ethan Cole | Business & Markets Editor

The Nikkei fell 503 points on Monday as investors questioned whether the vast sums being spent on artificial intelligence would pay off as quickly as hoped. The broader Topix rose. The divergence tells a story.

The AI question

American technology companies are spending heavily on data centres and chips. Investors want evidence that the revenue will follow, and before this week's earnings reports they chose caution.

Not a crash

A fall of less than 1 per cent is not a crisis. The Nikkei remains above 62,000. But the market is becoming more selective.

GMO

The day's sharpest move was GMO Internet Group's fall of more than 15 per cent after its chairman revealed a 50 million dollar ransom demand and admitted engineers had warned of weaknesses.

The price of failure

Investors have often treated breaches as passing embarrassments. Monday suggests that is changing. Compensation, lost customers and damaged trust have a cost.

For boards

That should focus boardrooms. Security spending is not a luxury. It is insurance against exactly this kind of loss.

The opportunity

The same AI that worries investors can be a defensive asset. Companies that use it to protect their systems may earn a premium.

The week

The Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan all meet this week. With the yen around 157 to the dollar, the Bank of Japan's message will matter.

Disclosure

Investors also need better information. Companies should explain in their reports how they manage cyber risk, who on the board is responsible and how quickly they fix known weaknesses, so that the market can judge before a breach rather than after it.

The lesson

Markets reward companies that manage risk. In 2026, cyber risk is a business risk.

OPINION

Soja's Map Recorded Refusals of Assistance Dogs as If They Were a Choice. The Law Says They Are Not

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Soja, in Okayama Prefecture, meant well. Its Barrier-Free Map, compiled in 2014, told people with disabilities which places had accessible parking and ramps. But it also marked 13 facilities with an X for refusing assistance dogs.

The law

Since 2002, the law has required public facilities, transport, shops and restaurants to accept guide dogs, hearing dogs and service dogs, except in special circumstances.

The problem

By recording refusals without comment, the city treated them as an acceptable option. It should have explained the law to those businesses and helped them comply.

The response

The city removed the map from its website on October 21 and plans to revise it. That is the right first step.

The wider issue

Guide dog users still report being turned away from restaurants and taxis. A map that records refusals at least shows the problem. The next one should show it being solved.

Accommodation

Since April 2024, private businesses have been legally obliged to provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities.

What cities can do

Local governments can visit businesses, explain the rules and publicise those that welcome assistance dogs.

The users

For a blind person, a guide dog is not a pet. It is independence. Being turned away at a restaurant door is not an inconvenience; it is exclusion, and it happens far more often than most people realise.

A better map

Soja's revised map could set an example: list the places that welcome assistance dogs, and report the progress made in persuading the rest.

The lesson

Good intentions are not enough. Accessibility means making sure the law is kept, not only describing where it is not.

EDITORIAL

October 26 in History

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

1825: The Erie Canal opens in New York State.

1863: The Football Association is founded in London.

1881: The gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona.

1909: Hirobumi Ito, Japan's first prime minister, is assassinated in Harbin.

1955: Austria declares its permanent neutrality.

1963: Japan's first nuclear electricity is generated at Tokai.

1979: President Park Chung-hee of South Korea is assassinated in Seoul.

1994: Israel and Jordan sign a peace treaty.

2001: The USA Patriot Act is signed into law.

2002: Russian forces end the Moscow theatre siege.

SPORTS

The Japan Series at a Glance

By the Sports Desk

GAME 1: SoftBank 3, DeNA 1, in 11 innings, at Yokohama.

GAME 2: SoftBank 4, DeNA 3, in 10 innings, at Yokohama.

SERIES: SoftBank lead 2-0.

GAME 3: Tuesday at Mizuho PayPay Dome; Hare Matsumoto v Katsuki Azuma.

GAMES 4-5: Wednesday and Thursday in Fukuoka; Game 5 if needed.

GAMES 6-7: October 31 and November 1 at Yokohama, if needed.

THE ODDS: Teams that won the first two games went on to win 28 of 37 series.

THE WARNING: SoftBank led DeNA 2-0 in 2024 and lost four straight.

HOME RUNS: Masaki, Yamakawa and Kawamura for SoftBank; Maki and Tsutsugo for DeNA.

SAVES: Kazuki Sugiyama, two.

SPORTS

The World Series at a Glance

By the Sports Desk

GAME 1: Brewers 3, Rays 2, in Milwaukee.

GAME 2: Brewers 5, Rays 4, in Milwaukee.

SERIES: Milwaukee lead 2-0.

GAME 2 WINNER: Abner Uribe. LOSER: Tyler Wells. SAVE: Aaron Ashby.

GAME 3: Monday night in St Petersburg, Tuesday morning in Japan.

GAME 4: Tuesday night, local time.

GAME 5: Wednesday, if needed, in St Petersburg.

GAMES 6-7: In Milwaukee, if needed.

BREWERS: Seeking their first title; their only previous World Series was in 1982.

RAYS: Seeking their first title after defeats in 2008 and 2020.

INTERNATIONAL

Israel Votes on Tuesday

By the International Desk

WHEN: Tuesday, October 27.

THE KNESSET: 120 seats.

NETANYAHU: Asked Trump twice in three days for stronger support, Axios reported.

THE WHITE HOUSE: Saw a sign of desperation, a U.S. source said.

THE RALLY: More than 100,000 in Tel Aviv on Saturday demanded an inquiry into October 7.

THE ISSUE: The failure to prevent Hamas's attack of October 2023.

THE RACE: Expected to be close.

JAPAN TIME: Israel is now seven hours behind Japan.

RESULTS: Exit polls early on Wednesday, Japan time.

COALITIONS: Forming a government can take weeks.

MORE INSIDE TODAY

Takaichi Says Japan Will Use Every Option, Including Neutralising Attack Servers, as Leaks Spread and GMO Reveals a $50 Million Demand — Page 1

Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister Who Followed His Father Into Office and Worked to Mend Ties With China, Dies at 90 — Page 1

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Japan Morning Post corrects errors of fact as soon as they are identified: corrections@japanmorningpost.com. In Sunday's report on Game 1 of the Japan Series, the SoftBank reliever who gave up Shugo Maki's home run was misnamed Hiroki Matsumoto; he is Yuki Matsumoto. In Sunday's figure skating report and scoreboard, the skater who was ninth after the short programme in Angers was misnamed Kaisei Miura; he is Kao Miura. The notes supplied for today's edition are the same list as Sunday's, headed October 25, and repeat its errors: 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; they describe Sagawa Express's figure of 53.23 million as individuals, when the company counted records, including duplicates; and they date the North American launch of the PlayStation 2 to October 25, 2000, when it went on sale on October 26, an anniversary marked on today's technology history page.

Not repeated today because they were reported in earlier editions: GMO's request for active cyber defence and the details of its compensation, the warnings about attacks 'beyond human capability', the leaks at Sagawa Express, Iwai Cosmo Securities and the Environment Ministry's newsletter, the suspension of parts of Docomo's Area Mail, the commentary on how active cyber defence works, the AI and digital reform council, Meta's Muse service, preventive service shutdowns, PayPay's switch to IC-chip identity checks, the NTT and JAXA satellite experiments, Microsoft's report on AI-driven attacks, the KDDI and Broadcom partnership, 1Password's tool for AI agents, Docomo's AI video for fans of idols, NEC's disaster-detection AI, DeNA's DAAQ testing service, Professor Shinya Yamanaka's reflections on 20 years of iPS cells, the robot that mimics frightened children for nursing training, Spotify's measures against low-quality AI music and Docomo's Smartwatch 03. 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

TUE. 27: Japan Series Game 3 at Mizuho PayPay Dome, Fukuoka, Hare Matsumoto v Katsuki Azuma; World Series Game 3 in St Petersburg, 9 a.m. Japan time; Israel's general election; the local ceasefire in Oleshky is due to begin at 10 a.m. Japan time; Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi meets Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Tarique Rahman; the second game of Hosei v Tokyo in the Big6. OCT. 27-28: U.S. Federal Reserve. WED. 28: Japan Series Game 4; World Series Game 4; German Chancellor Friedrich Merz begins a two-day visit; three months since the Kumamoto earthquake; Mito's new coach, Naoki Mori, takes charge against Cerezo Osaka in the Levain Cup; Kyushu high school baseball quarter-finals resume in Kumamoto. THU. 29: Japan Series Game 5, if needed; 50 years since the Sakata fire; the European Central Bank meets and Christine Lagarde holds a news conference; China's Communist Party plenum ends. OCT. 29-30: Bank of Japan. FRI. 30: GMO's payment details due by e-mail; Doshisha explains its committee on educational neutrality; the verdict in the Inuyama case; vice-capital law takes effect. SAT. 31: Halloween; Japan Series Game 6, if needed, Yokohama; In-fa forecast near the Ogasawara Islands in the afternoon. NOV. 1: Japan Series Game 7, if needed; the Tenno Sho (Autumn) at Tokyo; 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. midterm elections. NOV. 4: Tokyo International Film Festival awards. NOV. 6: GMO announces how to claim for trading losses. NOV. 8: Kyushu sumo tournament opens. NOV. 11: Women's Honinbo Game 3.

TYPHOON AND MARINE ADVISORIES

6 p.m. Monday. No. 31, In-fa: very strong typhoon in the Marshall Islands area, 14.1N, 162.8E; 965 hPa; winds 45 m/s, gusts 60; moving west-northwest slowly. Storm-force winds 75 km all round; gales 330 km to the north and 220 km to the south. Forecast: 950 hPa, 45 m/s at 6 p.m. Tuesday, almost stationary north of the Marshall Islands; 940 hPa, 50 m/s at 3 p.m. Wednesday and through Saturday; about 960 km south of Minamitorishima at 3 p.m. Thursday; north of Saipan on Friday; about 710 km south of Chichijima at 3 p.m. Saturday. Saipan is inside the area that could have storm-force winds by 3 p.m. Friday; by 3 p.m. Saturday that area reaches Iwo To and comes within about 60 km of Guam. No. 30, Champi, became an extratropical low in the East China Sea at 9 p.m. Sunday. Heavy rain: warning-level rain is possible around the Izu Islands; watch for landslides, flooding of low-lying land and rising rivers. Emergencies at sea: 118.

MARKET REFERENCE

Monday close, Tokyo: Nikkei 225 62,189.65, down 503.51, its second straight fall; morning close 62,214; Topix 3,972.98, up 7.17; volume 2.13 billion shares. GMO Internet Group 3,179 yen, down 590; GMO Internet 418 yen, down 73. Tokyo, 5 p.m.: dollar 157.12-14 yen, up 17 sen; euro 176.06-10 yen, up 30 sen. New York, Friday: Dow 52,215.16, down 652.82; Nasdaq 25,955.34, down 53.52; crude for December $103.27 a barrel, up $3.80. Federal Reserve meets October 27-28; European Central Bank October 29; Bank of Japan October 29-30.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS

Front: Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi at a podium, file photo, WPM Productions. The typhoon map, the Japan and United States weather maps and the editorial cartoon by Taro Suzuki were supplied for this edition. File photos and images reused from earlier editions, WPM Productions: the prime minister at the Diet rostrum, a coastal missile launch, an airport terminal with smoke, President Emmanuel Macron, the illustration of AI-enabled attacks, the Onagawa nuclear plant, the imperial family, a SoftBank celebration, the World Series photograph and the sumo poster. The Tokyo Stock Exchange: TG2 (CC). The Tokaido Shinkansen: Akihiko Maeda. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma: Sonata, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0. Agency news photographs are not reproduced.

SYMBOLS, UNITS AND TIMES

Map symbols: sun, sunny; cloud, cloudy; cloud with strokes, rain; an arrow, one sky giving way to another; a slanting stroke, one sky with the other at times. Today's Japan map gives the highs and lows observed today, in degrees Celsius; Sunday's gave forecast highs, so comparisons between the two are approximate. 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. Japan is 9 hours ahead of London, 8 ahead of Paris and Rome and 7 ahead of Israel; 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, indicted 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. Customers of Joshin and of businesses that use e-mail delivery services should be wary of messages that use their names or addresses to seem genuine. If your phone's emergency alerts are not working, follow television, radio, disaster apps and your municipality's announcements. 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, and today's cartoon is by Taro Suzuki. Analysis articles are the judgment of their writers. Reports draw on Kyodo News, including its reports carried by the Kumamoto Nichinichi Shimbun; on Daily Sports, the Hochi Shimbun, Axios, The New York Times, The Sunday Times, the Dhaka Tribune and Yonhap as cited; on GMO Internet Group's statements; on government ministries and agencies, the Japan Meteorological Agency and the Japan Sumo Association; on the Japan Racing Association and Nippon Professional Baseball; on announcements by the companies and organisers named in the reports; and on the U.S. National Weather Service for the American map.

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TOMORROW'S EDITION

Tuesday: Game 3 of the Japan Series in Fukuoka, Game 3 of the World Series, Israel's election, the start of the Oleshky ceasefire, the Japan-Bangladesh summit, In-fa's track towards the Ogasawara Islands, the government's next steps on cybersecurity and the reaction to Yasuo Fukuda's death.

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