

■ MARINE ARRESTED IN NAHA KILLING ■ TOKYO PROTESTS TO WASHINGTON ■ TYPHOON NO. 27 AT 925 hPa ■ DIET CONVENES TODAY ■ ASIAN GAMES CLOSE: 269 MEDALS ■

U.S. Marine Arrested Over the Killing of a Woman in a Naha Hotel; Tokyo Protests and Okinawa's New Governor Summons the Americans

A 20-year-old lance corporal from Futenma is held on suspicion of robbery and murder and denies it; the prime minister calls the crime 'extremely cruel and heinous'; because the police caught him off base, the question of custody that has soured earlier cases does not arise

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent, with Emi Kondo | Society & Local News, and Michael Hayes | Deputy Editor, Politics & Policy



Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, in the centre of the city of Ginowan, Okinawa, seen from the air on May 26, 2010. The Marine arrested on Sunday on suspicion of robbery and murder in Naha is assigned to the base, whose return to Japan was agreed in 1996 and awaits a replacement at Henoko. (Photo: Sonata, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0)

A United States Marine stationed at Futenma has been arrested on suspicion of killing a woman in a hotel in Naha and stealing her wallet and bag, and the case has gone within a day from a police matter to a protest lodged with the American ambassador.

Okinawa prefectural police arrested Devin Jacob Ballard, a lance corporal aged 20 assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, in the early hours of Sunday. He is suspected of robbery and murder. The police say he denies it. "I don't know," he is reported to have told them.

The victim was 39 and lived in the Kokuba district of the city. A post-mortem examination found that she died of asphyxiation caused by strangling, Nikkei reports.

Prime Minister Takaichi called the crime extremely cruel and heinous and said it was extremely regrettable. The foreign minister, Toshimitsu Motegi, summoned Ambassador George Glass to protest. The defense minister, Shinjiro Koizumi, said it was outrageous and that he felt strong indignation.

In Naha the governor, Genta Koja, who is newly in office, said that the discipline and education of American personnel were not functioning at all. He will call American and Japanese officials to the prefectural office this afternoon and intends to go to Tokyo to protest to the prime minister in person.

The photograph on this page shows the air station to which the suspect belongs, in the middle of the city of Ginowan.

A call at 4:20 a.m.

The sequence the police have described begins before dawn on Saturday. At about 4:20 a.m. an employee of a hotel in Wakasa 1-chome, near the port of Naha, telephoned for an ambulance and said a woman was unconscious. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Investigators concluded from the state of the room that it was a case of robbery and murder, and began looking for a man who had entered the hotel with her. The suspected time of the crime is between about 2:10 and 4:15 a.m.

A security camera had recorded a man leaving by the hotel's entrance carrying the woman's belongings, the Okinawa Times reports. He had a shaved head and wore a black sleeveless shirt, cropped trousers and white trainers. Her wallet and rucksack were later found near the hotel.

The police set up a special investigation headquarters

of 197 officers at Naha station under the head of the criminal investigation department, Tetsuya Shimajiri.

Recognised in the street

The arrest came from an old method. Officers who had memorised the appearance of the man in the footage, including tattoos on both arms, went looking for him.

At about 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, investigators saw a man who closely matched walking alone in the entertainment district of Okinawa City, some 20 kilometres to the north. They questioned him, asked him to come to Okinawa police station, and arrested him without a warrant under the procedure the law allows for serious crimes when there is no time to obtain one.

The victim's elder brother issued a statement through the police on Sunday. The family had lost one of its own, he said, and was sunk in grief.

Tokyo's response

The government moved quickly, as the Ryukyu Shimpo acknowledged in an editorial otherwise severe on both capitals. The vice-minister for foreign affairs, Takehiro Funakoshi, telephoned the ambassador on Sunday morning and told him the matter was extremely regrettable. The summons from the foreign minister followed.

The American embassy expressed its deep condolences to the bereaved family. Mr Glass telephoned the governor to convey them and to promise full co-operation with the investigation. The governor, by his own account, used the call to protest.

Brigadier General Ralph J. Rizzo, who commands the Marine Corps' installations in the Pacific, contacted the vice-governor.

The timing is awkward for both governments. The Diet opens an extraordinary session today, in which the opposition had intended to concentrate on the agriculture minister's remarks about road budgets. It will now also ask what the government means to do about Okinawa.

Nikkei notes that the crime occurred while the American forces were in the middle of carrying out measures, adopted after earlier incidents, that were supposed to prevent a repetition.

The governor's first test

Mr Koja had planned to respond only in writing on Sunday. By late afternoon, the Okinawa Times

TYPHOON NO. 27

Typhoon No. 27 at Its Peak, 925 hPa: It Passes East of Chichijima This Evening, Further Out Than Forecast

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Typhoon No. 27 was at the strongest point of its forecast life at 6 a.m. today, with a central pressure of 925 hectopascals and sustained winds of 50 metres a second, and was moving north towards the waters east of the Ogasawara Islands.

The Japan Meteorological Agency placed the centre at 24.7 degrees north, 146.7 degrees east. That is 520 kilometres east-south-east of Chichijima. Gusts were estimated at 70 metres a second.

The storm remains large and very strong. Winds of storm force extend 220 kilometres from the centre on its eastern side and 165 on its western. Gales reach 850 kilometres to the east and 560 to the west.

It is now moving at 20 kilometres an hour, faster than on Sunday, and due north.

On the agency's forecast, issued at 6:45 a.m., the centre will be at 26.7 degrees north, 146.0 degrees east at 6 p.m. today, still at 925 hectopascals. The line joining the forecast positions passes about 370 kilometres east of Chichijima this evening, by the figures on the map supplied for this edition.

That is further from the islands, and earlier, than Sunday's forecast, which had the storm about 330 kilometres away before dawn on Tuesday.

The islands lie just outside the area in which storm-force winds are possible, and inside the present area of gales. Gusts of up to 35 metres a second and very rough seas with swell are forecast there from this evening into Tuesday morning, Nishinippon Shimbun reports.

By 6 a.m. on Tuesday the storm is forecast to have weakened slightly, to 935 hectopascals, at 29.1 degrees north. It then accelerates to the north-east. The centre line passes about 800 kilometres east-south-east of Tokyo on Tuesday afternoon.

No landfall is expected. The agency forecasts high waves on the Pacific coasts of eastern and northern Japan.

The storm has deepened by 45 hectopascals since Saturday morning, when it was a strong typhoon of 970 over the Mariana Islands. Every forecast issued since then gave 925 as the peak, and gave Monday morning as the time.

What the forecasts did not anticipate was the speed. On Saturday the closest approach to Chichijima was expected in the early hours of Tuesday. It is now expected about nine hours sooner, and some 90 kilometres further out.

For the 2,500 people of Chichijima and Hahajima that is the better of the possible outcomes. The eastern side of a north-moving typhoon is the stronger, and the islands are on the western. Winds of storm force reach 165 kilometres on that side. The islands will be more than twice that distance from the centre.

They will not escape the sea. Waves of eight metres were forecast for today, and a swell raised by winds of 50 metres a second travels far beyond the storm that made it. The harbour at Chichijima is closed to the ship from Tokyo in such conditions.

On Wednesday morning the storm is expected to be east of Japan at 950 hectopascals, and by Thursday an extratropical low near 50 degrees north.

There is a successor in view. A tropical depression near the Marshall Islands, at 10.2 degrees north, 167.7 degrees east, is forecast to become a typhoon

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WEATHER — TOKYO

23°C

Low 18°C · Cloudy all day

Sapporo

18°

Osaka

24°

Fukuoka

27°

Naha

31°

Typhoon No. 27 (Choi-wan): large, very strong, 925 hPa at 6 a.m.; about 370 km east of Chichijima this evening; no landfall expected. Rain over Shikoku eases; clear weather from Wednesday. Full weather, Page 13.

TODAY IN BRIEF

- Okinawa: a Marine lance corporal, 20, is arrested on suspicion of robbery and murder in the death of a woman, 39, in a Naha hotel. He denies it. The prime minister, the foreign minister and the governor protest.
- Typhoon No. 27: large and very strong, 925 hPa at 6 a.m., moving north at 20 km/h. About 370 km east of Chichijima this evening. No landfall expected; high waves on Pacific coasts.
- Security: North Korea says Saturday's missile hit a target 1,000 km away; Seoul says it can be intercepted. The first two of 66 new F-16s reach Taiwan. Houthis strike Saudi oil sites for a second day.
- Politics: the Diet convenes today. Seven stand for mayor of Yokohama. Trump creates a 'Superintelligence Force'. Minokamo votes on tablets and counts in 67 minutes.
- Economy: Tokyo markets reopen; the TOPIX reform begins this month. Consumer confidence at 2 p.m. The yen is at 156 to 158. Nobel week opens tonight with medicine.
- Sport: the Asian Games close with 83 golds and an apology for mistakes. DeNA beat Hanshin 2-1 in eleven innings. Daryz wins the Arc again; Japan's runners are 11th and 14th. Koga wins a world judo title.

TYPHOON NO. 27

- 6 a.m.: 925 hPa, winds 50 m/s, moving N at 20 km/h.
- 6 p.m. today: 925 hPa, east of Chichijima.
- Tuesday 6 a.m.: 935 hPa.
- Wednesday 3 a.m.: 950 hPa, east of Japan.

TODAY

- The Diet convenes.
- 2 p.m.: consumer confidence. 6:30 p.m.: Nobel Prize.
- Tokyo cloudy, 23 degrees.

MARKETS	
Nikkei 225 (Fri.)	68,309.46 ▼647
TOPIX (Fri.)	4,091.00 ▼40.98
Yen	156 to 158 per \$
Tokyo CPI, Sept.	+2.7% y/y
BOJ policy rate	1.25%
U.S. payrolls, Sept.	+29,000
ISM services, Aug.	55.4

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THE WEEK

- Tue. Oct. 6: typhoon passes; the Bank's governor speaks.
- Wed. 7: clear weather returns.
- Sat. 10: North Korea's party anniversary.

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FROM PAGE 1

U.S. Marine Arrested Over the Killing of a Woman in a Naha Hotel; Tokyo Protests and Okinawa's New Governor Summons the Americans

Continued from Page 1

reports, he had changed his mind, and at six o'clock he faced reporters at the prefectural office.

The crime, he said, was murder joined to the taking of another person's property, and was extremely malicious. It had delivered a great shock to the people of a prefecture who are obliged to live side by side with the bases, and had caused fresh anxiety. It could not be forgiven.

Each time such a case occurred, he said, the prefecture had asked the American forces to prevent another. That one had occurred again meant, he had to say, that their discipline and the education of their personnel were not working at all.

This afternoon he is to summon the head of the Okinawa Defense Bureau, the foreign ministry's ambassador for Okinawan affairs, the senior American officer on the island, who holds the title of Okinawa Area Coordinator, and the American consul general.

Why custody is not the issue

In several of the cases that have most damaged relations between Okinawa and the American forces, the anger was sharpened by an argument over who held the suspect.

Under the Status of Forces Agreement, an American serviceman accused of a crime who is in American hands generally remains there until Japanese prosecutors indict him. The provision has been softened by later understandings for the gravest offences, but it has never been removed.

It does not apply here. The suspect was found and arrested by Japanese police outside any base. He is in a Japanese cell, and the investigation is entirely in Japanese hands.

That removes one grievance. It leaves the larger one, which the governor stated and which the editorial in the Ryukyu Shimpo put more bluntly: that the crime happened at all.

FROM PAGE 1

Typhoon No. 27 at Its Peak, 925 hPa: It Passes East of Chichijima This Evening, Further Out Than Forecast

Continued from Page 1

by Friday. It would be the year's twenty-eighth. Today's weather for the rest of the country is on the weather page. Rain over Shikoku and the Seto Inland Sea eases to cloud by evening, and most of Honshu stays cloudy.

The agency's bulletins are issued every three hours while a typhoon is within range of Japan.

TYPHOON NO. 27

The Marshall Islands: Where the Next Storm Is Forming, and What Japan Remembers of Them

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The tropical depression noted at the foot of today's typhoon map lies near a country that most Japanese could not place and that was, within living memory, Japanese territory.

The Marshall Islands are two chains of coral atolls in the central Pacific, a little north of the equator, about 4,000 kilometres south-east of Tokyo. Some 40,000 people live there.

Japan took the islands from Germany in 1914 and governed them under a League of Nations mandate until 1944, when American forces captured them in some of the first amphibious assaults of the central Pacific campaign.

The United States administered them afterwards and used two of the atolls, Bikini and Enewetak, to test nuclear weapons between 1946 and 1958.

One of those tests, in March 1954, was far more powerful than its designers expected. Fallout descended on a Japanese tuna boat, the Lucky Dragon No. 5, fishing well outside the declared danger zone. Its 23 crewmen fell ill and one died.

The rules that were already there

The crime is alleged to have been committed between about two and four in the morning. The American forces' own regulations restrict the movement of junior personnel off base between one and five.

Those regulations were tightened in 2024, after it became known that servicemen in Okinawa had been charged with sexual offences and that the prefecture had not been told. Joint patrols of the entertainment districts by Japanese police and American military police followed last year.

The street in Okinawa City where the suspect was recognised is one of those the patrols walk. The hotel in Naha, 20 kilometres away, is not near any base.

The Marines have not said whether the suspect was permitted to be out, or how long he had been stationed on the island.

Okinawa has about 70 per cent of the land in Japan given over to the exclusive use of American forces. The air station at Futenma, whose return was agreed thirty years ago, is still awaiting a replacement on the coast at Henoko that is not expected to be ready until the 2030s.

Also today

Typhoon No. 27 reached its forecast peak overnight, with a central pressure of 925 hectopascals, and passes east of the Ogasawara Islands this evening. The report is alongside, and the map is on Page 3.

The Asian Games closed in Nagoya on Sunday night with a record 83 gold medals for Japan and an apology from the organisers for a series of mistakes. North Korea said the missile it fired on Saturday had hit a target 1,000 kilometres away. Reports are on the sports and international pages.

The incident produced the first mass movement against nuclear weapons in Japan and, indirectly, the film Godzilla.

The islands became independent in 1986 in free association with the United States, which retains a missile test range on Kwajalein atoll.

They are among the countries most exposed to a rising sea. The highest natural point is a few metres above the waves.

Typhoons rarely strike the Marshalls themselves at full strength. The sea there is where many of them begin, as clusters of thunderstorms that organise as they drift west.

This one is forecast to be a typhoon by Friday.

TYPHOON NO. 27

A Village a Thousand Kilometres From Its Governor: The Ogasawara Islands Tonight

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The islands that Typhoon No. 27 passes this evening are administratively a village of the Tokyo metropolis, and have a history unlike that of any other part of it.

The Ogasawara group lies about 1,000 kilometres south of the capital. Only two of its thirty or so islands are inhabited: Chichijima, with about 2,000 people, and Hahajima, with fewer than 500.

They were uninhabited until 1830, when a small party of Americans, Europeans and Pacific islanders settled on Chichijima. Japan claimed the group in the 1870s, and the descendants of the first settlers became Japanese subjects.

The whole population was evacuated in 1944. After the war the United States Navy governed the islands and allowed only the families of Western descent to return.

The islands were handed back to Japan in June 1968, four years before Okinawa.

They have never been joined to a continent, and many of their plants, snails and insects are found

nowhere else. The group was made a World Heritage site in 2011.

There is no airport. A plan to build one has been debated for decades and opposed on environmental grounds.

The link to the mainland is a ship that sails from Tokyo roughly once a week and takes 24 hours. It stays three days and returns.

The islanders are accustomed to typhoons, which pass close in most years. Houses are low, and the harbour at Chichijima is among the most sheltered in the Pacific.

Tonight's storm will pass to the east. The sea will be the main concern.

TYPHOON NO. 27

From 925 Back to 950: What Takes a Typhoon Apart as It Moves North

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The forecast table on today's map has the typhoon holding its peak through this evening and then losing strength steadily: 935 hectopascals tomorrow morning, 950 on Wednesday, 964 on Thursday.

Three things bring that about, and all of them increase with latitude.

The first is the sea. A typhoon draws its energy from water warmer than about 26 or 27 degrees. South of the Ogasawara Islands the surface is well above that. East of Honshu in October it falls below.

The storm also cools the water beneath it, by stirring up colder layers from below. A slow-moving storm weakens itself in this way. One moving at 20 kilometres an hour outruns the effect.

The second is the wind at height. In the tropics the winds at different levels of the atmosphere blow in much the same direction, and the storm stands upright. Further north the upper winds are strong westerlies. They push the top of the storm away from its base and let dry air into the core.

The third is the air itself. The middle latitudes in autumn are cooler and drier, and a typhoon that draws such air into its circulation loses the warm, moist structure that defines it.

The process ends in the transformation the forecast gives for Thursday, when the storm becomes an ordinary low-pressure system with fronts.

It does not end in harmlessness. A pressure of 964 hectopascals is still that of a severe gale, spread over a larger area.

The forecast of weakening is more reliable than the forecast of strengthening was. Rapid intensification is difficult to predict. Decay over cold water is not.

The agency's intensity forecasts for this storm have been accurate so far.

TYPHOON NO. 27

Tonight Is the Night for the Ogasawara Islands: Gusts to 35 Metres a Second and a Sea in Uproar

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The Ogasawara Islands will be nearest to Typhoon No. 27 between this evening and tomorrow morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency says.

Gusts of up to 35 metres a second are forecast, with very rough seas and swell, Nishinippon Shimbun reports.

On the forecast centre line the storm passes about 370 kilometres east of Chichijima this evening. That is beyond the reach of its storm-force winds, which extend 165 kilometres on the western side.

It is well within the reach of its gales, which extend 560 kilometres to the west. The islands will have gale-force winds for many hours.

The sea is the greater danger. Waves of eight metres were forecast for today around the islands. A swell of that size closes harbours and breaks over sea walls.

The forecast circle for 6 p.m. is small, which means the agency is confident of the track over so short a time.

Chichijima and Hahajima have about 2,500 residents. The village will have issued its instructions over the weekend.

There is no airfield. A person badly hurt during the storm cannot be flown out until it has passed.

The ship from Tokyo, which takes 24 hours, will not sail into an eight-metre sea.

By tomorrow afternoon the storm will be far to the north and the wind will have dropped. The swell will take longer.

TYPHOON NO. 27

East Again, and Earlier: Three Days of Forecasts Compared

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

For the third morning running, the forecast track of Typhoon No. 27 lies a little further east than the one before.

On Saturday the line joining the agency's forecast positions passed about 280 kilometres from Chichijima. On Sunday the figure printed on the map was about 330. Today it is about 370.

The direction has changed with the distance. Saturday's and Sunday's closest points were east-north-east of the island. Today's is due east.

The time has moved forward. The closest approach was forecast for before dawn on Tuesday. It is now expected this evening.

The storm has, in other words, moved faster than expected. Its speed over the sea has risen from 15 to 20 kilometres an hour.

For Tokyo the nearest point on the line has gone from about 730 kilometres on Saturday to 770 on Sunday and 800 today, and from Tuesday evening to Tuesday afternoon.

The forecast of peak intensity has been exact. All three bulletins gave 925 hectopascals for Monday morning, and 925 is what was observed.

The forecast for Thursday has moved in the other direction. On Sunday the remains of the storm were placed at 47 degrees north. Today they are at 50.

Each shift has been small beside the forecast circles. Their consistency is what is notable: three revisions, all the same way.

For the islands every one of them has been welcome.

TYPHOON NO. 27

Behind It, Another: A Tropical Depression Near the Marshall Islands Is Forecast to Be a Typhoon by Friday

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

A line at the foot of today's typhoon map reports a second system far to the south-east.

A tropical depression was located near the Marshall Islands, at 10.2 degrees north, 167.7 degrees east, in the agency's bulletin of 7:05 a.m. It is forecast to become a typhoon by Friday.

If it does, it will be numbered 28.

The Marshall Islands are about 4,000 kilometres from Tokyo. A storm forming there has a long way to travel, and most of those that do so curve north well before they reach Japan.

Nothing useful can yet be said about its track. The agency publishes a forecast for a tropical depression when it expects it to develop, which is why this one appears on the map at all.

The depression is forming in the same broad region as No. 27 did a week ago, a little further east.

The sea there is at its warmest in early October, and the season for typhoons has two months to run.

A total of 28 named storms by early October is above the average for the date. The long-term mean for a whole year is about 25.

The number that reach Japan matters more than the number that form.

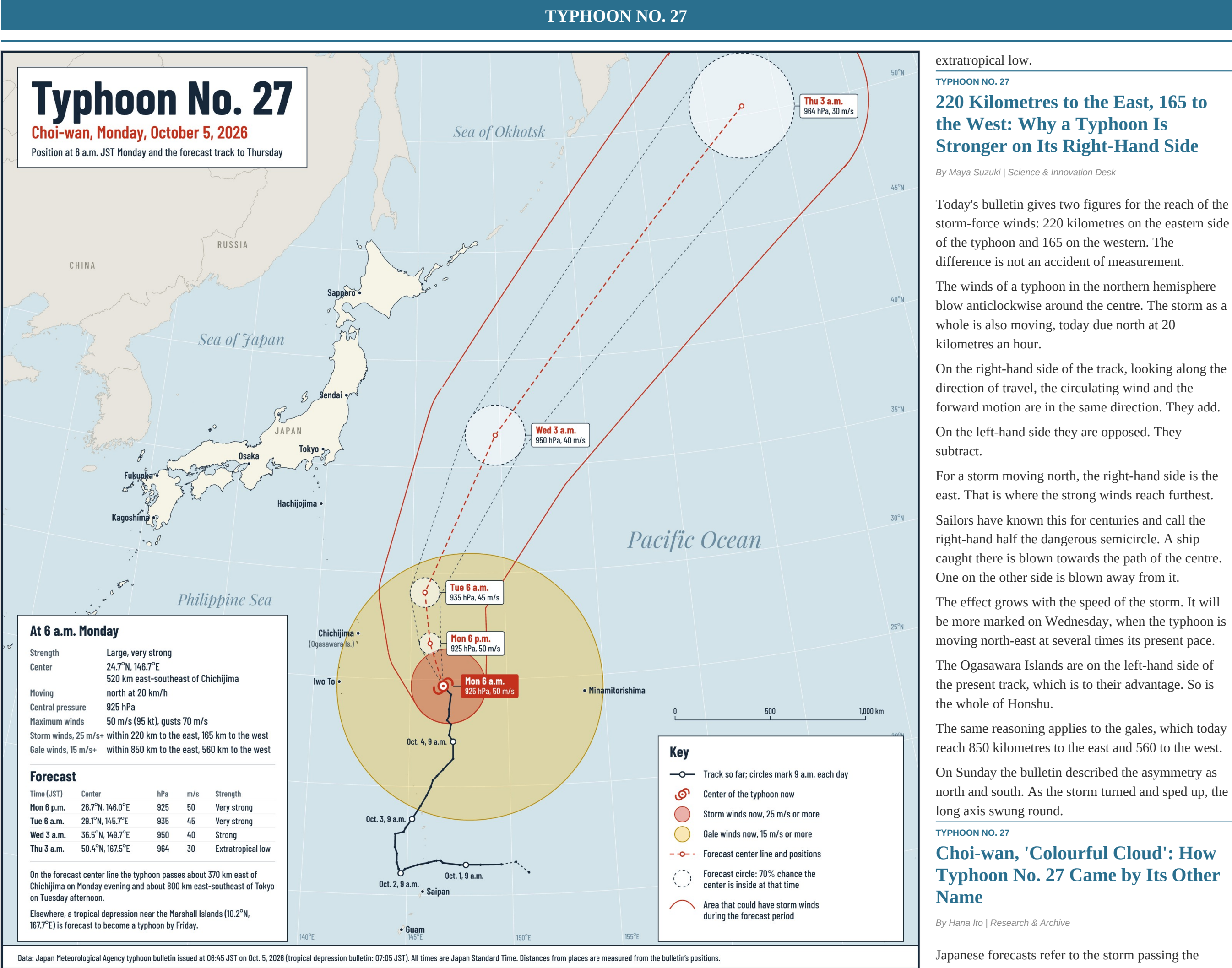
The system should be watched from the middle of the week. For now it is a line on a map.

TYPHOON NO. 27

On the Islands, Tonight

By the Society Desk

- Stay indoors from this evening.
- Keep away from the shore: eight-metre seas.
- Close storm shutters before dark.
- Keep a torch and a radio to hand.
- Fill water containers now.
- Charge telephones and batteries.
- Follow the village's announcements.
- Check on elderly neighbours by telephone.
- Do not go out to look at the waves.
- Expect the swell to last into Wednesday.



Typhoon No. 27 (Choi-wan): its position at 6 a.m. on Monday, the track so far, and the Japan Meteorological Agency's forecast to Thursday, in the map supplied for this edition. The red and yellow discs are the present areas of storm-force winds and gales; each dashed circle is where the centre is expected to be at that time with a probability of 70 per cent; the red outline encloses everywhere that could have storm-force winds. (Data: Japan Meteorological Agency typhoon bulletin issued at 6:45 a.m. on October 5)

TYPHOON NO. 27

At the Peak: 925 hPa, 50 Metres a Second, and the Map of Where It Goes Next

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The typhoon bulletin issued by the Japan Meteorological Agency at 6:45 this morning, on which the map on this page is based, shows Typhoon No. 27 at the intensity that has been forecast for it since Saturday.

At 6 a.m. the centre was at 24.7 degrees north, 146.7 degrees east, 520 kilometres east-south-east of Chichijima.

The central pressure was 925 hectopascals. It was 945 at 3 a.m. on Sunday and 970 a day before that, a fall of 45 hectopascals in a little over two days.

Maximum sustained winds were 50 metres a second, or 95 knots, with gusts to 70. The agency's violent class begins at 54.

The wind field is now given with different distances on each side. Storm-force winds of 25 metres a

second or more extend 220 kilometres to the east of the centre and 165 to the west. Gales of 15 metres a second or more extend 850 kilometres to the east and 560 to the west.

The storm was moving due north at 20 kilometres an hour.

The forecast holds it at 925 hectopascals until 6 p.m. today, at 26.7 degrees north, 146.0 degrees east. By 6 a.m. on Tuesday it is at 29.1 north, 145.7 east, with a pressure of 935 and winds of 45 metres a second.

It then turns north-east and gathers speed. At 3 a.m. on Wednesday the forecast position is 36.5 north, 149.7 east, at 950 hectopascals, by which time it is classed as strong. At 3 a.m. on Thursday it is an extratropical low at 50.4 north, 167.5 east.

On the map, the red symbol marks the centre at 6

a.m. The red and yellow discs are the present areas of storm-force winds and gales. Each dashed circle is the area in which the centre is expected to be at that time with a probability of 70 per cent, and the solid red line encloses everywhere that could have storm-force winds.

Chichijima and Iwo To lie just inside the yellow disc, on its western edge, and outside the red line. Minamitorishima is inside the yellow disc on the eastern side.

The figures given by Nishinippon Shimbun this morning, from the agency's bulletin of Sunday night, are the same for pressure and wind and give the storm radius as about 165 kilometres.

TYPHOON NO. 27

For the Main Islands: High Waves From Kanto to Hokkaido, and an Ending East of the Kurils on Wednesday Night

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The typhoon will not make landfall, the agency says. Its effect on the main islands will be at the shore.

High waves are forecast on the Pacific coasts of eastern and northern Japan as the storm passes offshore on Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Tuesday afternoon the centre is forecast to be about 800 kilometres east-south-east of Tokyo. On Tuesday night it will be approaching the waters east of Japan while still strong.

By the night of Wednesday it is expected to have become an extratropical cyclone east of the Kuril Islands.

The swell will arrive ahead of the storm and outlast

it. Long, regular waves generated near the centre travel faster than the storm itself and reach coasts where the weather is fine.

Anglers on breakwaters and rocks are the people most often lost in such conditions.

In Chiba and Kanagawa the ground remains loose after Typhoon No. 25. Caution is advised even in light rain.

Typhoon No. 26, which preceded this one, has already become an extratropical cyclone east of Japan.

From Wednesday the weather over the main islands is expected to settle.

The Izu Islands, closer to the track than Honshu, lie outside the area the bulletin marks as liable to storm-force winds.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

The TOPIX is being rebuilt, Page 9.

A city votes on tablets, Page 11.

TYPHOON NO. 27

Typhoon No. 27 at a Glance

By the Weather Desk

Name: Choi-wan. Class at 6 a.m.: large, very strong.

Centre: 24.7 N, 146.7 E; 520 km east-south-east of Chichijima.

Moving: north at 20 km/h.

Central pressure: 925 hPa.

Maximum winds: 50 m/s, gusts 70.

Storm-force winds: 220 km to the east, 165 km to the west.

Gales: 850 km to the east, 560 km to the west.

6 p.m. today: 925 hPa; about 370 km east of Chichijima on the centre line.

6 a.m. Tuesday: 935 hPa. Tuesday afternoon: about 800 km east-south-east of Tokyo.

3 a.m. Wednesday: 950 hPa, strong. Thursday:

extratropical low.

TYPHOON NO. 27

220 Kilometres to the East, 165 to the West: Why a Typhoon Is Stronger on Its Right-Hand Side

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

Today's bulletin gives two figures for the reach of the storm-force winds: 220 kilometres on the eastern side of the typhoon and 165 on the western. The difference is not an accident of measurement.

The winds of a typhoon in the northern hemisphere blow anticlockwise around the centre. The storm as a whole is also moving, today due north at 20 kilometres an hour.

On the right-hand side of the track, looking along the direction of travel, the circulating wind and the forward motion are in the same direction. They add.

On the left-hand side they are opposed. They subtract.

For a storm moving north, the right-hand side is the east. That is where the strong winds reach furthest.

Sailors have known this for centuries and call the right-hand half the dangerous semicircle. A ship caught there is blown towards the path of the centre. One on the other side is blown away from it.

The effect grows with the speed of the storm. It will be more marked on Wednesday, when the typhoon is moving north-east at several times its present pace.

The Ogasawara Islands are on the left-hand side of the present track, which is to their advantage. So is the whole of Honshu.

The same reasoning applies to the gales, which today reach 850 kilometres to the east and 560 to the west.

On Sunday the bulletin described the asymmetry as north and south. As the storm turned and sped up, the long axis swung round.

TYPHOON NO. 27

Choi-wan, 'Colourful Cloud': How Typhoon No. 27 Came by Its Other Name

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Japanese forecasts refer to the storm passing the Ogasawara Islands tonight as Typhoon No. 27. The rest of Asia calls it Choi-wan.

The number is a Japanese convention. The Japan Meteorological Agency counts the tropical storms of each calendar year in the order in which they form, beginning again at one each January.

The name comes from a list agreed by the fourteen countries and territories of the region's typhoon committee. Each contributed ten names, and the 140 are used in rotation regardless of year.

Choi-wan was contributed by Hong Kong. It is Cantonese for a colourful cloud.

The list has been in use since 2000. Before that the storms of the western Pacific carried English personal names assigned by the American military.

The names are deliberately not people's. They are animals, flowers, stars, foods and features of landscape. Japan's ten are all constellations.

A name that becomes associated with a disaster is withdrawn at the request of the country affected and replaced.

The name has been used four times before. In 2009 a storm called Choi-wan passed close to the Ogasawara Islands at great intensity.

Japan's news media use the number. The agency's English bulletins give both.

The depression now near the Marshall Islands will take the next name on the list if it strengthens, and the number 28.

TYPHOON NO. 27

East of the Kurils: The Cold Sea Where Japan's Typhoons Go to End

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The forecast for Typhoon No. 27 ends, as such forecasts often do, with the words extratropical cyclone and a position east of the Kuril Islands.

The Kurils are the chain of volcanic islands that runs north-east from Hokkaido to the Kamchatka peninsula, dividing the Sea of Okhotsk from the Pacific.

The sea to their east is one of the coldest at its

TYPHOON NO. 27

latitude. A current from the Bering Sea brings water of a few degrees above freezing down the coast, and in summer the meeting of that water with warmer air produces some of the densest fog in the world.

A typhoon that arrives there has left behind everything that sustained it. The water is fifteen or twenty degrees too cold.

It does not vanish. The remains merge with the westerly flow and the temperature contrast of the high latitudes and become a large, deep depression of the ordinary kind.

These depressions are a hazard in their own right to the fishing fleets of Hokkaido and to shipping on the great-circle route between Asia and North America, which passes just south of the Aleutians.

Forecasters speak of the region around the Aleutians as the place where Pacific storms go to die.

Four of the southernmost islands in the chain, off the eastern tip of Hokkaido, were occupied by the Soviet Union in 1945 and are claimed by Japan.

Japanese weather maps extend over the whole chain, and the agency names the area in its marine forecasts.

On the present forecast the storm reaches it on Wednesday night, at about 960 hectopascals.

POLITICS

Seven Stand in Yokohama, Among Them the Mayor Who Resigned Over His Treatment of Staff and a Pritzker Prize Architect of 81

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The election for mayor of Yokohama, the country's most populous municipality, was formally announced on Sunday with seven candidates. Voting is on October 18.

The vacancy arose when Takeharu Yamanaka, 54, resigned after an investigation found that he had subjected city officials to abuse of authority. He is standing again.

The others are all newcomers. In order of registration they are Sachiko Fujikawa, 51, who leads a citizens' group; Kazuma Nakatani, 43, a former member of the House of Representatives; Atsumi Harasawa, 59, a lawyer; Atsushi Fukuyama, 37, a company president; Riken Yamamoto, 81, an architect; and Yuka Asaga, 46, an official of the Communist Party, which has endorsed her.

The remaining six are independents, though several have party backing. The prefectural organisations of the Liberal Democrats, the Japan Innovation Party and the Democratic Party for the People recommend Ms Harasawa, and Komeito's city assembly members support her.

The Constitutional Democrats' prefectural chapter, which backed Mr Yamanaka in his two previous campaigns, is supporting Mr Nakatani. Sanseito recommends Mr Fukuyama.

Mr Yamanaka has no party behind him. He says he is standing at the request of citizens' groups and of organisations connected with the port.

The complaint against him was made public in January by the city's former head of personnel, who used his own name. A third-party inquiry by lawyers found that the mayor had made remarks denying officials' character and had used his authority over appointments against them, Tokyo Shimbun reports.

At his opening rally he stressed the record of his five years and said that his own failings had left his promises half kept. He would face the voters, he said, as a challenger.

Mr Yamamoto, who won architecture's highest international prize in 2024 and has his practice in the city, declared his candidacy only on the day of the announcement. He proposes to rebuild its ageing public housing.

The question, as Nikkei puts it, is whether a mayor found to have bullied his staff should be given the city back.

POLITICS

ANALYSIS: An Alliance Is Judged by What Happens in a Hotel in Naha as Much as by What Sails in the Strait

By Jonathan Mercer | Senior Editor, International Desk

It is an uncomfortable coincidence that the week in which North Korea demonstrated a missile aimed at the gaps in Japan's defences should also be the week

in which a Marine was arrested for murder in Okinawa. The two events pull in opposite directions, and both are about the same alliance.

The case for the American presence in Okinawa has rarely been stronger. The island lies between the Chinese coast and the open Pacific. The forces based there are the ones that would move first in a crisis over Taiwan or the Korean peninsula.

The case against has not changed either, and it was restated on Sunday by a governor whose language was that of a man who wants the arrangement to work. A community cannot be asked to host tens of thousands of foreign servicemen indefinitely if it believes that the price includes the lives of its daughters.

The usual response is statistical. Crime by American personnel is low and falling, and most servicemen pass through without incident. That is true, and it does not help. Each case is felt as proof that the promises made after the last one were empty.

The governor said as much. Discipline and education, he said, were not functioning at all. That is too sweeping as a description, and exactly right as a statement of how it looks from Naha.

What would change the picture is not another expression of regret. It would be evidence that the command treats an incident like this as a failure of leadership with consequences for those in the chain above a twenty-year-old lance corporal.

It would also help if the two governments stopped treating the Status of Forces Agreement as untouchable. This case did not test the custody clause, because the police reached the suspect first. The next one may.

A government in Tokyo that asks Okinawa to accept new missiles and a new airfield has every reason to ask Washington for a revision that costs it little.

The prime minister, by all accounts, enjoys the president's good opinion. This would be a use for it.

Deterrence rests on bases, and bases rest on consent. The second is the one in short supply.

POLITICS

Who Holds the Suspect: The Clause in the Status of Forces Agreement That Did Not Come Into Play

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

Reports of the arrest in Okinawa all carry a sentence saying that the question of custody under the Status of Forces Agreement has not arisen. It is worth explaining what would have happened if it had.

The agreement, signed in 1960 with the security treaty, governs the legal position of American forces in Japan. Its seventeenth article divides criminal jurisdiction between the two countries.

For offences committed off duty against Japanese victims, Japan has the primary right to try the accused. That is not in dispute, and American servicemen are regularly tried and imprisoned in Japan.

The difficulty is in the stage before trial. The article provides that where an accused serviceman is in American hands, he stays there until he is charged by Japanese prosecutors. Japanese police may question him, by arrangement, but cannot hold him.

In practice this has meant suspects living on base, under whatever restriction their commanders impose, while a case is prepared.

After the rape of a schoolgirl by three servicemen in Okinawa in 1995, the two governments agreed that the United States would give sympathetic consideration to a Japanese request for transfer before indictment in cases of murder or rape. The understanding was later widened to other serious crimes.

Transfers have been made under it. They remain at American discretion, and the text of the agreement itself has never been amended.

None of this applies when Japanese police make the arrest themselves outside a base. The suspect in the present case was stopped on a street in Okinawa City, and he is held in a Japanese police station like any other suspect.

Successive governors of Okinawa, and the national association of governors, have asked for the agreement to be revised so that custody always lies with Japan. Successive governments in Tokyo have preferred to improve how it is applied.

The opposition parties are expected to raise the question again in the Diet session that begins today.

POLITICS

'Not Functioning at All': Governor Koja Summons Four Officials Today and Will Carry His Protest to the Prime Minister

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

Okinawa's governor, Genta Koja, will today call to the prefectural office the four officials who between them represent the two governments on the island, and protest to each.

They are the director of the Okinawa Defense Bureau, the foreign ministry's ambassador in charge of Okinawan affairs, the Okinawa Area Coordinator, who is the senior officer of the American forces there, and the American consul general.

He also means to travel to Tokyo soon to protest to the prime minister, the defense minister and the foreign minister.

His written comment, issued on Sunday afternoon, expressed condolences to the victim and her family and described the crime as extremely malicious.

It had given a great shock to people compelled to live beside the bases and had brought new anxiety, the comment said. It could never be forgiven, and he felt great indignation.

The passage most quoted concerned the American forces. The prefecture had asked for measures against recurrence every time an incident happened, he said, and yet this had happened. He was obliged to say that discipline and the education of personnel were not functioning at all.

He asked the forces for full co-operation with the investigation and for thorough measures to tighten discipline.

Mr Koja had at first intended to leave it at the written comment and to speak to reporters on Monday. The prefecture's base affairs division explained that it was still arranging where and how to protest. Shortly after five o'clock his office told the press club he would take questions at six.

He told reporters that Ambassador Glass had telephoned that morning through the consulate general, had offered condolences and had promised full co-operation, and that he had protested in reply.

The case comes at the very start of his term, and the manner of his response will be read as a statement of how he means to deal with both governments.

POLITICS

Thirty Years of 'Never Again': The Cases Behind the Governor's Anger

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

When the governor of Okinawa says that the prefecture has asked for preventive measures every time and that they do not work, he is referring to a specific history.

The case that defined it was in September 1995, when three American servicemen abducted and raped a twelve-year-old girl. The protests that followed were the largest the island had seen and led the two governments to agree, the following year, to return the Futenma air station.

That return has still not taken place. It was made conditional on a replacement being built elsewhere in the prefecture, and the construction at Henoko has been contested ever since.

In April 2016 a young woman out walking in Uruma was raped and murdered by a former Marine working on a base as a civilian contractor. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. The two governments afterwards narrowed the definition of the civilian staff covered by the Status of Forces Agreement.

In April 2019 a Navy sailor killed a Japanese woman in Chatan and then himself. He had been the subject of a military order to stay away from her.

In 2024 it emerged that an airman had been indicted for the sexual assault of a girl under sixteen and that neither the national government nor the police had told the prefecture. Other cases came to light in the same way. The notification procedure was revised.

After each of these the American forces tightened their rules on off-duty conduct, with curfews and limits on drinking, and the two sides began joint patrols of entertainment districts last year.

Recorded crime by American personnel in Okinawa

is far lower than in the decades after the war. That is of little comfort when a case of this gravity occurs.

Okinawa has about 70 per cent of the land used exclusively by American forces in Japan, on less than one per cent of the country's area.

It is that concentration which gives each incident its political weight, and which the governor had in mind when he spoke of people obliged to live beside the bases.

POLITICS

One in the Morning to Five: What the American Forces' Own Rules Already Say About the Small Hours

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The crime for which a Marine was arrested on Sunday is alleged to have been committed between about two and four in the morning. Under the rules of the American forces in Japan, junior personnel are not supposed to be at large off base at that time.

The rules are known as the liberty policy. They are issued by the commander of the forces in Japan and apply to all four services.

They have been tightened and loosened several times. A general curfew was imposed in 2012 after two sailors raped a woman in Okinawa, and relaxed some years later.

The present version dates from 2024, after the series of sexual assault cases in Okinawa became public. It restricts the movements of personnel in the lower ranks off base between one and five in the morning, and limits drinking in public places during those hours.

A lance corporal is in the third-lowest enlisted rank.

The rules are enforced by the services themselves. Military police patrol entertainment districts, and since last year have done so in Okinawa City alongside Japanese police.

A breach is a disciplinary offence. It does not by itself concern the Japanese authorities.

The existence of the rule sharpens the governor's complaint. A measure was in place that, if observed, would have kept a junior Marine out of a hotel in Naha at that hour.

It also points to the limit of such measures. A curfew restrains those who obey it.

The Marines have not said whether the suspect was in breach of the policy, or whether anyone knew where he was.

POLITICS

Henoko: Where the Replacement for Futenma Stands, Eight Years After the First Soil Went In

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

The return of the air station shown on today's front page depends on a construction project 40 kilometres to the north-east that is still years from completion.

The plan is to build two runways in a V shape on land reclaimed from the sea beside an existing Marine camp at Henoko, on the east coast.

Reclamation began in December 2018 on the southern side of the site, where the water is shallow. That part is largely filled.

The larger part lies in a bay to the north, where surveys found that the seabed is soft to a great depth. Tens of thousands of piles of compacted sand have to be driven to stabilise it.

The prefecture refused to approve the change of design that this required. After the courts ruled against it, the national government approved the change in the prefecture's place at the end of 2023, the first time that power had been used.

Work in the bay started in 2024. The government's estimate at the time was that construction would take about nine years and that the base would be ready for use some three years after that.

On that timetable Futenma would be returned in the second half of the 2030s.

The cost estimate has risen to more than 900 billion yen.

Voters in the prefecture rejected the plan in a referendum in 2019, and several governors were elected on promises to stop it.

The government's position has not varied in three decades: the relocation is the only way to close Futenma.

POLITICS



Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi at the rostrum of the House of Representatives, in a file image. The extraordinary session of the Diet convenes today. (Photo: WPM Productions)

POLITICS

The Diet Convenes Today With a Longer List Than the Government Wanted

A killing in Okinawa, a missile, a minister's boast and a typhoon stand between the prime minister and her bills on household finances

By Michael Hayes | Deputy Editor, Politics & Policy

The extraordinary session of the Diet opens today, and the prime minister, pictured here at the rostrum in a file image, will find that the subjects she is asked about bear little relation to the ones she chose.

Her programme for the session rests on two bills approved by the governing party on Friday. They would pay a benefit once a year from fiscal 2030 to people on low and middle incomes, as a step towards a system of refundable tax credits.

The opposition had already decided to begin elsewhere, with the agriculture minister. Kazuo Yana has admitted telling a party gathering in May that road budgets were cut drastically for two towns whose mayors did not back him. He denies influencing the ministry concerned and has declined to resign.

Since Saturday two more subjects have been added. North Korea fired what it calls an intermediate-range strategic missile into the Sea of Japan, and claimed on Sunday that it flew 1,000 kilometres, a third further than Japan's own estimate.

POLITICS

Three Protests Before Evening: How Tokyo Answered the Arrest in Okinawa

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The Japanese government's response to the arrest of a Marine in Okinawa on Sunday was faster and went higher than in most earlier cases.

The prefecture learned of the arrest by an email from the Okinawa Defense Bureau at 8:24 a.m., the Ryukyu Shimpo reports.

During the morning the vice-minister for foreign affairs, Takehiro Funakoshi, telephoned the American ambassador, George Glass. He told him the matter was extremely regrettable and asked that discipline among American personnel be tightened.

The foreign minister, Toshimitsu Motegi, then summoned the ambassador to protest in person, Nikkei reports.

The defense minister, Shinjiro Koizumi, said the crime was outrageous and that he felt strong indignation. His ministry protested to the American side separately.

The prime minister's own words were that the crime was extremely cruel and heinous, and extremely regrettable.

The American embassy issued a statement of deep condolence to the victim's family. The ambassador telephoned the governor of Okinawa. The forces in Japan and the Marines on the island have each responded, the Ryukyu Shimpo notes.

The usual sequence in such cases is a request for stricter discipline, an expression of regret, and a promise of co-operation. All three were made within hours.

The reports available do not mention any further step: a restriction on off-base movement, a review of the measures adopted after earlier incidents, or a meeting of the joint committee through which the two governments administer the Status of Forces Agreement.

And on Sunday a United States Marine was arrested in Okinawa on suspicion of robbery and murder. Ms Takaichi has called the crime extremely cruel and heinous. She will be asked what she intends to say to Washington, and whether the Status of Forces Agreement should be revised.

The governor of Okinawa has said he will come to Tokyo to protest to her directly.

Meanwhile a typhoon at its peak strength is passing the Ogasawara Islands, which are administratively part of Tokyo.

The government's bills are unchanged. What has changed is the order of business and the mood.

Komeito, under the leader it elected on Saturday, has said it will press its own proposal to remove the consumption tax from food.

Today is also the 62nd birthday of Megumi Yokota, who was abducted by North Korean agents in 1977.

Those are the things the governor will ask for when he comes to Tokyo.

POLITICS

The Air Station in the Photograph: Futenma, Thirty Years After Its Return Was Promised

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

The photograph on today's front page was taken from the air in May 2010 and shows why the base to which the arrested Marine belongs has been described as the most dangerous in the world.

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma occupies the centre of the city of Ginowan, a few kilometres north of Naha. Its runway, about 2,700 metres long, is surrounded on every side by houses, schools and a university.

The airfield was built by American forces in 1945, during the battle for the island, on land that had been villages and fields. The city grew up around the fence in the decades that followed.

It became a Marine Corps facility in 1960. Its aircraft are helicopters and tilt-rotor transports, which carry the Marines stationed elsewhere on the island.

In 2004 one of its helicopters crashed into a building of the university beside the base. No one on the ground was killed.

The two governments agreed in 1996 that the land would be returned within five to seven years, provided the base's functions were moved. The site eventually chosen was the coast at Henoko, in the north of the island, where land is being reclaimed from the sea.

The work has been delayed by lawsuits, by the opposition of successive governors and by soft ground on the seabed. Completion is now expected in the 2030s.

About a quarter of Ginowan's area is taken up by the base. The city's roads and services are built around it. Several thousand Marines and sailors are assigned there.

The suspect, a lance corporal, was one of them. The

police have not said what his duties were.

POLITICS

Seventy Per Cent on Less Than One: The American Presence in Okinawa in Numbers

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

Arguments about Okinawa's burden are conducted in a small number of figures, and it helps to have them in one place.

The prefecture makes up about 0.6 per cent of Japan's land area.

It contains about 70 per cent, by area, of the facilities in Japan that are used exclusively by American forces.

Those facilities number 31 and cover about 15 per cent of the main island of Okinawa.

The number of American service personnel in the prefecture is in the region of 25,000 to 30,000. More than half are Marines.

With dependants and civilian employees the American community is nearly twice that size, in a prefecture of about 1.47 million people.

The concentration has a history. Okinawa was under American military administration from 1945 until 1972, twenty years longer than the rest of the country, and bases closed on the mainland in the 1950s were in several cases replaced by ones there.

The Marine units now on the island were moved from mainland prefectures in that decade, in part because of local opposition where they had been.

The two governments agreed in 2012 that about 9,000 Marines would leave Okinawa for Guam and other places. The first small group moved at the end of 2024.

Land has been returned in stages. The share of 70 per cent was about 75 a decade ago.

POLITICS

The Marines Who Were Supposed to Leave: Guam, and a Move That Has Barely Begun

By Rachel Kim | Washington-Tokyo Liaison

Every statement about reducing Okinawa's burden refers sooner or later to Guam.

The two governments first agreed in 2006 that a large part of the Marine force on Okinawa would move to the American island, 2,400 kilometres to the south-east. Japan undertook to pay a substantial share of the cost.

The plan was revised in 2012. About 9,000 Marines were to leave Okinawa, some 4,000 of them for Guam and the remainder for Hawaii, Australia and the American mainland. Roughly 10,000 would stay.

A new base was built on Guam for the purpose, and was opened in 2023.

The first Marines to move under the agreement, about a hundred, arrived there in December 2024.

The pace since has been slow. The Marine Corps has reorganised itself around the idea of small units dispersed along the island chains near China, and Okinawa is where that concept is meant to be applied.

Senior American officers have said in public that moving forces further from the likely scene of a crisis makes little military sense.

The Japanese government's position is that the agreement stands and will be carried out.

For Okinawans the figure of 9,000 has been quoted for fourteen years. They can count how many have actually gone.

The typhoon that passes the Ogasawara Islands tonight formed, a week ago, east of Guam.

POLITICS

Who the Governor Is Summoning: The 'Area Coordinator' and the Four American Services on One Island

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

One of the four officials the governor of Okinawa has called to his office today holds a title that needs explanation.

The Okinawa Area Coordinator is the American officer who speaks for all the United States forces on the island in their dealings with the prefecture. The Japanese name for the post refers to the four services.

All four are present. The Marine Corps has the largest number, with its expeditionary force headquartered there. The Air Force operates Kadena. The Navy and the Army have smaller facilities.

Each service answers to its own chain of command. The coordinator's role is to give the prefecture one person to talk to. By custom it is held by the general commanding the Marines.

He has no authority over airmen or sailors. When an offence is committed by a member of another service, the coordinator receives the protest and passes it on.

In the present case the suspect is a Marine, so the officer receiving the protest is also at the head of his chain of command.

Above the coordinator is the commander of United States Forces Japan, an Air Force general at Yokota, near Tokyo. That command was recently given wider operational responsibilities.

On the diplomatic side, the United States is represented in Okinawa by a consul general, and the Japanese foreign ministry keeps an ambassador in Naha for dealings with the forces.

The Defense Ministry's bureau on the island handles the land, the noise complaints and the compensation.

The governor will see all four. The ritual is familiar to each of them.

POLITICS

The Committee Nobody Sees: Where the Status of Forces Agreement Is Actually Administered

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

Calls for the Status of Forces Agreement to be revised usually end with a promise to improve its operation instead. The body in which that is done is one of the least visible in Japanese government.

The Japan-United States Joint Committee was created by the agreement itself. It consists of a Japanese representative, who is the director-general of the foreign ministry's North American bureau, and an American one, who is the deputy commander of the forces in Japan.

It meets every two weeks, alternately at a foreign ministry facility and at an American one. Beneath it are some two dozen subcommittees.

Its business covers everything the agreement touches: which land is provided for bases, when training may take place, how accidents are investigated, how suspects are handled.

Its decisions are binding on both governments. Its minutes are not published unless both sides agree.

The understandings by which the United States considers handing over suspects before indictment were reached in this committee, not by amending the agreement.

The way the prefecture is told when a serviceman is charged was changed after 2024 by the Japanese side.

Critics object to the structure as much as to the secrecy. On one side sits a diplomat. On the other sits a serving military officer, which means that the American position is formed by the forces and not by the embassy.

Governors of Okinawa have asked for a seat, or at least for the minutes.

When the governor goes to Tokyo he will be asking, in effect, for this committee to be convened on his case.

POLITICS

Who Pays the Family: Compensation When a Serviceman Commits a Crime Off Duty

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

Whatever a criminal court decides in the Naha case, the victim's family has a separate question, and the answer to it has often added to the bitterness of such cases.

Under the Status of Forces Agreement, damage caused by American personnel in the course of their duties is settled by the Japanese government, which then recovers most of the cost from the United States.

A crime committed off duty is different. The offender is personally liable, as anyone would be. A young serviceman usually has no means.

The agreement provides for this. The Japanese authorities assess the claim and report to the

POLITICS

American side, which may then offer a payment as a matter of grace. It is not obliged to offer anything, and the amount is at its discretion.

The sums offered have often been well below what a Japanese court would award.

After the events of 1995 the two governments agreed that where a court's award exceeds the American payment, the Japanese government will make up the difference.

The procedure works, and it is slow. Families have waited years, and have had to sue an imprisoned offender to obtain a judgment against which the payment can be measured.

In one recent case the American side at first declined to pay at all, on the ground that the offender was a contractor and not a member of the forces.

Okinawa has asked for the system to be replaced by one in which the Japanese state pays promptly and settles with the United States afterwards.

That request will be among those the governor takes to Tokyo.

POLITICS

What a Lance Corporal Is: The Rank of the Man Arrested

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

The suspect in the Naha case is described in Japanese reports by a rank that translates as lance corporal.

It is the third of the nine enlisted grades in the United States Marine Corps, above private and private first class and below corporal.

It is the most common rank in the Corps. Most Marines reach it within a year or so of enlisting and spend the greater part of a first four-year term in it.

A lance corporal is not a non-commissioned officer. He commands no one and is supervised by corporals and sergeants.

Marines of this grade are typically between 19 and 22. The suspect is 20.

Many are on their first posting abroad. Okinawa is the Corps' principal overseas station, and a large share of its junior ranks pass through on tours of two or three years, or on rotations of six months.

That turnover is one of the difficulties the forces cite in maintaining discipline. A new group arrives each month, and each must be taught the same rules.

The rules for junior ranks are stricter than for others. They restrict movement off base in the early hours and the consumption of alcohol.

A Marine of 20 may not drink in the United States. In Japan the legal age is 20.

The police have not said what the suspect's duties were at Futenma, or how long he had been in Okinawa.

POLITICS

The Ambassador Who Made the Calls: George Glass

By Rachel Kim | Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The American ambassador summoned by the foreign minister on Sunday has been in Tokyo for a year and a half, and the case is among the gravest he has had to deal with.

George Glass presented his credentials in the spring of 2025.

He is a businessman from Oregon who made his career in investment banking and property. He supported Mr Trump's first campaign and was ambassador to Portugal during the first term.

In Lisbon he was known for speaking bluntly about Chinese investment in ports and telecommunications.

He has taken the same approach in Tokyo, where he has been an energetic public advocate of the alliance and a frequent critic of Beijing.

On Sunday he telephoned the governor of Okinawa himself, the governor says, to offer condolences to the victim's family and to promise full co-operation.

The embassy's statement used the phrase deep condolences.

An ambassador has no authority over the forces. Their commander reports to the Pentagon. What an ambassador can do is carry the host country's anger to Washington at a level that gets attention.

Previous ambassadors have gone to Okinawa in person after serious incidents. The reports do not say whether Mr Glass intends to.

He will in any case be asked about the Status of Forces Agreement, which his predecessors have all declined to reopen.

POLITICS

Two Newspapers and an Island: The Press Through Which the Rest of Japan Learns About Okinawa

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Most of what is known in Tokyo this morning about the arrest in Naha was first reported by two newspapers that few people outside Okinawa have ever held.

The Ryukyu Shimpo was founded in 1893 and is the older. The Okinawa Times was founded in 1948, under the American occupation.

Between them they are read in the great majority of the prefecture's households. The national dailies, which are printed far away and arrive late, have only a small circulation there.

The two compete fiercely and agree on the essentials. Both are critical of the concentration of bases and of the plan to build a new one at Henoko.

They are accused by conservative politicians on the mainland of bias. They reply that they reflect their readers.

Whatever is thought of their opinions, their reporting of incidents involving American forces is detailed and fast. Both had the arrest on their websites within hours, and both published the governor's remarks in full.

It was the Ryukyu Shimpo that noted, in an editorial hostile to both governments, that Tokyo's response this time had been quick.

The papers keep count. Each maintains a running record of crimes and accidents attributed to American personnel since reversion in 1972.

The broadcasters on the island are affiliates of the Tokyo networks and supply the pictures the country sees.

For a reader elsewhere in Japan, the first paragraph of any report on Okinawa has usually passed through one of these newsrooms.

POLITICS

Yokohama in Numbers: The City Seven Candidates Want to Run

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

The office being contested in Yokohama on October 18 is the largest municipal post in the country.

The city has about 3.77 million inhabitants, more than any other municipality in Japan and more than most prefectures.

It is divided into 18 wards, whose heads are appointed by the mayor and not elected.

Its annual budget, including special accounts, is close to four trillion yen.

The city was a fishing village until 1859, when it was opened as one of the first ports for foreign trade. It grew as the place where Japan met the West, and was twice destroyed, by the earthquake of 1923 and the bombing of 1945.

Since the war it has grown chiefly as a dormitory for Tokyo. More than a quarter of its working residents commute to the capital, and it has fewer large company headquarters than its size would suggest.

That gives it a narrow tax base and an ageing population in the hillside estates built in the 1960s and 1970s. Several candidates have made those estates an issue.

The city's population began to fall in 2021.

Recent mayors have been preoccupied by a single project each: a casino resort on the waterfront, which the present former mayor was elected in 2021 to stop, and did.

A mayor serves four years. If the former mayor wins, the election law gives him only the remainder of his previous term.

POLITICS

Bullying by the Boss, When the Boss Is Elected: The Law and Its Limits

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

The mayor of Yokohama resigned over what Japanese calls power harassment, a term coined in the early 2000s for the abuse of a position of authority at work.

It became a legal concept in 2020, when an amended law required large employers to take measures against it. Smaller employers were brought in two years later.

The health ministry's guidelines list six kinds of conduct: physical attack, mental attack such as insults and threats, isolating a person, making excessive demands, making demeaning ones, and intruding on private life.

The law places duties on the employer: to have a policy, a channel for complaints and a procedure for investigating them. It does not create an offence.

Local governments are employers and are covered. The difficulty is that the person at the top is not an employee. A mayor or governor is elected, and no official has the authority to discipline him.

The practical recourse is exposure. In Yokohama the city's former head of personnel made his allegations in public under his own name, and a panel of outside lawyers was appointed to examine them.

A similar sequence in Hyogo Prefecture in 2024 ended with the assembly passing a motion of no confidence in the governor, who lost office, stood again and was re-elected.

That precedent is in the minds of everyone involved in Yokohama. Resigning and standing again turns a finding by lawyers into a question for voters.

Some municipalities have since adopted ordinances that apply their harassment rules to the mayor and to assembly members by name.

The former mayor has spoken of his own failings. He says the voters should decide whether they disqualify him.

POLITICS

ANALYSIS: Yokohama's Voters Are Being Asked to Overrule a Report. They Have Done Such Things Before.

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

The former mayor of Yokohama resigned because a panel of lawyers found that he had abused his authority over the officials who worked for him. He is now asking the electorate to give him the job back.

There is nothing improper in that. A resignation followed by a fresh election is the one mechanism Japanese local government provides for putting such a question to the public.

It is also a calculated move, and the calculation has a precedent. In Hyogo two years ago a governor accused of similar conduct was removed by his assembly, stood again and won, carried by voters who distrusted the assembly and the press more than they distrusted him.

Mr Yamanaka's situation differs in ways that matter. He was not pushed out by rivals. The complaint came from his own former head of personnel, under his own name, and the finding was made by outsiders.

He has not disputed that he behaved badly. His case is that five years of work should weigh more.

The parties have left him. The Liberal Democrats, who backed him last year, have a candidate of their own. So have the Constitutional Democrats, who backed him twice.

That may help him. A candidate without a party, opposed by all of them, can present himself as the citizens' choice against the machines.

With seven names on the ballot the winner could take office with well under half the vote.

The larger question is what a victory would mean for the people who work in city hall. A mayor returned by the voters after such a finding would have little reason to change, and officials would have little reason to complain again.

That is the choice before Yokohama. It concerns a workplace of some 45,000 people as much as a city of 3.77 million.

POLITICS

Around the Country: A By-Election in Fukuoka, a Mayor Returned in Kaminoseki, and New Party Lines in Hokkaido and Chiba

By the Politics Desk

FUKUOKA: A candidate named Ushijima, standing for the first time with the endorsement of Komeito, won a by-election for the prefectural assembly. The

seat fell vacant when Isao Kurauchi, a former chairman of the assembly, resigned.

The result is an early success for Komeito under the leader it chose on Saturday, who has said the party will work with either side.

KAMINOSEKI: The mayor of this town in Yamaguchi Prefecture was re-elected. He campaigned on bringing to the town an interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel.

MINOKAMO: Voters in this city in Gifu Prefecture elected their council on tablets. The count took an hour and seven minutes. A report is on the technology pages.

YOKOHAMA: Seven candidates registered for the mayoral election to be held on October 18. A separate report appears on this page.

HOKKAIDO: Former members of the Constitutional Democratic Party in Hokkaido are preparing to form a regional party, the morning's reports say.

CHIBA: Takehiko Noda, a member of the Chiba prefectural assembly and the brother of the former prime minister Yoshihiko Noda, has left his party.

The last two items belong to the same story. The formation of the Centrist Reform Alliance at the start of the year, with the Constitutional Democrats' then leader at its head, left local members in several prefectures without a settled home.

OKINAWA: The governor is to protest today to Japanese and American officials over the arrest of a Marine.

TOKYO: The extraordinary session of the Diet convenes today.

POLITICS

Kaminoseki: A Town of a Few Thousand That Has Voted on Nuclear Questions for Forty Years

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

The mayoral election in Kaminoseki on Sunday was fought, as its elections have been since the 1980s, on a nuclear question.

The town is at the tip of a peninsula in the Seto Inland Sea, in the south-east of Yamaguchi Prefecture, and includes several small islands. Its population has fallen to a little over two thousand, most of them elderly.

In 1982 the regional utility, Chugoku Electric Power, proposed building a nuclear power station there. The town council supported it. The fishing community on the island facing the site did not, and has refused compensation ever since.

Preparatory work on the site was halted after the accident at Fukushima in 2011 and has not resumed.

In 2023 the utility came forward with a different proposal: to study the same land as a possible site for the interim storage of spent nuclear fuel, in partnership with Kansai Electric Power. The mayor agreed to the study.

Spent fuel is at present kept in pools at the power stations where it was used. The pools at several plants, Kansai Electric's among them, are close to full. Until a reprocessing plant operates, the fuel has to be put somewhere.

An interim store holds the fuel in steel casks, cooled by air, for some decades. One such facility has begun operating, at Mutsu in Aomori Prefecture.

For a town with a shrinking tax base, the grants that the state pays to municipalities hosting such facilities are a large consideration.

Neighbouring towns, which would receive less and would share any risk, have been cooler.

The mayor who was returned on Sunday campaigned openly for the facility, and his victory will be taken as the town's answer.

POLITICS

Fewer Than Half: Minokamo's Record Low and the Long Fall in Local Turnout

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

The detail of Minokamo's election that was not new was the turnout, 46.81 per cent, the lowest the city has recorded.

Fewer than half of those entitled to vote now do so in most Japanese local elections.

In the unified local elections of 2023, in which a large share of the country's councils and governors

POLITICS

are chosen on the same days, average turnout for city assemblies was about 44 per cent and for prefectural assemblies about 42, both the lowest on record.

In the 1950s the comparable figures were above 80.

The decline has been almost continuous. It reflects the weakening of the neighbourhood associations, farm cooperatives and trade unions that once brought voters out, and the ageing of the candidates themselves.

There is also less to vote on. A growing number of council seats, and some mayoralties, are filled without a contest because no more candidates stand than there are places.

The young vote least. Turnout among people in their twenties in local elections is commonly below 30 per cent.

Electronic voting does not obviously help. It makes the count quicker. It does not make the journey to the polling station shorter.

What might help is voting from home, and that is the step no Japanese government has been willing to take.

Minokamo's result was therefore known sooner, by fewer people.

POLITICS

The Week Ahead

By the Politics Desk

MONDAY, OCT. 5: The Diet convenes. Okinawa's governor protests to Japanese and American officials. Typhoon No. 27 passes east of Chichijima in the evening. Consumer confidence survey, 2 p.m. Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Kirin Cup final, Japan v New Zealand.

TUESDAY, OCT. 6: The typhoon passes east-south-east of Tokyo in the afternoon. The Bank of Japan's governor speaks to the securities industry. Japan Open tennis final and Kei Nishikori's farewell.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7: The typhoon east of Japan, becoming extratropical by night. Clear weather returns.

FRIDAY, OCT. 9: A tropical depression near the Marshall Islands is forecast to be a typhoon by this date.

SATURDAY, OCT. 10: Anniversary of North Korea's ruling party. Funeral of Masayoshi Otaki, Shizuoka.

SUNDAY, OCT. 11: World judo championships end in Baku.

MONDAY, OCT. 12: Sports Day, a public holiday.

OCT. 18: Yokohama mayoral election. Asian Para Games open.

OCT. 19 TO 29: Exercise Keen Sword.

NOV. 3: United States midterm elections.

INTERNATIONAL

Houthis Strike Saudi Oil Sites for a Second Day, in Riyadh and the East; Yemen's Government Declares an Offensive

By Jonathan Mercer | Senior Editor, International Desk

The Houthi movement in Yemen said on Sunday that it had attacked installations of the Saudi state oil company in Riyadh and in the east of the kingdom, a day after a refinery in the capital was set on fire.

In a statement reported by Kyodo News, the movement accused the Saudi side of continuing its air raids on Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, and warned that it would go on attacking what it called the enemy's bases and oil facilities. One market report names the Khurais district as the eastern target.

On Saturday the movement had claimed an attack on Riyadh with ballistic missiles and drones. A correspondent of the French news agency AFP saw flames and black smoke rising that afternoon from a facility of Saudi Aramco in the south of the city. The Saudi authorities had not commented.

The Houthis' television station said Saudi aircraft had struck Sanaa 26 times that day. Two AFP correspondents in the city heard heavy explosions and saw aircraft firing missiles.

The head of the presidential council of the Yemeni government that Saudi Arabia supports, Rashad al-Alimi, announced on Sunday the start of a military operation to take control of the whole country, including the areas the Houthis hold.

Crude oil futures rose on Monday. The leading

members of the group of oil exporters, meeting on Sunday, left their production targets for November unchanged. Actual output is well below those targets because exports from the Gulf are obstructed.

The two sides have traded heavy attacks since last month, when the Houthis took the whole of Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab strait, AFP notes.

On September 10 the pipeline that carries Saudi oil from the Gulf coast to the Red Sea was hit and shut down. The Saudi government blamed drones launched from Iraq. On September 19 the Houthis said they had struck installations in Riyadh and at the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

The movement, which is aligned with Iran, fought a Saudi-led coalition for seven years until a truce in 2022. The present round began in July, after Saudi aircraft bombed the airport at Sanaa and the Houthis declared a blockade of Saudi shipping.

For Japan, which buys most of its oil from the Gulf, the question is whether any route out of the region remains reliable. The attacks are the subject of today's editorial and of the cartoon above it.

INTERNATIONAL

North Korea Says Saturday's Missile Hit a Target 1,000 Kilometres Away, With Kim Watching; Seoul Says It Could Be Shot Down

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

North Korea's state news agency reported on Sunday that the missile launched the previous morning was an intermediate-range strategic weapon and had struck a target about 1,000 kilometres away.

The launch was described as a drill by a unit that handles hypersonic weapons, intended to improve the skills of its crews. Kim Jong Un was present. Photographs published with the report show his wife, Ri Sol Ju, and his daughter beside him, Sankei notes.

Mr Kim was quoted as saying that the country's nuclear deterrent had shown it was in a state of constant readiness.

It is the first time since January 2025 that the North has announced the launch of a hypersonic missile of intermediate range.

The distance claimed is well beyond what its neighbours measured. Japan's Defense Ministry put the flight at about 680 kilometres and South Korea's military at more than 700.

Pyongyang had offered its explanation in advance. On Saturday night a statement by Kim Yo Jong said the missile had followed an irregular path, rising again after it had begun to descend, and that those tracking it had lost the target.

South Korea's defence ministry rejected the implication. Its spokesman said on Sunday that the performance of the North's missiles remained at a level that South Korean and American forces could detect and intercept well enough.

The launch was the sixteenth of a ballistic missile by North Korea this year.

A further statement from Pyongyang, reported by Jiji Press, was aimed at Japan. It warned that a wrong choice by Tokyo would bring annihilation, and said the view that Japan should be treated as a military target was gaining ground.

The threat comes as Japan prepares to take its new long-range missile into the field for the first time, in an exercise with the United States that begins on October 19.

INTERNATIONAL

680, 700, 1,000: Three Distances for One Missile, and What Each Might Mean

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

A missile that flew once on Saturday morning has now been given three ranges, and the differences between them are the substance of the argument.

Japan's figure, about 680 kilometres, and South Korea's, more than 700, were announced within hours. They are estimates of where the object their radars followed came down.

North Korea's figure, about 1,000 kilometres, was published a day later and describes where it says the warhead hit.

There are two ways to reconcile them. The first is

that the North is exaggerating. It has done so before, and a claim of this kind costs nothing.

The second is the one Pyongyang itself has offered. Its statement on Saturday said the missile came down and then rose again. A warhead with wings or a lifting body can do this, skipping on the upper atmosphere, and each skip carries it further.

If the warhead descended below the horizon of the radars watching it and then pulled up, those radars would have recorded the point at which they lost it. The warhead would have gone on.

That would account for a gap of 300 kilometres. It would also mean that the estimates published in Tokyo and Seoul on Saturday were of where tracking ended and not of where the flight did.

Seoul's answer on Sunday was that its forces and the Americans can detect and intercept such a weapon. That may be so, particularly with sensors in space, which the horizon does not limit.

It is not the same as saying that the estimate of 700 kilometres was correct.

The three governments' analysts will have data the public does not. Until they publish a revised figure, the honest summary is that the missile flew at least 680 kilometres and that its owner says a good deal more.

INTERNATIONAL

The First Two of 66 New F-16s Reach Taiwan, a Week After the Trump-Xi Summit; Washington Says Policy Is Unchanged

By Rachel Kim | Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The first two of the 66 new F-16 fighters that the United States agreed to sell Taiwan in 2019 arrived on the island on Friday, Taiwan's defence ministry announced.

They landed at the air base at Taitung, on the south-east coast, Kyodo News reports.

President Lai Ching-te thanked the United States. He wrote that Taiwan would strengthen its defences, raise the cost of an invasion and so lower the risk of conflict.

An official of the American State Department said that policy towards Taiwan had not changed.

The remark was addressed to a particular worry. Mr Trump received President Xi Jinping at the White House on September 24, their second meeting in four months, and his administration has been seeking steadier relations with Beijing. There had been speculation in Taipei that support for the island would be the price.

The sale was approved during Mr Trump's first term. The aircraft are of the latest version of a design that first flew half a century ago, with a new radar and avionics.

Delivery was to have begun earlier. Taiwanese media attribute the delay to the disruption of supply chains during the pandemic.

While it waited, Taiwan has been modernising the older F-16s it already operates to a similar standard.

China regards every such delivery as interference in its internal affairs and usually says so. The notes supplied for this edition describe the event as the sale of two aircraft; it is the arrival of the first two of an order placed seven years ago.

For Japan, whose south-western islands are within sight of Taiwan, the pace at which the island is armed is a matter of direct interest.

INTERNATIONAL

The Wife and the Daughter at the Launch: Why Pyongyang Shows Them

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The photographs North Korea released of Saturday's missile launch include two figures who have no military function.

Ri Sol Ju, the wife of Kim Jong Un, was a singer in a state ensemble before her marriage, which was made public in 2012.

The girl beside them is his daughter. She is believed to be called Ju Ae and to have been born in about 2013. The North's media have never given her name.

She was first shown in November 2022, holding her father's hand in front of an intercontinental missile. She has since appeared at parades, at the launch of a

warship and at factory openings.

State media refer to her with honorifics previously reserved for the leader himself.

South Korea's intelligence service has told its parliament that it regards her as the most likely successor, while noting that this cannot be confirmed.

The choice of occasions is deliberate. She is seen almost exclusively with weapons, which associates her with the programme the regime presents as its greatest achievement.

It also carries a message abroad. A leader who brings his family to a launch is saying that he considers it safe, and that the weapons are a permanent inheritance.

Kim Jong Un's sister, Kim Yo Jong, who issued the statements about Saturday's launch, was not reported at the site.

The leader himself is 42.

INTERNATIONAL

October 10: The Anniversary North Korea Likes to Arrive at With Something to Show

By Aiko Tanaka | Senior Japan Correspondent

Saturday's launch came a week before one of the three most important dates in the North Korean calendar.

October 10 is observed as the anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea in 1945. This year's is the 81st.

Round-numbered anniversaries are marked with parades through Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang. The 75th, in 2020, was held at night under floodlights and introduced a very large intercontinental missile.

The 80th, last year, was attended by senior figures from China and Russia and again displayed a new long-range missile.

In ordinary years there is no parade, but the days before are often used for demonstrations of weapons, whose results are then announced as gifts to the party.

The other two dates are the birthdays of the founder, Kim Il Sung, in April, and of his son, Kim Jong Il, in February.

Foreign governments watch the approach of each for signs of preparation at launch sites.

This year's anniversary falls on a Saturday.

The launch of a missile described as a drill by an operational unit fits the pattern. It allows the regime to say that the weapon is no longer experimental.

A larger demonstration before the 10th cannot be excluded.

INTERNATIONAL

Taiwan's F-16s, Old and New: What Sixty-Six More Aircraft Add

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

The two fighters that landed at Taitung on Friday are the first new combat aircraft Taiwan has received from the United States in more than two decades.

The island has flown the F-16 since 1997, when it took delivery of 150 ordered under the first President Bush. About 140 remain.

Those aircraft have been rebuilt over the past several years with a new radar, new computers and new weapons. The work was completed in 2023.

The 66 now arriving are newly manufactured to the same standard, with a more powerful engine and a longer structural life.

The sale was approved in 2019 at a price of about eight billion dollars.

When all are delivered Taiwan will have more than 200 F-16s, one of the largest fleets of the type anywhere.

It also flies French-built Mirage fighters and a locally designed type.

Against this China's air force and naval aviation have well over a thousand modern fighters within range of the island, including stealth aircraft Taiwan cannot match.

The purpose of Taiwan's fighters is therefore not to win control of the air. It is to deny it for long enough, and to carry the anti-ship missiles that would be used against an invasion fleet.

The base at Taitung, on the Pacific coast behind the central mountains, is the one furthest from the mainland.

INTERNATIONAL



A luncheon for technology executives at the White House in September, in a file image. President Trump announced on Sunday a body to co-ordinate the government's policy on artificial intelligence, Kyodo News and Jiji Press report. (White House Official)

INTERNATIONAL

Trump Creates a 'Superintelligence Force' to Co-ordinate Washington's Policy on AI, Under the Intelligence Chief and the Trade Regulator

The body is to report to the president and his chief of staff; a newspaper says it has 120 days to assess the risks
By Rachel Kim | Washington-Tokyo Liaison

President Trump announced on Sunday that he was setting up a body to co-ordinate the American government's policy on artificial intelligence, and gave it a name that reflects his own preferred term for the technology.

It is to be called the Superintelligence Force, or SI Force. Mr Trump signed an order on September 29 directing that federal documents use the word superintelligence, abbreviated SI, in place of artificial intelligence.

The announcement was made on social media. The aim, he wrote, was to ensure that the United States continued to lead the world, and the body would protect the interests of all Americans and improve their lives, Jiji Press reports.

It will be led by the director of national intelligence, Mr Clayton, and the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, Mr Ferguson, among others. It reports to the president and to his chief of staff, Susie Wiles.

The membership signals the purpose. One of the two leaders is responsible for the country's intelligence agencies and the other for consumer protection and competition.

The body is to work with consumers, religious organisations, the operators of critical infrastructure and the companies that build the systems, by Jiji's account.

Mr Trump gave no detail. The Wall Street Journal reports that the group has 120 days to assess the risks and opportunities, and that it will look at how to deal with threats the technology poses to society and at how incidents such as hacking are reported to the government.

TBS describes its purpose as the monitoring of malicious acts carried out with the technology.

The photograph with this article shows a luncheon for technology executives at the White House last month, in a file image. Mr Trump and the heads of the largest companies agreed recently that the systems should be subject to firm control and that the companies bear responsibility for safety.

Japan's own plan for the technology, promised by the prime minister for the end of the year, is being drafted with one eye on what Washington decides.

INTERNATIONAL

The Pipeline That Was the Way Round Hormuz: Why the Attacks on Saudi Arabia Matter to a Driver in Japan

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

Saudi Arabia's oilfields lie on its eastern side, beside the Persian Gulf. Its customers in Asia are reached through the Strait of Hormuz.

For the event that the strait was closed, the kingdom built an alternative in the 1980s: a pipeline 1,200 kilometres long, from the processing centre at Abqaiq across the desert to the port of Yanbu on the Red Sea.

It can carry up to seven million barrels a day, TV Asahi reports. That is a large part of what the kingdom exports.

This year the alternative became the main road. With traffic through the strait disrupted since the spring, Saudi crude for Asia has been loaded at Yanbu and shipped south through the Red Sea.

That is the route the Houthis can reach. Their missiles and drones cover the western side of the kingdom, the Red Sea ports and the waters at its southern end.

The pipeline was struck on September 10 and stopped. The refinery and terminal attacks since have been aimed at the same system.

The effect on prices is direct. Each attack removes supply or raises the insurance on carrying it.

Japan obtains more than 90 per cent of its crude oil from the Middle East, and Saudi Arabia is one of its two largest suppliers. The country holds reserves equal to more than 200 days of consumption, and has drawn on them in step with its allies.

The release of 100 million barrels agreed by the Group of Seven last week was a response to exactly this pressure, and was weighted towards diesel, the fuel that has become scarcest.

The price at Japanese pumps is cushioned by a government subsidy. The cost of the subsidy rises with every attack.

INTERNATIONAL

From a Mountain Province to the Red Sea: Who the Houthis Are

By Jonathan Mercer | Senior Editor, International Desk

The movement that set an oil refinery alight in Riyadh on Saturday began three decades ago as a religious revival in the far north of Yemen.

Its members belong to a branch of Shia Islam found chiefly in Yemen's northern highlands. Its formal name means Supporters of God. The name by which it is known abroad is that of the family that founded it.

It fought a series of wars against the Yemeni government in the 2000s. In 2014 its fighters came down from the north and took the capital, Sanaa.

Saudi Arabia, alarmed at an Iranian-aligned force on its southern border, assembled a coalition and intervened in 2015. The war that followed killed several hundred thousand people, most of them through hunger and disease.

The Houthis survived it and kept the capital and most of the population. A truce took hold in 2022.

Over those years they acquired, with Iranian help, ballistic missiles and long-range drones. They used them against Saudi oil installations as early as 2019.

From late 2023 they attacked merchant ships in the Red Sea, saying they were acting in support of the Palestinians, and drew American and British air strikes.

This year's war around the Gulf has brought them back into open conflict with Saudi Arabia.

They are not simply an instrument of Tehran. They have their own aims, chief among them recognition as the government of Yemen.

Their weapons can reach any point in Saudi Arabia

and most of the Red Sea.

INTERNATIONAL

A Word by Executive Order: What 'Superintelligence' Means, and Why the Name Matters

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

The name of the body President Trump announced on Sunday rests on a term that until recently belonged to philosophers and to the publicity of a few companies.

Superintelligence, in the usage of researchers, means a system that exceeds human ability across essentially all intellectual tasks. No such system exists. Whether one is five years away or fifty, or possible at all, is disputed.

The president's order of September 29 does something different. It directs the federal government to use the word, shortened to SI, where it has until now written artificial intelligence.

The change is therefore one of vocabulary and not of definition. A chatbot that answers tax questions becomes, in a government document, a superintelligence system.

Critics say this empties a useful term. If everything is superintelligence, there is no word left for the thing people are actually worried about.

Supporters see a statement of ambition, of a piece with the administration's view that the United States is in a race it must win.

Names shape institutions. A body called a force, led by the head of intelligence, will be understood abroad as an instrument of national power, whatever its terms of reference say about consumers.

For other governments the practical question is whether they must follow. Japanese ministries translate American policy documents constantly, and a term used in every one of them tends to cross over.

The Japanese government's phrase remains AI. Its promised action plan uses it throughout.

The companies, for their part, have used the grander word for some time. One of the largest has a laboratory named for it.

INTERNATIONAL

A Spy Chief and a Trade Regulator: The Two Offices Put in Charge of America's AI Policy

By Rachel Kim | Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The body President Trump announced on Sunday is to be led by the holders of two offices that have little in common.

The director of national intelligence oversees the eighteen agencies that make up the American intelligence community. The post was created in 2005, after the attacks of September 2001 exposed their failure to share what they knew.

The director does not run the agencies day to day. He sets priorities, controls the combined budget and briefs the president.

The Federal Trade Commission is far older. It was established in 1914 to police unfair competition, and later acquired responsibility for protecting consumers from deception.

In recent years it has been the nearest thing the United States has to a regulator of the technology industry, bringing cases over privacy and over the dominance of large companies.

Putting the two together says something about how the administration sees the subject. One office looks outward, at adversaries. The other looks inward, at what companies do to their customers.

What is absent is also informative. The departments that deal with science, commerce and standards are not named as leaders.

The group reports to the president and to his chief of staff, not to a cabinet department.

Bodies of this kind in Washington tend to be as influential as their access. This one has it.

Its first product, by the Wall Street Journal's account, is due in 120 days.

INTERNATIONAL

World Digest

By the International Desk

KYIV: President Zelensky said Russia appeared to be sharing the technology of high-speed drones with North Korea, Kyodo News reports.

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is announced today, the first of this year's awards.

SEOUL: South Korea's defence ministry said North Korea's missiles could be detected and intercepted.

TAIPEI: The first two of 66 new F-16 fighters arrived from the United States.

RIYADH: An Aramco refinery was set on fire in an attack claimed by the Houthis.

WASHINGTON: President Trump announced a body to co-ordinate policy on artificial intelligence.

PARIS: Daryz won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe for a second year.

BAKU: The world judo championships opened, and Wakana Koga won Japan a gold medal on the first day.

BEIJING AND SEOUL: Financial markets in China and South Korea are closed today for holidays.

NEW YORK: The Institute for Supply Management publishes its index of services activity for September tonight, Japan time.

ECONOMY

Markets at a Glance

By the Economy Desk

Tokyo reopens at 9 a.m. Friday's closes follow.

Nikkei 225: 68,309.46, down 647.

TOPIX: 4,091.00, down 40.98.

Yen: 156 to 158 to the dollar (Gaitame.com).

Tokyo consumer prices, September: up 2.7 per cent.

Bank of Japan policy rate: 1.25 per cent.

United States payrolls, September: up 29,000.

ISM services index, August: 55.4. September due at 11 p.m.

Consumer Confidence Survey, September: due at 2 p.m.

Shanghai and Seoul: closed today.

SOCIETY

The Day in Figures

By the Data Desk

925 hPa: the typhoon at 6 a.m.

370 km: its distance from Chichijima this evening.

20: age of the Marine arrested.

197: officers on the case.

269: Japan's medals at the Asian Games.

1,000 km: North Korea's claim for its missile.

67 minutes: Minokamo's count.

46.81: its turnout, per cent.

102: degrees Fahrenheit in Los Angeles.

17: degrees between dawn and afternoon in Aomori.

SOCIETY

Today's Cautions

By the Society Desk

Ogasawara: gusts to 35 m/s tonight.

Ogasawara: very rough seas with swell.

Pacific coasts: swell from tomorrow.

Keep off breakwaters and rocks.

Shikoku, Inland Sea: rain this morning.

Sapporo: rain from the afternoon.

Chiba, Kanagawa: slopes still loose.

Northern Japan: a cold dawn, a warm day.

Messages citing your personal details: verify.

Mountain districts: bears are about.

SPORTS

The Games in Numbers

By the Sports Desk

16: days of competition.

45: countries and regions.

43: sports.

932: Japanese competitors.

83: Japanese gold medals.

269: Japanese medals in all.

78 and 218: the records they replaced.

17: age of the flag-bearer.

4,000: free seats at the closing ceremony.

2030: the next Games, in Doha.

ECONOMY



The Tokyo Stock Exchange at Kabutocho. The exchange begins this month the second stage of its reform of the TOPIX index. (Photo: TG2 (CC))

ECONOMY

The TOPIX Is Being Rebuilt From This Month: Fewer Companies, Chosen by Size and Trading, and a Call to Rethink Growth

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The Tokyo Stock Exchange, pictured here, begins this month the second and larger stage of its reform of the TOPIX, the index against which most Japanese pension money is measured.

The index has for half a century included every company on the exchange's senior market. That gave it more than 2,000 members, many of them small and rarely traded, and obliged funds that track it to hold all of them.

A first round of changes, completed last year, removed the smallest by gradually reducing their weight to nothing.

The stage now starting changes the principle. Membership will be decided by periodic review, on two tests: the value of a company's freely traded shares, and how actively those shares change hands. Companies on the exchange's other markets become eligible for the first time.

The number of constituents is expected to fall to about 1,200 over the next two years, with weights adjusted in steps so that funds are not forced to trade all at once.

Sankei Shimbun, in an editorial this morning, treats

the reform as an occasion for something wider. An index that represents the market properly, it argues, is only as good as the companies in it, and the government and companies alike should re-examine their strategies for growth.

For a company the stakes are practical. Inclusion means automatic buying by index funds. Exclusion means automatic selling, and a harder task in attracting investors.

That gives managements a reason to care about the two things the tests measure, and both can be influenced: by unwinding cross-shareholdings, which increases the freely traded share, and by talking to investors.

The exchange's earlier campaign, asking companies trading below the value of their assets to explain themselves, worked through embarrassment. This one works through money.

The market is closed for the weekend's news until nine o'clock. The Nikkei average ended last week at 68,309.46.

ECONOMY

You Own the TOPIX Whether You Know It or Not: What the Index Reform Does to a Pension

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

Most people in Japan have never bought a share. Most of them own a slice of the TOPIX all the same.

The Government Pension Investment Fund, which manages the reserves of the public pension system, is the largest pension fund in the world. About a quarter of it is invested in Japanese shares, and most of that is held in funds that simply copy the TOPIX.

Corporate pension schemes, the investment trusts sold through the tax-free savings accounts, and the Bank of Japan's own large holdings of exchange-traded funds follow the same index.

A fund that copies an index holds every company in it, in proportion to its weight. It does not choose.

That is cheap, and over time it has served savers better than most attempts to pick winners. It has a cost. Money flows to a company because it is in the index, not because it is well run.

With more than 2,000 members, the old index sent pension money into hundreds of companies that few professional investors would have bought.

The reform is intended to end that. A company will have to be of a certain size and be actively traded to qualify, and will be reviewed regularly.

For savers the change should be invisible. The funds will adjust their holdings gradually as weights change.

For the companies that drop out it will be visible at once, as a steady seller appears in their shares.

The intended effect lies between the two: managements that know index money is no longer automatic.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

A city votes on tablets, Page 11.

DeNA beat Hanshin in the eleventh, Page 15.

ECONOMY

ANALYSIS: A Better Index Is Not a Growth Strategy, but It Removes an Excuse

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The reform of the TOPIX that begins this month is a technical change with a moral attached.

For decades a listing on the senior section of the Tokyo exchange brought with it automatic membership of the index and, with that, automatic purchases by every fund that tracked it. A company did not have to earn the money. It had only to remain listed.

The consequences were what one would expect. Hundreds of companies sat on cash, held one another's shares, and felt no pressure from owners who had bought them only because a formula required it.

The new rules make membership conditional. A company must be large enough and traded enough, and the test is repeated.

Sankei's editorial draws the wider moral, that growth strategy needs rethinking. That is true, and the index cannot do it. An index is a list.

What it can do is change incentives at the margin. A management that knows it may be dropped will look for ways to raise the value and liquidity of its shares, and most of those ways are good for the economy: selling idle holdings, returning cash, explaining itself.

The earlier campaign by the exchange produced exactly that behaviour among the companies it embarrassed. Share buybacks reached records.

There is a risk on the other side. Companies near the threshold may pursue the appearance of liquidity and size without the substance.

And there is a limit. The companies that will define Japan's growth in the next decade are for the most part not yet large, and an index weighted by size will always be a record of past success.

The reform is worth having. It should not be mistaken for the thing the editorial is asking for.

ECONOMY

Today's Calendar: Household Confidence at 2 p.m., American Services at 11, and No Trading in Shanghai or Seoul

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

Tokyo's markets reopen this morning to a short list of scheduled events and a longer list of unscheduled ones.

At 2 p.m. the Cabinet Office publishes its Consumer Confidence Survey for September. The survey asks households how they expect their circumstances to change over the next six months, and is watched for the effect of rising prices.

September was a month in which prices in Tokyo rose 2.7 per cent, the most in eight months, and in which it rained in the capital every day.

At 11 p.m. Tokyo time the Institute for Supply Management in the United States publishes its index of activity in services for September. The August reading was 55.4, and forecasts are for about 55. A figure above 50 indicates expansion.

The number matters more than usual because Friday's employment report was weak. A strong reading for services would suggest the economy is holding up. A weak one would add to expectations of lower American interest rates.

Markets in mainland China are closed for the National Day holiday, and those in South Korea are also shut. Trading in Asia will be thin.

Tomorrow the governor of the Bank of Japan, Kazuo Ueda, addresses the annual convention of the securities industry. The audience will listen for any hint about the timing of the next increase in interest rates.

The unscheduled items are the weekend's: a missile from North Korea, a typhoon at its peak south of Tokyo, an arrest in Okinawa and the opening of the Diet.

None of them would ordinarily move share prices. Together they set the tone.

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is announced this evening.

ECONOMY

The Two O'Clock Number: What the Consumer Confidence Survey Asks, and What 50 Means

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

The figure the Cabinet Office publishes at 2 p.m. today is one of the few official statistics that measures a feeling.

The Consumer Confidence Survey is carried out every month among about 8,400 households across the country.

Each is asked four questions about the coming six months: whether its overall livelihood will improve or worsen, whether its income will grow, whether employment conditions will get better, and whether it will be a good time to buy durable goods.

There are five possible answers to each, from will improve to will worsen. The answers are weighted and averaged into an index for each question, and the four are averaged into the headline figure.

If every household expected no change, the index would be 50. It has been below 50 for almost the whole of the past three decades, which says something about the national temperament and something about the economy.

The level therefore matters less than the direction. Economists watch for runs of rises or falls and for changes in the government's own one-line assessment.

The survey also asks what households expect prices to do over the next year. That answer is followed closely by the Bank of Japan, because expectations of inflation tend to bring it about.

For more than two years a very large majority of households have said they expect prices to rise.

Confidence and prices pull against each other. Households feel better when wages rise and worse when shopping costs more, and lately the second has usually won.

The August index is the point of comparison for today's.

ECONOMY

Fifty-Five Point Four: The American Services Index, and Why Tokyo Stays Up for It

By Rachel Kim | Washington-Tokyo Liaison

At 11 o'clock tonight in Tokyo, 10 in the morning in New York, an organisation of purchasing managers publishes a single number that moves markets on both sides of the Pacific.

The Institute for Supply Management asks executives at several hundred American companies outside manufacturing whether business was better, worse or the same in the past month than in the one before.

It asks about activity, new orders, employment and deliveries. The answers are combined into an index in which 50 is the dividing line between growth and contraction.

The reading for August was 55.4, which indicates solid expansion. Forecasts for September are for about 55.

Services make up the great majority of the American economy. A country can have a weak factory sector and still grow. It cannot have weak services and do so.

The survey's value is its speed. It appears three business days into the new month, well before official statistics.

This month it follows an employment report that showed only 29,000 jobs added in September. The services survey includes its own question on hiring, and that sub-index will be read with particular attention.

For Japan the channel is the exchange rate. A weak reading lowers American interest-rate expectations and the dollar, and so raises the yen.

A separate index for manufacturing, published by the same body on the first business day of each month, has been below 50 for most of the past three years.

Markets in China and South Korea are closed today, which will concentrate Asian reaction on Tokyo tomorrow morning.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

Governor Koja's protest, Page 4.

North Korea claims 1,000 km, Page 7.

ECONOMY

ECONOMY

The Yen Is Pinned Between 156 and 158: Dearer Oil Pushes One Way, the Fear of Intervention the Other

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The yen begins the week where it ended the last, in a range of about 156 to 158 to the dollar, and the foreign exchange brokerage Gaitame.com expects it to stay there.

Two forces are in balance, by its analysis.

The first is oil. Japan imports almost all of its energy and pays for it in dollars. When crude becomes dearer, importers must sell more yen to buy the same number of barrels, and the currency weakens.

Crude has been rising. The daily attacks on Saudi installations by the Houthi movement have put the kingdom's exports in question.

The second force is official. The Japanese and American governments have both made known that they do not want the yen to fall further, and traders remember that Tokyo has intervened before at about these levels.

That knowledge acts as a ceiling. Each time the dollar approaches 158, sellers appear.

Friday's American employment figures, which were weak, would normally have lifted the yen by lowering expectations for American interest rates. The effect was offset by oil.

A yen in the upper 150s is uncomfortable for households, which pay more for food and fuel, and comfortable for exporters, whose foreign earnings are worth more at home.

The Bank of Japan's policy rate is 1.25 per cent. The governor's speech tomorrow will be read for any sign that the next increase is near.

For the moment the currency is being held in place by two things that could each change overnight.

ECONOMY

The Individuals Who Trade the Yen: Why a Retail Brokerage's View of the Dollar Is Quoted

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The forecast for the yen cited in today's economy pages comes from a firm whose customers are private individuals. In most countries that would make its opinion marginal. In Japan it does not.

Japanese households are the world's most active retail traders of foreign exchange. They deal on margin, putting up a small deposit to control a much larger position, through online brokers.

By some estimates they account for a meaningful share of all trading in the yen during Tokyo hours.

The foreign press gave them a collective name in the 2000s, Mrs Watanabe, on the theory that they were housewives managing the family savings. Surveys since have shown that the typical trader is a man in his forties.

Their behaviour is distinctive. Professionals tend to follow a trend. Japanese individuals tend to bet against it, buying the dollar when it falls and selling when it rises, in the expectation that it will return to where it was.

That makes them a stabilising force in calm markets and a casualty in violent ones.

The authorities have limited the leverage they may use, to 25 times the deposit, after heavy losses in earlier episodes.

The brokers publish their customers' positions in aggregate, and analysts read them as a guide to where buying and selling will appear.

A range of 156 to 158 is the kind of market in which these traders do well.

A sudden move out of it, on intervention or on a shock from the Middle East, is the kind in which they do not.

ECONOMY

From Below Zero to 1.25 Per Cent: The Road the Bank of Japan's Governor Will Be Asked About Tomorrow

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

When Kazuo Ueda speaks to the securities industry tomorrow, his listeners will want one piece of information he is unlikely to give them: when interest

rates will next rise.

The policy rate stands at 1.25 per cent. To anyone who followed Japanese finance before 2024 that is an extraordinary number.

For eight years until March of that year the rate was below zero. For most of the two decades before, it was at or near zero. The Bank bought government bonds in vast quantities to hold longer-term rates down as well.

Mr Ueda, an academic economist who became governor in April 2023, ended the negative rate in March 2024. Increases followed in steps, each preceded by signals intended to avoid surprising the market.

The justification was that inflation, absent for a generation, had returned and looked likely to stay. Wages began to rise by more than they had since the early 1990s.

Consumer prices in Tokyo rose 2.7 per cent in the year to September, above the Bank's target of two.

The argument for a further increase is that the rate is still below inflation, so that money remains cheap in real terms, and that the weak yen is importing higher prices.

The argument against is that households are already under strain and that the American economy, to judge by Friday's employment figures, may be slowing.

The government's debt, the largest relative to output of any advanced country, becomes more expensive to service with each step.

The governor's habit is to describe the conditions under which he would act and to leave the audience to judge whether they have been met.

ECONOMY

The Professor at the Bank: Kazuo Ueda, Who Speaks Tomorrow

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The governor of the Bank of Japan, who addresses the securities industry tomorrow, is the first academic to hold the post since the war.

Kazuo Ueda was appointed in April 2023. His predecessors for half a century had come from the finance ministry or from the Bank's own staff.

He is 75. He studied mathematics and economics at the University of Tokyo and took his doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where his supervisor also taught a generation of the world's central bankers.

He taught at Tokyo for most of his career and served on the Bank's policy board from 1998 to 2005, the years in which it first cut interest rates to zero and began buying assets.

He was therefore present at the creation of the policies he has since unwound.

His manner is that of a lecturer. He answers questions at length and precisely, and has been criticised for saying both too much and too little.

In the summer of 2024 a rate increase that markets had not fully expected was followed by a violent fall in share prices. Since then the Bank has taken pains to signal its intentions in advance.

Under him the policy rate has gone from below zero to 1.25 per cent, and the Bank has begun to reduce its holdings of government bonds.

His term runs until 2028.

The convention he addresses tomorrow is an annual gathering of the brokerage industry, and governors have spoken at it for decades.

ECONOMY

Dearer Crude, a Weaker Yen and a Subsidy That Hides Both: Japan's Oil Bill This Week

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

The connection between a burning refinery in Riyadh and the price of petrol in Japan runs through three steps, and each of them has moved the wrong way.

The first is the price of crude itself. Attacks on Saudi export facilities have continued almost daily, and a pipeline that normally carries a large share of the kingdom's exports has been out of action since the middle of September.

The second is the exchange rate. Oil is priced in dollars, and the yen is in the upper 150s to the dollar.

The third is the cost of getting the oil here. Insurance for tankers in the region is dearer, and the

government widened its own reinsurance scheme for them last week.

Households see little of this directly. The price at the pump is held down by a subsidy paid to wholesalers, which rises automatically as costs do.

The subsidy is paid for from the national budget. Each week of higher prices adds to a bill that has run to trillions of yen since the subsidy was introduced.

Industry is less protected. Diesel for lorries, fuel for fishing boats and naphtha for chemical plants have all risen.

The Group of Seven's decision last week to release 100 million barrels from reserves over four months was aimed at diesel in particular.

Japan's own reserves are large, more than 200 days of consumption, and it has drawn on them in step with its allies.

Reserves buy time. They do not reopen a pipeline.

ECONOMY

After the Wettest September on Record, Sales of Flood Barriers Are Up Tenfold

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

The month of rain that ended on Saturday has produced a boom in a product most households had never thought of buying.

Sales of water barriers, the boards and panels fitted across doorways and garage entrances to keep floodwater out, have in some cases risen to more than ten times last year's level, the morning's reports say.

The barriers are of several kinds. The simplest are plastic or aluminium panels that slot into brackets fixed to a door frame. Others are bags that swell when wet, used in place of sandbags, and flexible sheets that are unrolled across an opening.

They are bought by shops and by the owners of houses with basements or sunken garages, and increasingly by ordinary households on low ground.

The demand follows the kind of rain the capital has had. Much of the flooding in cities is not from rivers but from drains that cannot carry away a cloudburst, and it reaches only a few tens of centimetres. A barrier of that height is enough.

Many municipalities subsidise the cost.

Typhoon No. 25 in the middle of September, which killed 15 people, brought flooding to Chiba and Kanagawa.

The increase is from a small base. Until this autumn the product was bought mainly by shops and building managers.

The effect on the wider economy is small. It is a sign of something larger: households and businesses are beginning to spend on adapting to heavier rain as a matter of course.

The forecast for the rest of this week is dry from Wednesday.

ECONOMY

Nobel Week Opens Tonight With Medicine; Japan Had Two Laureates Last Year

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The first of this year's Nobel Prizes, that for Physiology or Medicine, will be announced in Stockholm this evening, Japan time.

Physics follows on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday, literature on Thursday and peace on Friday. The prize in economics is announced the following Monday.

Japan approaches the week in an unusual position. Last year it had two laureates in the sciences: Shimon Sakaguchi, who shared the medicine prize for the discovery of the cells that restrain the immune system, and Susumu Kitagawa, who shared the chemistry prize for a class of porous materials.

Two in one year had not happened for the country since 2015.

The prizes have a commercial as well as a scientific meaning. Mr Sakaguchi's work underlies treatments now in development for autoimmune disease and cancer.

They are also an annual occasion for anxiety about the state of Japanese research. Most of the work for which Japanese scientists have been honoured was done decades ago, when universities had more secure funding and young researchers more time.

The government has responded with a large endowment fund whose income is to support a small number of universities at an international level.

Newspapers keep lists of candidates, compiled from citation counts and earlier awards, and reporters wait outside the homes of those on them.

The announcement of the medicine prize is expected at about 6:30 p.m.

The awards are presented in December.

BUSINESS

Company of Southern All Stars' Bassist Failed to Declare More Than 500 Million Yen, Tax Bureau Finds

By Daisuke Ito | Investigations & Longform

A company connected with Kazuyuki Sekiguchi, the bassist of the rock band Southern All Stars, has been found by the Tokyo Regional Taxation Bureau to have failed to declare more than 500 million yen of income, Asahi Shimbun reported in its Sunday morning edition.

The report concerns the company and not the band or its management.

The summaries available do not say over what period the income arose, what it consisted of, or whether the bureau regarded the omission as deliberate.

That last point determines the consequences. Japanese tax law distinguishes between income that was simply not declared, through error or a difference of interpretation, and income that was concealed.

In the first case the taxpayer pays the tax due together with a surcharge and interest. In the second a much heavier surcharge applies, and in serious cases the bureau may refer the matter to prosecutors.

Musicians' companies are a common arrangement. A performer's earnings from royalties, appearances and merchandise are paid to a company he controls, which employs him and bears his expenses.

The arrangement is lawful. Disputes arise over which expenses are properly the company's and which receipts belong to it.

Southern All Stars have been among the best-selling acts in Japan since their debut in 1978.

Mr Sekiguchi is also known as a player and promoter of the ukulele.

Neither he nor the company is quoted in the summaries available.

BUSINESS

'Not Declared' or 'Concealed': The Two Words That Decide How Much a Tax Mistake Costs

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

Reports of tax investigations in Japan turn on a distinction that is easy to miss in translation.

The broader term covers any income that should have appeared on a return and did not. The cause may be an arithmetical error, an expense claimed in the wrong year, or a disagreement with the tax office over what counts as business spending.

The narrower term means that income was hidden or records were falsified. It implies intent.

The tax authorities decide which applies, and the financial difference is large.

Where income was merely not declared, the taxpayer owes the unpaid tax and an additional charge that is ordinarily 10 or 15 per cent of it, plus interest.

Where it was concealed, the additional charge is 35 per cent, or 40 per cent if no return was filed at all. Repeat offenders pay more.

Concealment on a large scale can also be prosecuted as tax evasion, which carries imprisonment. In practice the national tax agency refers only a small number of cases each year, generally where the tax evaded exceeds 100 million yen and the conduct was flagrant.

A regional taxation bureau's findings are not public. They become known through the taxpayer, or through newspapers with sources in the bureau.

Most such reports end with a sentence in which the company says it has filed an amended return and paid.

A figure for undeclared income, such as 500 million yen, is not the amount of tax. The tax is a proportion of it.

BUSINESS

BUSINESS

Still on the Table: Ten Pieces of Unfinished Business From Last Week

By the Business Desk

NIDEC: a net loss of 564.6 billion yen, and accounts on which the auditors have declined to give an opinion for a second year.

PRUDENTIAL LIFE: the Financial Services Agency is preparing a business suspension order over money taken from customers.

TIMES MOBILITY: up to 6.6 million records taken from its car-sharing service, with about 1.6 million images of driving licences.

DAI-ICHI LIFE: records of about 120,000 current and former staff possibly taken.

REGIONAL BANKS: Aomori Michinoku, the Bank of Iwate and Akita Bank have begun talks on integration.

POTATOES: a decision on admitting fresh American potatoes may come in about a year.

OIL: the Group of Seven is releasing 100 million barrels over four months.

PRICES: Tokyo's consumer prices rose 2.7 per cent in September.

SHARES: the Nikkei fell 647 on Friday, with more than four in five Prime issues lower.

TAX: the governing party has approved an annual benefit from fiscal 2030.

TECHNOLOGY

A City Votes on Tablets and Has Its Result in 67 Minutes; the Delay Was the Paper

Minokamo's council election is the first in central Japan to use electronic voting, and the fifth anywhere since the rules were relaxed

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

The city of Minokamo in Gifu Prefecture elected its council on Sunday by touch screen, and knew the outcome an hour and seven minutes after counting began.

That was about half the time taken at the previous comparable election, in 2018, Chunichi Shimbun reports. The count needed 13 staff, fewer than a third of the number used then.

No problems were reported.

Voters made their choice on tablets set up in the polling stations. Each machine recorded its votes on a removable memory device. There were 62 of these, and reading them took 15 minutes.

Most of the remaining 52 minutes went on paper. Postal and other absentee votes are still cast on ballot slips, and a number of them were of doubtful validity and had to be examined by hand.

It was the first use of electronic voting in the Chubu region and the fifth in the country since the government revised its guidelines in 2020 to allow ordinary tablets to be used in place of purpose-built machines.

Japanese law permits electronic voting only in local elections, and only where the municipality has passed an ordinance to adopt it.

The benefits are those Minokamo saw: a faster count, fewer staff, and no ballots spoiled by illegible handwriting. Japanese voters ordinarily write the candidate's name on the slip.

Turnout was 46.81 per cent, the lowest on record for the city. Nothing in the reports suggests the method of voting was the cause.

Other municipalities in the region will have watched. The obstacle elsewhere has been less the technology than the memory of what happened the last time Gifu tried it.

TECHNOLOGY

From Niimi to Kani to Minokamo: Twenty-Four Years of Electronic Voting in Japan, Most of Them Spent Not Doing It

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Japan passed a law allowing electronic voting in local elections in 2002. The first election under it was held that June in Niimi, a small city in Okayama Prefecture, and went smoothly.

About ten municipalities followed over the next few

years.

The experiment was undone in 2003 in Kani, a city in Gifu Prefecture which happens to adjoin Minokamo. The servers that recorded the votes overheated, voting was interrupted, and some voters were turned away.

The result was challenged, and in 2005 the Supreme Court upheld a ruling that the election was void. It had to be held again, on paper.

After Kani, municipalities abandoned the system one by one. The machines were expensive, they were used once every four years, and the risk of a failure had been shown to be real. By 2018 none was using it.

The government's response was to change the rules on equipment. Guidelines revised in 2020 allow commercially available tablets to be used, which reduces the cost to a fraction.

The first election under the new rules was held in a city in Osaka Prefecture in late 2024. Minokamo is the fifth.

National elections remain on paper, and there is no proposal to change that. Voting over the internet, which is a different thing, has been discussed for citizens living abroad and has not been introduced.

The arguments against are the ones heard in other countries. A paper ballot can be recounted by people who do not trust the officials. A file cannot be inspected in the same way.

Minokamo kept its memory devices under the same seals and observers as ballot boxes. It also kept paper for absentee voters, and that is where the time went.

TECHNOLOGY

Sixty-Two Memory Sticks: What Makes an Electronic Count Trustworthy, and What Does Not

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

The detail of Minokamo's election that will interest specialists is that the votes were carried to the counting centre on 62 removable memory devices and read there in a quarter of an hour.

That design has a virtue. The voting tablets are not connected to any network. There is nothing to attack from outside during the day, and no central server to fail, which is what went wrong in the neighbouring city of Kani in 2003.

It also has the weakness of every system of its kind. The record of each vote exists only as data. A voter cannot see what was written to the device, and a recount reads the same data again.

Countries that have used electronic voting for longer have dealt with this in different ways. Some print a paper record that the voter can check before it drops into a sealed box, so that the electronic total can be audited against paper.

Some have given up. Germany's constitutional court ruled in 2009 that voting machines whose workings an ordinary citizen could not verify were incompatible with public elections. The Netherlands returned to paper around the same time.

Others have persisted. India, Brazil and Estonia each use electronic methods on a national scale, with differing safeguards.

The Japanese guidelines require testing of the equipment before the election, sealing of the devices and the presence of observers. They do not require a paper record.

In a council election in a city of some 57,000 people, with candidates' agents watching and results that surprised nobody, that was sufficient.

The harder test will come with a close result. A margin of a handful of votes on paper leads to a recount that both sides can watch. On a memory device it leads to an argument about software.

The speed is real. So is the question of who can check.

TECHNOLOGY

Why Japanese Voters Write Names by Hand, and What a Touch Screen Changes

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Voters in Minokamo on Sunday did something almost no other Japanese voter has done. They chose a candidate without writing anything.

In nearly every election in Japan the ballot is a blank

slip. The voter takes it to a booth, picks up a pencil and writes the name of a candidate, or in some elections of a party.

The practice dates from the first elections of the Meiji period and has survived every reform since.

It has consequences that foreigners find surprising. Counting requires people to read handwriting. A vote for a misspelt name is valid if the intention is clear, and officials spend hours deciding whether it is.

Where two candidates share a surname, a ballot bearing only that name is divided between them in proportion to their other votes.

Candidates accordingly choose names that are easy to write. Many campaign with their given names in the phonetic script.

The paper itself is a small marvel. It is a plastic film that springs flat when dropped into the box, so that ballots do not have to be unfolded.

A touch screen removes all of this. The names are displayed, the voter touches one and confirms it. There are no doubtful ballots because there is nothing to interpret.

That is why the electronic part of Minokamo's count took 15 minutes, and why the paper ballots of absentee voters took most of an hour.

It also removes a habit more than a century old.

TECHNOLOGY

From the Floppy Disk to the Memory Stick: Japan's Government and the Removable Medium

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

There is something characteristic in the fact that Japan's newest method of voting moves its results from the polling station to the counting centre by hand, on 62 small memory devices.

The country's public administration has a long attachment to physical media. Until 2024 more than a thousand regulations required citizens and companies to submit data to the government on floppy disks or compact discs.

The minister then responsible for digital affairs declared a war on the floppy disk, and the last of those requirements was repealed in the middle of that year.

The attachment is not only inertia. A disk handed across a counter cannot be intercepted on a network, and it leaves a record of who delivered what.

That is exactly the reasoning behind Minokamo's arrangement. The voting tablets are deliberately isolated. Nothing leaves them except by the memory device, under seal.

The same principle is used for the most sensitive computer systems in every country, which are kept physically separate from the internet.

It has a familiar weakness. A removable device can be lost, swapped or infected. In 2022 a contractor working for a city in Hyogo Prefecture mislaid a memory stick holding the personal data of all its 460,000 residents after an evening of drinking. It was found.

The safeguards are procedural: seals, logs, two people present at every transfer.

In an election, where the procedures are watched by the candidates' own representatives, they are probably at their strongest.

The universal memory stick itself is a quarter of a century old. It went on sale in 2000.

TECHNOLOGY

Tokyo's Plan and Washington's Force: Two Ways of Organising a Government Around a Technology

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

The body President Trump announced on Sunday to co-ordinate policy on artificial intelligence has a counterpart in preparation in Tokyo, and the differences are instructive.

The prime minister has said she will draw up an action plan by the end of the year. It is to concentrate investment over five years in 17 strategic fields.

The Japanese approach is to treat the technology as an industry to be built. The questions it asks are about data centres, electricity, semiconductors and skilled people.

The electricity question has already produced rules. The grid operators serving Tokyo and Kyushu have

moved to stop developers of data centres from reserving connections they do not use, by requiring payment within three months.

The American body, to judge by its leadership, treats the technology as a matter of security and of harm to the public. It is led by the head of the intelligence agencies and the chairman of the consumer regulator.

Its first task, according to the Wall Street Journal, is an assessment of risks.

Neither approach excludes the other. The United States has spent far more than Japan on the industrial side, through private companies. Japan has its own institute for the safety of these systems.

The two governments have a shared interest that neither document states. Both were targeted in the campaign of forged messages disclosed last week, and in the United States the people targeted were specialists in exactly this field.

A court in Tokyo ruled on Thursday that a person's voice, imitated by a machine, is protected as a mark of individual personality.

That judgment may prove to matter more to ordinary people than either plan.

TECHNOLOGY

'It Came Down and Rose Again': How a Warhead Can Do What North Korea Describes

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

North Korea's account of Saturday's launch says the missile descended and then climbed again, and that this is how it eluded the radars following it. The manoeuvre is real, whatever the truth of the claim.

An ordinary ballistic warhead is a cone. Once released it falls like a stone, and its path can be calculated from the moment the rocket stops burning.

A warhead built to manoeuvre is shaped to generate lift. It may have small wings or fins, or a flattened body that acts as a wing.

When such a vehicle re-enters the upper atmosphere at very high speed and tilts its nose up, the thin air pushes back. The vehicle rises, coasts over the top of an arc, and descends again.

The idea is nearly as old as the ballistic missile. A German engineer proposed in the 1930s a rocket bomber that would skip along the atmosphere like a stone on water.

Each skip costs speed, but also extends the distance, and it carries the vehicle along a path that no simple calculation predicts.

A flatter flight has a second effect. A radar on the surface cannot see below its horizon. A vehicle at a height of 40 or 50 kilometres is hidden from a radar several hundred kilometres away, and may reappear somewhere unexpected.

The United States, Russia and China have all tested weapons of this kind. North Korea first claimed to have done so in 2021.

What cannot be established from outside is how well this one worked: how much it manoeuvred, and whether it struck what it was aimed at.

The answer to the weapon is the same in every country that faces it. It has to be watched from above.

TECHNOLOGY

October 5, 1957: The Morning the World Read That Something Was in Orbit

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Sputnik was launched late on October 4, 1957, by Moscow time. The world learned of it on the 5th.

The Soviet news agency announced that the first artificial satellite of the Earth had been placed in orbit. It gave the diameter as 58 centimetres and the weight as 83.6 kilograms, and said the satellite was circling the Earth once every 96 minutes or so.

It also gave the frequencies on which the satellite was transmitting, which was an invitation to listen. Within hours radio amateurs and laboratories across the world had picked up the signal.

The weight was the figure that struck engineers. The satellite the United States was preparing weighed about a kilogram and a half. A rocket able to lift 83 kilograms into orbit was of a different order.

In Japan, as elsewhere, observatories and radio amateurs were following the satellite within days.

The American government's first reaction was to play

TECHNOLOGY

it down. The public's was not. Newspapers that weekend carried the times at which the satellite would pass overhead.

What people saw, if they saw anything, was not the sphere itself but the far larger rocket stage that had carried it, tumbling in the same orbit and catching the sun.

A month later a second satellite went up with a dog aboard.

The first American attempt, in December, rose a metre from the pad and exploded.

The announcement of October 5 raised a question that has not gone away. It concerned who would command the space above every country, and it was asked in a single paragraph from a news agency.

TECHNOLOGY

October 5, 2011: Steve Jobs Dies at 56, a Day After the Telephone That Carried His Design Forward

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

Fifteen years ago today Steve Jobs died at his home in California. He was 56 and had been ill with cancer for eight years.

He had resigned as chief executive of Apple six weeks earlier. The company had presented a new model of its telephone on the previous day.

His career traced the whole history of the personal computer. With Stephen Wozniak he founded Apple in 1976. The Apple II, introduced the following year, was the first such machine to be sold in large numbers as a finished product, in a plastic case, to people who were not hobbyists.

The Macintosh of 1984 brought the mouse, windows and menus to the general public.

He was forced out of the company in 1985. He founded another, whose software later became the basis of Apple's own, and bought a small computer animation studio that became Pixar.

He returned to Apple in 1997, when it was close to bankruptcy. The products that followed, a translucent desktop computer, a music player, a telephone and a tablet, made it the most valuable company in the world.

The telephone, introduced in 2007, was the one that changed most. It turned the mobile phone into a general-purpose computer operated by touch, and within a few years every manufacturer had copied its form.

Jobs was not an engineer in the usual sense. His contribution was judgment: about what to leave out, how a thing should feel in the hand, and when it was ready.

He admired Japanese design and manufacturing, and visited Kyoto often.

The Apple II remained on sale, in one version or another, for sixteen years.

TECHNOLOGY

A Computer You Could Take Home: The Apple II, Forty-Nine Years On

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

Of the products associated with Steve Jobs, the one that made the others possible is the least remembered by the general public.

The Apple II went on sale in 1977. Personal computers before it were kits, sold to enthusiasts who soldered them together.

It came assembled, in a moulded plastic case with a keyboard, and connected to an ordinary television. It could display colour. It had eight slots inside for expansion cards, which meant that other companies could extend it.

The engineering was Stephen Wozniak's, and was admired for doing a great deal with very few chips. The case, the insistence that it should look like an appliance and not a piece of laboratory equipment, was Jobs's.

Two things made it a business machine. A disk drive, introduced the following year, replaced cassette tapes. And in 1979 the first electronic spreadsheet was written for it, a program that let anyone build a table of figures that recalculated itself.

Accountants bought the computer in order to run the program.

Schools followed. For a decade the Apple II was the

computer on which American children first typed a line of code.

It was sold in Japan from the late 1970s, and a later version was adapted to display Japanese phonetic characters.

The machine and its successors stayed in production until 1993, long after the Macintosh was meant to have replaced them. Between five and six million were made.

A community of enthusiasts still writes software for it.

TECHNOLOGY

October's Lineages: From a Beeping Sphere to a Two-Letter Message

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The anniversaries of this week in the history of technology form a chain, and the link that connects the first of them to the present was made later in the same month.

Sputnik's launch on October 4, 1957, and its announcement on the 5th led the United States to create, early the following year, an agency to fund advanced research for defence.

NASA began work on October 1, 1958.

The research agency's most consequential project had nothing to do with rockets. It paid for a network to connect the computers of the universities it supported, using a new method that broke messages into packets and routed each separately.

On October 29, 1969, a student at the University of California, Los Angeles, tried to log in to a computer at a research institute near San Francisco over the first link of that network. The system crashed after two letters. The message received was LO.

That network became the internet.

The other anniversaries of the week belong to the same half-century. The first compact disc player went on sale on October 1, 1982. The space shuttle Atlantis first flew on October 3, 1985. A privately built rocket plane won its prize on October 4, 2004.

A student's operating system kernel, released in the autumn of 1991, came to run the servers of the network.

And the telephone introduced by the man who died on October 5, 2011, put that network in a billion pockets.

The line from a 58-centimetre sphere to a touch screen runs through a research budget voted in a fright.

TECHNOLOGY

LO: The First Message on the Network That Became the Internet

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The network from which the internet grew carried its first message on the night of October 29, 1969, and the message was a failure.

The network had been commissioned by the research agency of the American defence department to link the large computers of the universities and institutes it funded, each of which was expensive and incompatible with the others.

The first two sites were the University of California at Los Angeles and the Stanford Research Institute, about 500 kilometres to the north.

Each had a special-purpose machine, the size of a refrigerator, whose only job was to pass packets of data to the other over a leased telephone line.

A graduate student in Los Angeles, Charley Kline, sat down to log in to the Stanford computer. He typed L, and confirmed by telephone that it had arrived. He typed O. He typed G, and the system at the other end crashed.

The full word went through about an hour later.

By the end of the year there were four sites. By 1972 there were dozens, and electronic mail, which nobody had planned for, had become the main use.

The design that mattered was the splitting of every message into packets, each finding its own way. A network built like that has no centre to destroy.

The connection with Sputnik is direct. The agency that paid for the network had been created in 1958 so that the United States would not again be surprised.

The log book in which the first connection was noted in pencil has been preserved.

TECHNOLOGY

On This Day in Technology: October 5

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

1957: the Soviet Union announces that Sputnik 1 is in orbit.

Diameter about 58 centimetres; weight about 83.6 kilograms.

One orbit in about 96 minutes.

2011: Steve Jobs dies, aged 56.

Apple II, 1977. Macintosh, 1984. iPhone, 2007.

The day after SpaceShipOne's prize flight, October 4, 2004.

Two days after Atlantis first flew, October 3, 1985.

Four days after the first CD player, October 1, 1982.

Four days after NASA began work, October 1, 1958.

Later this month: the first ARPANET message, October 29, 1969.

TECHNOLOGY

Forecasting Next Spring's Sneezes in October: How a Pollen Outlook Is Made

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The forecast published by Weathernews that next spring's pollen will be about half this year's in Kanto may seem premature. The cedars will not flower for four months.

It is possible because the quantity of pollen is settled long before it is released. The male flowers of the Japanese cedar form in summer. By October they are visible on the branches as clusters of small brown buds.

How many form depends on the weather of the summer. Sunshine and heat in July and August produce many. A cool, cloudy, wet summer produces few.

This year's late summer was the second kind. The Pacific side of eastern Japan had its wettest and least sunny September on record, and the weeks before were little better.

There is also an alternation. A tree that flowers heavily one year tends to flower lightly the next.

Forecasters combine three things: the summer's weather data, the previous year's count, and direct inspection of the buds on sample trees. The company also draws on reports from its users.

The result is expressed as a proportion of the previous spring and of the average. For next spring the company expects less than this year from Hokkaido to Kinki, about half in Kanto and about 30 per cent less in Tohoku.

The forecast says how much pollen there will be over the season. It does not say when. The date on which release begins depends on temperatures in January and February.

Cypress pollen, which follows cedar in April, is forecast in the same way.

A lower total does not help everyone equally. People who are highly sensitive react to small amounts.

TECHNOLOGY

Messenger RNA, Tiny RNAs and the Immune System's Brakes: The Medicine Prize's Recent Run

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, to be announced this evening, has in the past three years gone to discoveries that share a theme: how cells are told what to do, and what not to do.

In 2023 the prize went to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman for the chemical modification that made it possible to use messenger RNA as a medicine without provoking inflammation. The vaccines against the coronavirus were built on it.

In 2024 it went to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for the discovery of microRNA, very short molecules that switch genes off after they have been read. They found the first in a worm a millimetre long.

In 2025 it went to Mary Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi for discovering how the immune system is prevented from attacking the body's own tissues.

Mr Sakaguchi, of Osaka University, identified in 1995 a class of white blood cells whose function is to

restrain the others. The two Americans later found the gene that governs them.

The work has opened two lines of treatment. Strengthening these cells may calm autoimmune disease and prevent the rejection of transplants. Weakening them may free the immune system to attack tumours.

The prize is decided by a committee of professors at a medical university in Stockholm. Nominations are secret for fifty years.

The committee tends to wait until a discovery has proved its importance, which is why laureates are usually elderly and the work decades old.

Fields often mentioned as overdue include the drugs for obesity and diabetes that imitate gut hormones, which were the subject of a medical warning in Japan on Saturday.

The announcement is expected at about 6:30 p.m., Japan time.

TECHNOLOGY

Six Names: Japan's Laureates in Medicine, From Antibodies to the Cells That Calm the Immune System

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

If a Japanese scientist is named in Stockholm this evening he or she will be the seventh from the country to win the prize in medicine.

The first was Susumu Tonegawa, in 1987, for showing how the body generates the enormous variety of its antibodies by shuffling genes. He did the work in Switzerland and was by then in the United States.

There was then a gap of a quarter of a century. Shinya Yamanaka won in 2012 for turning adult cells back into stem cells, six years after publishing the method, an unusually short wait.

Satoshi Omura won in 2015 for a drug against parasitic worms, derived from a microbe he found in soil near a golf course in Shizuoka. It has spared hundreds of millions of people from blindness.

Yoshinori Ohsumi won in 2016 for explaining how cells digest and recycle their own contents.

Tasuku Honjo won in 2018 for a protein that acts as a brake on the immune system. Blocking it produced a new class of cancer drugs.

Shimon Sakaguchi won last year for a different brake on the same system.

Five of the six prizes have come since 2012. All but the first were for work done in Japan, most of it in the 1980s and 1990s.

That is the basis of the concern, voiced by several of the laureates themselves, that the conditions which made the work possible no longer exist.

Mr Honjo and Mr Ohsumi have each used their prize money to endow funds for young researchers.

SOCIETY

Society Digest

By the Society Desk

NAHA: A Marine aged 20 was arrested on suspicion of robbery and murder in the death of a woman of 39 in a hotel.

OGASAWARA: Gusts of up to 35 metres a second are forecast tonight as Typhoon No. 27 passes to the east.

TOKYO: The Diet convenes. The capital is cloudy, with a high of 23 degrees.

NAGOYA: The Asian Games closed with an apology from the organisers.

MINOKAMO: A council election held on tablets was counted in 67 minutes. Turnout was a record low of 46.81 per cent.

YOKOHAMA: Seven candidates registered for the mayoral election of October 18.

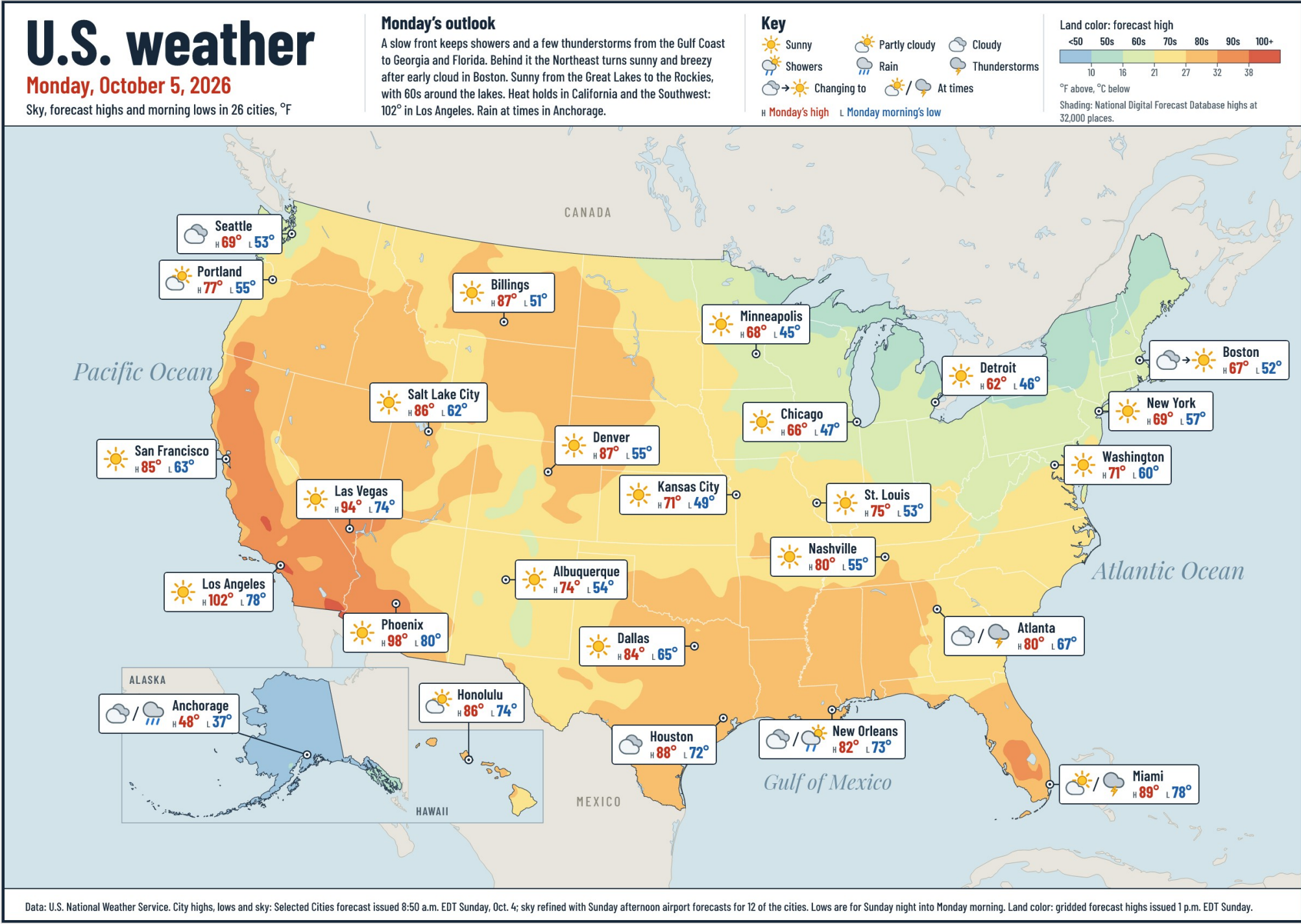
KAMINOSEKI: The mayor was re-elected.

NATIONWIDE: Next spring's pollen is forecast to be lower than this year's from Hokkaido to Kinki.

NATIONWIDE: Sales of flood barriers have risen as much as tenfold.

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is announced this evening.

WEATHER ABROAD



United States weather for Monday, October 5, 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 a.m. Eastern time on Sunday, with gridded forecast highs issued at 1 p.m.)

SOCIETY

Weather Abroad: 102 in Los Angeles, Storms From the Gulf to Florida, and a Sunny, Breezy Northeast

The United States map for Monday, October 5, gives the sky, highs and morning lows for 26 cities in degrees Fahrenheit

By Rachel Kim | Washington-Tokyo Liaison

The United States map supplied for this edition is for today, Monday, and shows a country warmer in the West than at the weekend and clearer in the East.

The heat is in California and the Southwest. Los Angeles has a forecast high of 102 degrees Fahrenheit and a low of 78. Phoenix is 98 and 80, Las Vegas 94 and 74 and San Francisco 85 and 63, all sunny.

In Celsius, 102 degrees is about 39.

A slow front keeps showers and some thunderstorms from the Gulf coast to Georgia and Florida, the map's summary says. Atlanta is cloudy with thunderstorms at times, at 80 and 67. Miami is partly cloudy with thunderstorms at times, at 89 and 78. New Orleans is cloudy with showers at times, at 82 and 73. Houston is cloudy at 88 and 72.

Behind the front the Northeast turns sunny and breezy. New York is 69 and 57, Washington 71 and 60. Boston begins cloudy and clears, at 67 and 52.

The middle of the country is sunny from the Great Lakes to the Rockies. Detroit is 62 and 46, Chicago 66 and 47 and Minneapolis 68 and 45, with highs in the 60s around the lakes. Kansas City is 71 and 49, St. Louis 75 and 53 and Nashville 80 and 55.

Further west, Denver is 87 and 55, Billings 87 and 51, Salt Lake City 86 and 62 and Albuquerque 74 and 54. Dallas is 84 and 65.

The Pacific Northwest is cooler. Seattle is cloudy at 69 and 53 and Portland partly cloudy at 77 and 55.

Anchorage has cloud with rain at times, a high of 48 and a low of 37, about 9 and 3 in Celsius. Honolulu is

partly cloudy at 86 and 74.

The colour of the land shows the forecast high. The map's scale gives Celsius beneath Fahrenheit: 50 degrees is 10, 70 is 21, 90 is 32 and 100 is 38.

The data are the National Weather Service's selected-cities forecast issued at 8:50 a.m. Eastern time on Sunday, with the sky refined from airport forecasts for twelve of the cities. The lows are for Sunday night into this morning.

For travellers, today's highs in Celsius are about 21 in New York, 22 in Washington, 19 in Chicago, 31 in Denver, 29 in Dallas and San Francisco and 32 in Miami.

SOCIETY

Rain on the Inland Sea Today, Then the Typhoon's Swell, Then a Clear Run to the Holiday

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The week's weather comes in three parts, and today is the first.

Rain is falling this morning over Shikoku and along the coast of the Seto Inland Sea. Hiroshima, Takamatsu and Kochi are all marked wet at the start of the day and cloudy by its end.

Further east and north the rain is intermittent. The map shows cloud with rain at times in Kyoto, Osaka, Kanazawa, Matsue and Sendai.

Tokyo and Nagoya stay cloudy and dry, with highs of 23.

In Hokkaido the day begins fine. Cloud arrives from the west, and Sapporo has rain in the afternoon.

The second part is the typhoon. It passes the Ogasawara Islands this evening and runs north-east past the main islands on Tuesday and Wednesday, far out to sea. Its swell reaches the Pacific coast from Kanto to Hokkaido.

The third part begins on Wednesday. Forecasters expect high pressure to settle over the country and bring several days of clear autumn weather.

That carries through to the public holiday on Monday the 12th.

For the capital it would be the first unbroken fine week since the middle of summer. Rain fell there on 37 consecutive days to last Friday.

SOCIETY

Eight at Dawn, Twenty-Five by Afternoon: Aomori's Seventeen-Degree Day

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

The most striking pair of numbers on today's weather map belongs to Aomori, where the low this morning was 8 degrees and the forecast high is 25.

A range of 17 degrees in a day is large for a coastal city.

The low is easily explained. The night was clear over northern Japan, and the ground lost its heat to the sky. Kushiro fell to 6 degrees and Sapporo to 9.

The high needs more. Aomori's forecast is five degrees above Akita's and four above Sendai's, both of which lie to the south.

The likely cause is the wind. With a typhoon to the south-east and a front to the west, the flow over northern Honshu is from the south. Air that crosses the mountains of the interior and descends to the plain on the northern side is compressed and warmed as it falls.

The effect is known by its Alpine name, foehn, and is responsible for many of the highest temperatures recorded on the Sea of Japan side of the country.

The map marks Aomori as sunny, then cloudy. The warmth will come while the sun is out.

Niigata, which is also on the lee side of mountains in a southerly flow, has the next highest forecast on Honshu, 26 degrees.

SOCIETY

The Wind That Comes Down Warm: The Foehn Behind Some of Japan's Hottest Days

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

A forecast high of 25 degrees at Aomori today, after a dawn of 8, is a modest example of an effect responsible for some of the highest temperatures ever recorded in Japan.

When wind meets a mountain range it is forced to rise. Rising air expands and cools. If it is moist, the cooling condenses its vapour into cloud and rain on the windward slope, and that condensation releases heat.

On the far side the air descends. Descending air is compressed and warms, and because it has lost its moisture it warms faster on the way down than it cooled on the way up.

The result is a wind on the lee side that is warmer and much drier than the air that started the journey.

The name is from the Alps. In Japan the effect is most marked on the Sea of Japan side when the wind is from the south, typically ahead of a typhoon or a deep low.

The record that stood as Japan's highest temperature for 74 years, 40.8 degrees at Yamagata in July 1933, was a foehn day.

In September 2020 a typhoon passing to the west sent a southerly wind over the mountains into Niigata Prefecture, and a town there recorded 40 degrees, the first time the mark had been reached anywhere in the country in that month.

The wind brings a second danger. Hot, dry and gusty, it spreads fire. Several of the great urban fires of the Sea of Japan coast began on foehn days.

Today's version is mild. The air is not especially warm to begin with, and the sun is lower than in summer.

It is enough to give the far north of Honshu the warmest afternoon on the main island outside Niigata.

SOCIETY

Next Spring's Pollen Is Forecast at About Half This Year's in Kanto, and Lower From Hokkaido to Kinki

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

People with hay fever have something to thank the dismal summer for. Weathernews forecasts that next spring's cedar and cypress pollen will be less than this spring's across most of the country, Asahi Shimbun reports.

From Hokkaido to the Kinki region the amount is expected to fall. In Kanto it is forecast at about half this year's level, and in Tohoku about 30 per cent lower.

The forecast is the company's first for the season.

The reason is the weather. Cedars form their male flowers in summer, and form more of them when it is hot and sunny. The past summer was neither on the Pacific side of eastern Japan, and September there was the wettest and dullest on record.

About four in ten Japanese are estimated to suffer from cedar pollen allergy, a proportion that has risen steadily for decades.

The condition is in large part man-made. After the war the government planted cedar on a vast scale to rebuild the supply of timber. Cheap imports then made the plantations uneconomic, and the trees were left to mature and flower.

The government adopted a plan in 2023 to cut the area of cedar plantation by a fifth in ten years and to replace felled trees with varieties that produce little pollen.

The effect of that will not be felt for a long time. In the meantime the amount each spring depends on the summer before.

A lower forecast does not mean a comfortable spring. Even in a light year the count in Tokyo on a warm, windy day in March is enough to affect anyone who is sensitive.

Doctors advise those who take preventive medicine to begin before the season, whatever the forecast.

SOCIETY

Found by Memory: The Officers Who Study a Face and Then Walk the Streets Looking for It

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The Marine arrested in Okinawa on Sunday was not traced through a telephone or a number plate. He was recognised.

The method has a name in Japanese police work, miatari, that means roughly hitting on sight. Officers commit the features of wanted people to memory and then go to the places where such people are likely to be, and look.

In this case the material was a hotel's security camera. It showed a man with a shaved head, in a black sleeveless shirt, cropped trousers and white trainers, leaving with the victim's belongings. He had tattoos on both arms.

The tattoos were decisive, the broadcaster RBC reports. Clothes can be changed in minutes. The marks on a man's arms cannot.

Investigators went to the entertainment district of Okinawa City, which adjoins the largest American air base on the island and is where off-duty servicemen go in the evening.

At about 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, some nineteen hours after the body was found, they saw a man walking alone whose build, face and arms matched.

They stopped and questioned him, as the law allows where there is reasonable suspicion, and asked him to

SOCIETY

accompany them to the police station. The arrest followed in the early hours.

The technique was developed by the Osaka police in the 1970s and is used by forces across the country, chiefly against fugitives and habitual thieves. Its practitioners are said to carry hundreds of faces in their heads.

It has survived the arrival of cameras that recognise faces automatically, partly because the law restricts how such systems may be used, and partly because it works.

The force assigned 197 officers to the case.

SOCIETY

Minokamo: The Small Gifu City Behind the Tablets

By Emi Kondo | Society & Local News

The city that held central Japan's first electronic election on Sunday is not a place that often makes national news.

Minokamo lies in the south of Gifu Prefecture, where the Kiso and Hida rivers meet, about 30 kilometres north of Nagoya. It has some 57,000 inhabitants.

It was a post town on the old inland highway between Edo and Kyoto, and one of its inns survives as a museum.

Its modern economy is manufacturing. Factories making electrical goods and vehicle parts drew workers from the 1990s onward, many of them Brazilians of Japanese descent and, later, Filipinos.

Foreign residents make up about one in ten of the population, among the highest proportions of any city in the country. Portuguese is heard in its shops and its schools.

The closure of a large electronics plant in 2013 cost thousands of jobs, and the city has spent the years since diversifying.

It has a reputation for administrative experiment. It was early in offering services in Portuguese and in placing interpreters in schools.

The neighbouring city across the river is Kani, where an electronic election failed in 2003 and was annulled. Officials in Minokamo will have known that history better than anyone.

Foreign residents cannot vote in Japanese elections, so the electorate on Sunday was smaller than the population suggests.

The council's members serve four years.

SOCIETY

ANALYSIS: The Count Took an Hour. Getting Voters There Is Taking Decades.

By Ethan Cole | Technology & Science Editor

Minokamo's election on Sunday was a success by the measure its organisers chose. The votes were counted in 67 minutes by 13 people, and nobody has questioned the result.

It was a failure by another measure, which had nothing to do with the tablets. Fewer than 47 in every hundred electors voted, the lowest figure in the city's history.

The two facts belong together because they show what technology can and cannot do for an election.

The part of voting that machines improve is the part citizens never see. Counting paper is laborious, and in Japan, where voters write names by hand, it involves judgment. A machine does it instantly and without argument.

That saves money. A city that needs 13 staff where it used 40 can spend the difference on something else.

It does nothing for the voter, whose experience is unchanged: a journey to a school hall on a Sunday, a wait, a booth.

The reform that would change the voter's experience is the one Japan has declined to make. Voting from a telephone or a computer would remove the journey. It would also remove the booth, and with it the guarantee that nobody is watching.

Estonia has voted online for twenty years and believes it has solved that problem. Most democracies have looked at the same evidence and decided otherwise.

There is a cautionary tale ten minutes from Minokamo. In Kani in 2003 the machines failed and an election was annulled. It took the country two decades to try again.

The lesson of both episodes is modest. A faster count is worth having, and the count is the cheap part of an election and the easy one to fix. It should not be mistaken for a remedy for indifference.

SPORTS

DeNA Beat the New Champions in the Eleventh and Keep Hanshin's Play-Off Head Start to a Single Win

Encarnacion's first walk-off hit in Japan ends the Yokohama club's season 2-1; Hanshin manage two hits

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

A day after becoming champions in a hotel room, Hanshin lost again on Sunday, 2-1 in eleven innings at Yokohama Stadium, and the manner of it mattered more than the result.

DeNA were playing the last game of their regular season. With the score 1-1 and one out in the bottom of the eleventh, runners on first and second, Encarnacion lifted a ball that dropped in front of the right fielder.

It was his first game-ending hit since coming to Japan.

The inning was made against Hanshin's closer, Kudo. Shugo Maki fought off a pitch of 159 kilometres an hour for a single, and Yoshitomo Tsutsugo drew a walk.

Hanshin had scored their only run in the fourth and finished with two hits. Seven of their pitchers appeared.

The win went to Ogata, his seventh, and the defeat to Kudo.

The significance lies in a rule introduced this season. A pennant winner that finishes ten or more games ahead of its opponent in the final stage of the Climax Series is to be given two wins in advance, where the usual allowance is one.

DeNA's victory ensured that the gap between the clubs will be less than ten games whatever happens in Hanshin's remaining fixtures. If the two meet in the final stage, Hanshin will start with one win and not two.

Sankei notes that DeNA have now had a winning record in four consecutive months.

After the game the scoreboard carried a message in English congratulating Hanshin on their second title and promising to see them in the post-season, Daily Sports reports. It was taken as intended.

DeNA finish third with 71 wins, 69 defeats and 3 draws, and go to Tokyo Dome for the first stage against the Giants.

SPORTS

ANALYSIS: Record Medals, Wrong Anthem. The Games Japan's Athletes Won and Its Officials Misled

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

The Asian Games that ended on Sunday will be remembered in two ways that do not fit together. On the field they were Japan's best. Off it they were, by the organisers' own admission, a series of mistakes.

The chairman of the organising committee apologised to the athletes on the final day. The wrong anthem had been played. Transport had gone astray. The closing ceremony was held before rows of empty seats, although thousands of tickets had been given away.

Asahi Shimbun's explanation is that the Games were administered chiefly by civil servants.

There is something in that. Running a multi-sport event is a trade. The people who are good at it move from one Games to the next, and they are expensive. A committee staffed from a prefectural office will be honest and diligent and will not have done it before.

The decision followed from an earlier one. These Games were conceived as an inexpensive alternative to the model that had made such events unaffordable. There was to be no athletes' village and almost no new building.

The saving was real. So was the cost. Without a village, every athlete had to be carried to every session from a hotel, and the transport plan became the thing on which everything depended.

The lesson is not that frugality was a mistake. It is that a cheap Games is harder to run than an expensive one, and needs more expertise, not less.

The athletes were not distracted. Eighty-three gold

medals, a world record by a seventeen-year-old and seven titles in a row for the softball team are the facts that will stand in the record.

The same committee now has thirteen days before the Para Games, whose athletes can least afford a bus that does not come.

The apology was proper. The proof of it will be on October 18.

SPORTS

The Asian Games Close With a Record 269 Medals for Japan, Empty Seats at the Ceremony and an Apology From the Organisers

Eighty-three golds beat a mark that had stood since 1966; a wrong anthem and transport failures marred the fortnight

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

The 20th Asian Games ended on Sunday night at Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya, sixteen days after they began, with the host country holding more medals than it has ever won at the event.

Japan finished with 83 gold medals, 95 silver and 91 bronze, a total of 269. The previous records were 78 golds, at Bangkok in 1966, and 218 medals, at Hiroshima in 1994.

Only China won more. Japan was second in the table.

More than 15,000 athletes and officials from 45 countries and regions took part, in 43 sports. Japan entered 932 competitors, the most it has ever sent.

The flag at the closing ceremony was carried by Shin Ohashi, a swimmer of 17, who won the men's 200 metres breaststroke in a world record. About 250 Japanese athletes and coaches marched in behind him. Among them was Yukiko Ueno, 44, whose softball team won the title for the seventh Games in succession.

Prince Akishino, the honorary president of the Games, attended with Princess Kiko.

The organisers had invited 4,000 people without charge, most of them volunteers. Even so, Nikkei reports, empty seats were conspicuous.

The fortnight was not without embarrassment. Jiji Press lists a national anthem played for the wrong country and mistakes in transporting athletes among the failures of organisation. The president of the organising committee, Hideaki Omura, who is governor of Aichi, apologised at a news conference on the final day.

It was the third time Japan has held the Games, after Tokyo in 1958 and Hiroshima in 1994. The next are in Doha in 2030.

The Asian Para Games open in the same venues on October 18.

SPORTS

Daryz Wins the Arc Again; Japan's Two Runners Finish Eleventh and Fourteenth, and the Wait Goes On

Yutaka Take, at 57, is beaten on his twelfth attempt; both trainers say their horses were outpaced when the sprint began

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe was won on Sunday for the second year in succession by the French colt Daryz, and for the second year and many before it the Japanese challenge finished out of the frame.

Admire Terra was eleventh of the sixteen runners at ParisLongchamp. Meisho Tabaru, ridden by Yutaka Take, was fourteenth.

Daryz, ridden by Mickael Barzalona, became the eighth horse to win the race twice. He is the first colt to win it in consecutive years since Alleged in 1977 and 1978.

The placings behind him were a surprise. Bay City Roller, among the outsiders, was second, and the Irish-trained Diamond Necklace third from the widest draw.

The two Japanese horses had been drawn towards the outside, in gates 12 and 13.

Both trainers gave the same explanation. Yasuo Tomomichi said of Admire Terra that the difference in acceleration had told. Mamoru Ishibashi said Meisho Tabaru was at a disadvantage in a contest of finishing speed, Sankei Sports reports.

Meisho Tabaru, a five-year-old who makes the running, had been the favourite of Japanese punters, who could bet on the race at home. Admire Terra was ridden by Cristian Demuro.

Take is 57 and was riding in the race for the twelfth

time. His best finish was third past the post on Deep Impact in 2006, a placing later annulled.

No horse trained in Japan has won the Arc. The first tried in 1969. Japanese runners have finished second four times.

The race is run over 2,400 metres on turf and is regarded as the most important in Europe.

SPORTS

A Rattan Ball and a Game Controller: The Sports at the Edge of the Asian Games Programme

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Among the 43 sports in which Japan won medals at the Asian Games, Nikkei singles out two that will never appear at an Olympics in their present form.

Sepak takraw is volleyball played with the feet. Three players a side send a small hollow ball over a net using any part of the body except the arms and hands.

It comes from south-east Asia, where versions of it have been played for centuries, and its name joins the Malay word for kick with the Thai word for the ball, which was traditionally woven from rattan.

Its spectacle is the spike, delivered by a player who leaps, turns upside down in the air and strikes the ball downward with the sole of a foot.

Thailand and Malaysia have dominated it. Japan took the sport up in the 1980s through university clubs and has reached the podium at the Games before.

E-sports are newer to the programme. Competitive video gaming was a demonstration event in 2018 and a full medal sport from the Games held in 2023.

Players compete in several titles, chosen by the organisers from commercial games, some individually and some in teams.

Japan is the home of much of the industry and, until recently, a weak competitor. Its professional scene was held back for years by laws that limited prize money.

The appeal of these sports to organisers is the audience. Sepak takraw fills halls in south-east Asia, and the e-sports finals draw online viewers in numbers that athletics cannot match.

Their contribution to Japan's 269 medals was small. It was not nothing.

SPORTS

The Ten-Game Rule: The Change to the Climax Series That Sunday's Game Was Really About

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

Readers who wondered why the third-placed team celebrated beating the champions on the last day of its season as though it had won something were watching the first consequence of a new rule.

Since the Climax Series began, the pennant winner has entered its final stage with one win credited in advance. The series is the best of seven in name, so the champions need three more wins and the challengers four.

The arrangement was criticised as too generous to the challengers after 2024, when a third-placed team that had finished eight games behind went on to win the Japan Series.

From this season the allowance depends on the margin. If the champions finished ten or more games ahead of the team they face in the final stage, they are given two wins.

A challenger in that position would have to win four games before the champions won two.

Before Sunday, Hanshin led DeNA by a margin that could have reached ten by the end of the season. DeNA's win made that impossible.

Nikkan Sports sets out the position: the gap stands at eight with Hanshin having three games left, so it cannot now reach ten.

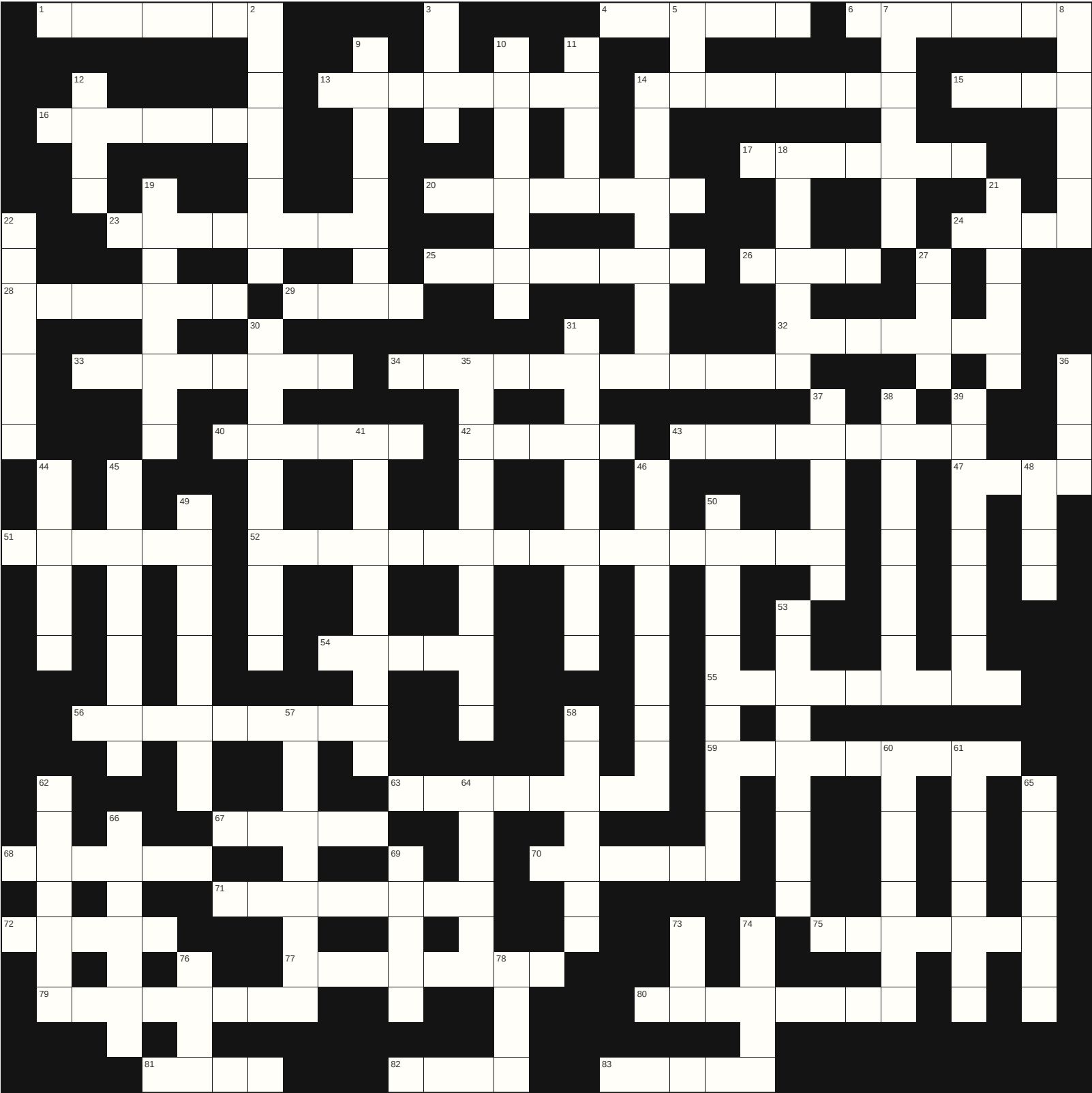
Against the Giants, who finished second and much closer, the question did not arise.

So if Hanshin's opponents at Koshien are DeNA, the series will begin as it always has, at one win to none.

Whether the new rule will ever be applied depends on a champion running away with the league. Last year's Hanshin, who clinched in the first week of September, would have qualified.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Today's Professional Puzzle — Constructed by James O'Neill — 84 Words



Solution will appear in tomorrow's edition. Puzzle difficulty: Professional.

ACROSS

1. The suspect's air station (7)
4. Flag-bearer, 17 (6)
6. 'Colourful cloud' (4-3) (7)
13. First Japanese medicine laureate (8)
14. Trade regulator leading the Force (8)
15. He singled off a 159 km/h pitch (4)
16. They identified the suspect (7)
17. They struck a Riyadh refinery (7)
20. Prize he won in 2024 (8)
23. Goodbye, and a game-ending hit (8)
24. Minister of the road-budget boast (4)
25. ___ Islands, where a depression is forming (8)
26. Softball pitcher, 44 (4)
28. Eastern oil district, struck in 2019 (7)
29. Where 4,000 Marines are to go (4)
32. The leader's wife (2,3,2) (7)
33. Kilometres claimed by Pyongyang (8)
34. His world-record event (12)
40. Stadium of the closing ceremony (6)
42. Tree behind the sneezing (5)
43. Islands returned in 1968 (9)
47. Score brought back last year (4)
51. Saudi oil company (6)
52. Trump's word for AI (17)
54. Rain, then cloud (5)
55. High of 22 today (9)
56. Vice-minister who telephoned (9)
59. Sunny and 30 (9)
63. Island of fewer than 500 (8)
67. Student who typed it (5)
68. Disk the minister declared war on (6)
70. One to five in the morning (6)
71. He drew the walk (8)
72. Winning pitcher, seven wins (5)
75. Finding a suspect by memory (7)
77. Table tennis gold medalist (8)
79. Japan's base beside the strait (8)
80. Chemistry laureate of 2025 (8)
81. City of the judo championships (4)
82. The daughter's reported name (2,2) (4)
83. Chief of staff (5)

DOWN

2. Prince at the ceremony (8)
3. It convenes today (4)
5. Uta ___, on the mat today (3)
7. Two hits in eleven innings (7)
8. Cloudy, with a high of 26 (7)
9. City with seven candidates (8)
10. Flood ___, selling tenfold (8)
11. Winner of the Arc again (5)
12. Where electronic voting failed in 2003 (4)
14. Shares that actually trade (4,5) (9)
18. Caught on the line in 2012 (7)
19. Architect on the ballot (8)
21. Cloud with rain at times (6)
22. Sunny with some cloud (7)
27. Wind of 15 m/s or more (4)
30. Town that re-elected its mayor (10)
31. Cause of death (10)
35. He hit the sayonara single (11)
36. Hanshin closer who lost (4)
37. Minokamo's ballot paper (6)
38. Daryz's jockey (9)
39. Six citizens on the bench (3,6) (9)
41. Kind of unit that fired the missile (10)
44. The man arrested (6)
45. He watched the launch (3,4,2) (9)
46. Island 370 km from the track tonight (10)
48. World champion at 48 kg (4)
49. Racecourse in the Bois de Boulogne (9)
50. Volleyball with the feet (5,6) (11)
53. Medicine laureate of 2025 (9)
57. Bassist in the tax report (9)
58. 'Outrageous', said this minister (7)
60. Lawyer backed by three parties (8)
61. City that voted on tablets (8)
62. Last colt to win twice running (7)
64. Site of Futenma's replacement (6)
65. Engineer of the Apple II (7)
66. Announced on October 5, 1957 (7)
69. Islands east of which the storm ends (5)
73. Taiwan's president (3)
74. American ambassador (5)
76. Host in 2030 (4)
78. Jockey, 57, on his twelfth try (4)

SPORTS

'I Am Sorry to the Athletes': Omura Apologises for the Games' Mistakes, and a Newspaper Blames Management by Officials

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

The governor of Aichi, Hideaki Omura, who chaired the organising committee of the Asian Games, apologised on Sunday for the errors that accompanied them.

He told a news conference in Nagoya on the final day that he was sorry to the athletes, Chunichi Shimbun reports.

The most visible failure was the playing of the wrong national anthem.

Others concerned transport. Athletes and officials were housed in hotels across the region and on a ship in Nagoya's port, and were carried to venues by bus. Jiji Press and Asahi Shimbun report mistakes in getting them there.

Asahi Shimbun, reviewing the Games this morning, attributes the problems to the way they were run. The organising committee was staffed chiefly by civil servants, it says.

The decision to use existing venues, spread over several prefectures, saved the cost of building and multiplied the journeys.

The budget had been a concern from the start. The cost of the Games rose well above the original estimate, and the organisers responded by doing without an athletes' village.

Four requests to exchange medals were also reported during the Games, by Jiji's count.

None of this affected the results.

The same committee is responsible for the Asian Para Games, which begin in thirteen days.

SPORTS

The Flag-Bearer Is 17 and Holds a World Record: Shin Ohashi Leads Japan Out

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Of all the performances that contributed to Japan's record at the Asian Games, the one the team chose to put at its head on the final night belonged to a schoolboy.

Shin Ohashi, who is 17 and swims for a club in

Hirakata, Osaka, carried the flag at the closing ceremony.

He won the men's 200 metres breaststroke during the Games in a time that broke the world record, Jiji Press and Nikkei report.

The event has a particular place in Japanese swimming. Kosuke Kitajima won it at two Olympic Games, and Japanese men have held the world record in it several times since.

A world record at an Asian Games is rare. The competition falls late in the season, and most swimmers reach their peak for the world championships or the Olympics.

Ohashi's age makes it rarer. Breaststroke is a stroke of timing and feel as much as power, and has produced young champions before, but few so young.

Swimming was one of the two sports, with athletics, in which Japan collected most of its medals.

Giving the flag at the close to so young a champion was a statement about the next Olympics.

Those are in Los Angeles in 2028, when he will be 19.

The reports available this morning do not give his time.

SPORTS

A Japanese Event: The 200 Metres Breaststroke From Tsuruta to a Schoolboy's World Record

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The world record reported from the Asian Games, in the men's 200 metres breaststroke, was set in the one event that Japanese swimming regards as its own.

Yoshiyuki Tsuruta won it at the Olympics of 1928 and again in 1932, the first Japanese to win the same event twice.

Japanese swimmers then changed the stroke itself. In the 1950s Masaru Furukawa swam most of each length under water, where there is less resistance, and won the Olympic title in 1956. The rules were rewritten afterwards to require the head to break the surface on every stroke.

The modern line begins with Kosuke Kitajima, who won both breaststroke events at Athens in 2004 and both again at Beijing in 2008.

Akihiro Yamaguchi set a world record in the 200 metres in 2012, while still at high school. Ipppei Watanabe set another in 2017.

The explanation usually given is technical.

Breaststroke rewards timing, flexibility in the hips and ankles, and efficiency, more than height and reach. Japanese coaches have studied it more closely than anyone.

There is also a tradition to join. A talented young swimmer in Japan who is good at breaststroke is told so early, and is shown the films.

Shin Ohashi, who is 17, is the latest. He carried the flag at the closing ceremony.

A world record set by a schoolboy has a precedent, then, in the same event.

The Los Angeles Olympics are two years away.

SPORTS

Where the 83 Golds Came From: Athletics Ten, Judo Nine, and a Long Tail of Sports Japan Once Ignored

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

Japan's record haul at the Asian Games was built on its traditional strengths and extended by sports that were not on the programme a generation ago.

Athletics supplied ten gold medals and judo nine, by Jiji's count on Saturday. Swimming and wrestling were the other large contributors.

The team sports added to it: softball, for the seventh time running, women's football for the third, and the men's table tennis team, in which Tomokazu Harimoto played alongside Shunsuke Togami, Hiroto Shinozuka and Sora Matsushima.

Nikkei notes that medals also came from disciplines outside the Olympic programme, among them e-sports and sepak takraw.

Surfing produced a gold for Mirai Ikeda. Sport climbing produced two. Skateboarding produced two more.

China finished first, as it has at every Games since 1982. It had 169 golds by Saturday night.

The gap between first and second is therefore about two to one, which is narrower than at Hangzhou three years ago, when China won 201 golds and Japan 52.

Home advantage accounts for part of the change. The host chooses some of the sports, enters a full team in all of them, and does not travel.

Part is real. A world record in the pool is the clearest evidence of it.

The total of 269 is 51 more than the previous

Japanese record.

SPORTS

China First Again: What a Lead of Two to One Is Made Of

By Kenta Sakamoto | Data & Visualization

Japan's record haul at the Asian Games left it second in the medal table, where it has finished at most Games for forty years. First place was never in question.

China had 169 gold medals by Saturday night, against Japan's 83.

It has led the table at every Asian Games since 1982, when it overtook Japan for the first time.

Its lead rests on a small number of sports in which it wins almost everything. Diving, table tennis, badminton, weightlifting, shooting and gymnastics between them account for a large share.

It rests also on a system. Chinese athletes are selected young, trained full-time in state schools and concentrated in the sports where medals are most numerous.

Japan's sport is organised differently, through schools, universities and company teams, with public money directed since the 2000s to a national training centre in Tokyo.

The gap has narrowed at these Games. At Hangzhou in 2023, on home ground, China won 201 golds to Japan's 52.

Part of the narrowing is simply the reversal of home advantage. Part is that Japan now wins in sports, among them skateboarding, climbing and surfing, in which China has been slower to develop.

South Korea has usually been third.

The same three countries will contest the table in Doha in 2030, in a different order of home advantage.

SPORTS

Seven in a Row, and Ueno Is Still There at 44

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Among the athletes who walked into the closing ceremony on Sunday, Nikkei picked out one who has been doing so for longer than some of her team-mates have been alive.

Yukiko Ueno is 44. Japan's women's softball team won the Asian Games title for the seventh time in succession, and she was part of it.

SPORTS

She first played for Japan at the turn of the century. Her defining performance came at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, when she pitched three games in two days, 413 pitches in all, to win the country its first gold medal in the sport.

Softball was then dropped from the Olympics. It returned once, for Tokyo, thirteen years later, and Ueno, at 39, pitched Japan to the title again.

It was dropped once more for Paris and will be back in Los Angeles in 2028, when she would be 46.

She has said in the past that she takes it a season at a time.

Her role has changed. She is no longer asked to throw every inning, and younger pitchers have taken the larger share.

Japan's run at the Asian Games began in 2002. No other country has won the tournament since.

The sport's base in Japan is the corporate league, in which Ueno has played her whole career for the same club.

The reports do not say whether she pitched in the final.

SPORTS

The Last Event: A Horse Over Fences, and Japan's Late Arrival in Equestrian Sport

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

The final competition of the Asian Games, held on Sunday before the closing ceremony, was the individual show jumping.

In show jumping horse and rider go round a course of a dozen or so fences against the clock. A rail knocked down costs four faults, as does a refusal. The lowest total wins, and ties are settled by a second round over a shortened course.

It is one of three equestrian disciplines at the Games, with dressage and eventing, and one of the few sports in which men and women compete against each other on equal terms.

Japan's history in it is long and thin. A cavalry officer, Takeichi Nishi, won the Olympic show jumping in Los Angeles in 1932. He died at Iwo Jima.

For ninety-two years that was the country's only Olympic medal in any equestrian event.

The drought ended in Paris in 2024, when a Japanese team took bronze in eventing. Its members, most of them based in Europe, were all in their late thirties or forties.

The sport is expensive and requires land, which Japan lacks. Its best riders have had to live abroad.

At Asian level Japan has long been among the leading nations, together with the Gulf states, which have invested heavily in horses.

Horse and rider are judged together, and the medal belongs to both.

The reports available do not give Sunday's result.

SPORTS

Thirteen Days to the Para Games: The Same Committee, the Same Venues, and a Promise to Do Better

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

The banners of the Asian Games were coming down on Monday morning. Those of the Asian Para Games go up in their place.

The Para Games run from October 18 to 24. They are the fifth to be held and the first in Japan.

They are organised by the same committee, under the same chairman, who apologised on Sunday for the shortcomings of the event just ended.

The failures he apologised for bear more heavily on the event to come. Transport that goes astray is an inconvenience to an able-bodied athlete. For a wheelchair user dependent on an adapted vehicle it can mean missing a competition.

The organisers have less than two weeks to correct what went wrong.

The venues are the same, and those built or refitted for the main Games were designed with the second event in mind.

Japan's team will be among the largest. The country finished third at the last Para Games, behind China and Iran.

Its hopes are highest in swimming, athletics,

wheelchair tennis and boccia.

The Para Games will not have the main event's crowds unless the organisers find them. Tickets for the Asian Games' closing ceremony had to be given away, and seats were still empty.

A good Para Games would be the best answer to the criticism of the past fortnight.

SPORTS

Two Hits in Eleven Innings: The Champions' Bats Go Quiet, With Three Games Left for Sato's Fortieth

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

Hanshin's first game as champions for a second year was not one their supporters will keep.

They managed two hits in eleven innings at Yokohama on Sunday and scored once, in the fourth.

A team that has just secured a pennant is entitled to an off day. The manager used the game accordingly, sending seven pitchers to the mound in short spells.

The defeat itself changes nothing in the standings. Hanshin are champions with a record of 77 wins, 61 defeats and 2 draws.

What it altered was the play-off arithmetic, by guaranteeing that DeNA finish within ten games.

It also brought a second defeat in two days for a bullpen that has been the team's foundation. On Saturday Dolis gave up the lead in Hiroshima. On Sunday the closer, Kudo, who has 11 saves, lost in the eleventh.

Teruaki Sato started at third base and batted fourth. He remains on 39 home runs with three games to play.

One more would give him 40 in consecutive seasons.

The team has more than a week between its last game and the final stage of the Climax Series.

Such an interval is usually spent resting pitchers and playing practice games.

SPORTS

Next for the Central League: Giants and DeNA at Tokyo Dome, a Rematch of the Night That Decided the Pennant

By Oliver Brooks | Sports Desk Editor

The first stage of the Central League's Climax Series will bring together the two clubs that settled the pennant between them on Saturday night without either winning it.

The Giants, who finished second, are at home to DeNA, who finished third. The series is the best of three games at Tokyo Dome.

There is no advantage beyond the ground. If the series is level after three games because of a draw, the higher-placed team goes through.

The winner goes to Koshien to face Hanshin, who begin the final stage with one win in hand.

The two sides' last meeting was Saturday's. The Giants led 2-0 after six innings and lost 5-2, and with that defeat Hanshin became champions.

DeNA have the better recent form. They have had a winning record in each of the past four months, Sankei notes, and on Sunday beat Hanshin's closer in the eleventh inning.

They also have the precedent of 2024, when they went from third place to the Japan Series title.

The Giants have the stronger starting pitching and the weaker bullpen, on the evidence of the past week.

The Giants finished with 76 wins and DeNA with 71.

The dates of the series have been announced by the league. The reports available this morning do not repeat them.

SPORTS

'Sayonara': Why Japanese Baseball Says Goodbye When a Game Ends in the Last Half-Inning

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

DeNA's win over Hanshin on Sunday is described in every Japanese report with a word that foreign readers know from another context.

A game-ending hit by the home team in its last turn at bat is a sayonara hit. A home run that does it is a sayonara home run, and the win is a sayonara win.

The word means goodbye. The game is over the instant the winning run scores, and the home side does not finish its inning.

American baseball arrived at the same idea much later, with the phrase walk-off, which a relief pitcher coined in the 1980s to describe the loser's walk from the field.

The Japanese term is older and more cheerful. It describes the event from the winners' side.

Baseball came to Japan in the 1870s with American teachers, and its vocabulary was translated with unusual thoroughness. A committee of enthusiasts in the Meiji period produced Japanese terms for the positions and the plays.

During the war English terms were banned from the game altogether, and umpires called strikes in Japanese.

Much of the English returned afterwards, so that the modern language of the sport is a mixture. A strike is a strike. A walk is four balls. A game-ending hit is a goodbye.

Encarnacion, who delivered Sunday's, was experiencing the custom for the first time since coming to Japan.

The home side did not need to bat again.

SPORTS

Second Four Times, First Never: Japan's Fifty-Seven Years at the Arc

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

No ambition in Japanese sport has been pursued for so long at such expense with so little to show for it as the winning of a horse race in Paris on the first Sunday of October.

The first Japanese runner in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe was Speed Symboli, in 1969. He finished far back.

For three decades the attempts were occasional. That changed in 1999, when El Condor Pasa, who had spent the whole season in France, led into the final furlong and was beaten half a length by Montjeu.

From then the race became an annual object. Deep Impact, the best Japanese horse of his generation, was sent in 2006, finished third and was later disqualified after a banned substance was found.

Nakayama Festa was second by a head in 2010.

The nearest miss was Orfevre's in 2012. He swept past the field in the straight, went clear, hung towards the rail and was caught on the line by a filly at long odds. He was second again the following year.

Since then no Japanese runner has finished in the first three.

The reasons offered are consistent. The ground at Longchamp in October is usually softer and deeper than Japanese turf. The course rises and falls. The race is run at a slow pace and decided by a sprint, which is what both trainers said on Sunday.

Japanese racing is by most measures the equal of any in the world. Its horses have won the great races of Dubai, Hong Kong, Australia and America.

That makes the one omission more conspicuous, and guarantees that someone will try again next year.

SPORTS

Eight in a Hundred Years: The Horses Who Won the Arc Twice Running

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

Daryz became on Sunday the eighth horse to win the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in consecutive years. The list he joins is a short history of European racing.

The first was Ksar, in 1921 and 1922, when the race was new.

Corrida, a mare, won in 1936 and 1937. Tantieme won in 1950 and 1951.

Ribot, an Italian horse who was never beaten in sixteen races, won in 1955 and 1956 and is still spoken of as the best the race has seen.

Alleged, trained in Ireland, won in 1977 and 1978. He was the last colt to do it until Sunday.

The two most recent were fillies. Treve won in 2013 and 2014, the first of those victories at the expense of the Japanese horse Orfevre. Enable, trained in England, won in 2017 and 2018.

Both returned for a third attempt and failed. No horse

has won the race three times.

The difficulty is partly one of age. A three-year-old carries less weight than older horses, and most winners are three. To win again at four a horse must give that weight away to the next generation.

It is also one of survival. A horse that wins the Arc is worth a great deal as a stallion or a broodmare, and owners are often unwilling to risk another season.

Daryz's owners took the risk. They now have the option of taking it again.

SPORTS

Take at 57: Twelve Rides in the Arc, and Still Asked When He Will Stop

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The jockey who rode Meisho Tabaru into fourteenth place in Paris on Sunday is the most successful in the history of Japanese racing and, at 57, one of its oldest.

Yutaka Take rode his first winner in 1987. He has ridden more than 4,500 since, a figure no one else in Japan has approached.

He is the son of a jockey and became champion in his third season.

He was the regular rider of Deep Impact, who won the Japanese triple crown in 2005 and was sent to the Arc the following year. Their third place, later annulled, remains the nearest Take has come to the race.

He first rode in it in 1994.

His attachment to it is personal. He based himself in France for a season in 2001 and has said that winning there is the one thing left he wants.

He has had serious falls, including one in 2010 that kept him out for months and after which, for several years, the best rides went to others.

He came back. He won the Japanese Derby for a sixth time in 2022, at 53.

Meisho Tabaru is trained by Mamoru Ishibashi, who was himself a jockey and a contemporary of Take's.

Asked after earlier defeats in Paris whether he would return, Take has always said yes.

SPORTS

Koga Wins the World Title at Her Fifth Attempt as the Judo Championships Open in Baku; Nagayama Loses His Crown and Takes Bronze

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Wakana Koga won the women's 48 kilograms on the opening day of the world judo championships in Baku on Sunday, a title she had been pursuing since 2021.

She is 25, comes from Kurume in Fukuoka Prefecture and competes for JR East. It was her fifth world championships. She had twice won bronze.

She won five contests, beginning in the second round. In the semi-final she beat Baasankhuu Bavuudorj of Mongolia, the silver medallist at the Paris Olympics, on a score.

Her opponent in the final was Assunta Scutto of Italy, the holder.

It is the first time in three championships that a Japanese woman has won the lightest class, Kyodo News notes. The last was Natsumi Tsunoda, who went on to win the Olympic title.

In the men's 60 kilograms Ryuju Nagayama, who won the title last year, was beaten in the semi-final. He lost to Sherzod Davlatov of Kazakhstan in extra time.

He recovered to win the bronze-medal contest against Ayub Bliev, a Russian.

The championships run for eight days, with seven weight classes for men and seven for women followed by a mixed team event.

They come directly after the Asian Games, at which Japan's judoka won nine gold medals.

Japan ended the first day with a gold and a bronze from the two classes contested.

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SPORTS

SPORTS

Silver, Bronze, Bronze, and Now Gold: Koga's Five World Championships

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Wakana Koga's world title on Sunday ended one of the longer waits in Japanese judo.

She first went to the world championships in 2021, at 20, and reached the final. She has been on the podium at most of them since without standing on its top step.

Her difficulty was not foreign opponents. It was that her weight class, the lightest, contained Natsumi Tsunoda, who won three world titles in a row and then the Olympic gold in Paris.

Koga was world junior champion and the best lightweight of her age. For four years she was the second-best in her own country.

She comes from Kurume, a city in Fukuoka Prefecture with a strong tradition in the sport, and competes for the team of the East Japan Railway Company.

Her judo is built on movement and grip fighting. She wins more often on accumulated scores than with a single throw.

In June she won a grand slam tournament in Ulaanbaatar, the first event of the new Olympic qualification period.

On Sunday she beat the Olympic silver medallist in the semi-final and the reigning world champion in the final.

The city of Kurume, which publishes the results of its athletes, had noted in the summer that she was bound for Baku.

It will have more to publish now.

SPORTS

Today in Baku: Uta Abe at 52 Kilograms, and the Road to Los Angeles

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

The second day of the world judo championships brings the women's 52 kilograms and the men's 66, two classes in which Japan has dominated for most of a decade.

Uta Abe is entered at 52 kilograms. She has won the world title several times and the Olympic title once, in Tokyo.

Her defeat in the second round in Paris in 2024, and her distress afterwards, were among the most replayed moments of those Games. She has since returned to winning.

The preliminary rounds begin at 4 p.m. Japan time and the finals at 11 p.m.

These championships have a further importance. Results from now count towards qualification for the Los Angeles Games.

Japan's selectors are also watching for the depth behind the champions. In several classes the country's second choice would be favourite for a medal.

Russian judoka are competing in Baku. One reached the podium on the first day.

The remaining individual classes follow one men's and one women's each day. The heavyweights are on Saturday.

The mixed team event, which Japan has won more often than any other country, closes the meeting on Sunday.

Japan's women at 57 kilograms are Akari Omori and Momo Tamaoki.

SPORTS

Ippon, Waza-ari and the Return of Yuko: How a Judo Contest Is Scored in Baku

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Reports from the world championships say that Wakana Koga won her semi-final on a score and that Ryuju Nagayama lost his in extra time. Both phrases depend on rules that have changed more than once.

A contest lasts four minutes. It ends at once if either judoka scores ippon, a full point, by throwing the opponent cleanly on to the back, by holding her down for 20 seconds, or by a strangle or arm lock that forces a submission.

A throw that falls short of that standard is waza-ari. Two of them make ippon.

A third and smaller score, yuko, was abolished in 2017 and brought back last year. It is awarded for a throw that lands the opponent on her side.

If nobody has scored ippon when time expires, the judoka with the higher score wins.

If the scores are level, the contest continues without limit of time until one of them scores. This is the golden score, and it is where Nagayama was beaten.

Penalties are given for passivity and for illegal grips. Three of them disqualify.

The effect of the present rules is to reward attack. A judoka who leads narrowly cannot simply defend, because the penalties will catch up with her.

Koga's method, building a lead through repeated attacks, suits them.

The referee on the mat is supported by officials watching video, who may correct a call.

SPORTS

Nara University High School Beat Chiben Gakuen for the Autumn Title, With Spring's Koshien at Stake

By the Sports Desk

Nara University High School won the Nara prefectural high school baseball tournament of the autumn, beating Chiben Gakuen in the final.

Chiben Gakuen is the prefecture's most decorated school. It has been to the national tournaments at Koshien dozens of times and reached the summer final in 2021.

The autumn tournaments matter because of what follows. Each prefecture's leading schools advance to a regional competition, in this case that of the Kinki region, later in the month.

Results there decide which schools are invited to the national invitational tournament at Koshien in March.

The spring tournament has no qualifying competition of its own. A selection committee chooses the field in January, largely on the evidence of the autumn.

The teams are new ones. Third-year players retire after the summer, and the autumn is the first competition for the group that will play through to the following August.

Kinki sends more schools to the spring tournament than most regions, and its autumn competition is among the hardest in the country to win.

Nara University High School has appeared at Koshien before, but less often than the school it beat. Both finalists go forward to the regional tournament.

The reports available do not give the score.

SPORTS

Tonight: Japan Play New Zealand for the Kirin Cup, Two Days After the Under-21s' Silver

By Haruto Yamamoto | Sports Reporter

Japan's senior men's football team plays New Zealand tonight in the final of the Kirin Cup.

Japan reached the final by beating Ecuador on penalties on Thursday.

The match follows a weekend in which the under-21 side lost the Asian Games final to South Korea by a single goal.

The two teams are connected by more than a shirt. Go Oiwa, who coached the under-21s, is to take charge of the senior team next March.

Tonight's side is picked by the present staff. It is drawn mostly from players at European clubs, who return to them tomorrow.

New Zealand played at this summer's World Cup.

The Kirin Cup has been held, with gaps, since 1978, and is the oldest invitational tournament in Japanese football.

The weather should not interfere. The forecast for most of Honshu is cloud.

The reports available do not give the venue or the kick-off time.

The brewer that gives the tournament its name has sponsored the national team since the first edition.

ELSEWHERE IN TODAY'S PAPER

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SPORTS

Scoreboard

By the Sports Desk

CENTRAL LEAGUE, Sunday: DeNA 2, Hanshin 1 (11 innings). W: Ogata (7-3). L: Kudo (3-1, 11 saves).

Final for DeNA: 71 wins, 69 defeats, 3 draws, third place. Hanshin: 77-61-2, champions, three games left.

ASIAN GAMES, final medal count, Japan: 83 gold, 95 silver, 91 bronze; total 269; second in the table.

ASIAN GAMES, final day: equestrian, individual jumping.

HORSE RACING, Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, ParisLongchamp, 2,400 m: 1. Daryz (M. Barzalona). 2. Bay City Roller. 3. Diamond Necklace. 11. Admire Terra. 14. Meisho Tabaru. Sixteen ran.

JUDO, world championships, Baku, women's 48 kg: 1. Wakana Koga (Japan). 2. Assunta Scutto (Italy). 3. Shirine Boukli (France), Sabina Giliazova (Russia).

JUDO, men's 60 kg: bronze, Ryuju Nagayama (Japan).

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL, Nara autumn final: Nara University High School beat Chiben Gakuen.

TODAY: Kirin Cup final, Japan v New Zealand. World judo: women's 52 kg, men's 66 kg.

TOMORROW: Japan Open tennis, final.

CULTURE

Koza: The Streets Outside the Gate, and Their Long Memory

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The entertainment district in which the Marine was arrested on Saturday night has been the place where Okinawa and the American forces meet since 1945.

Okinawa City lies in the middle of the island beside Kadena, the largest American air base in the western Pacific. Until 1974 the town was called Koza, and older residents still use the name.

It grew from a camp for displaced civilians into a town that lived by the base. The street leading from the main gate filled with bars, tailors, pawnshops and clubs where Okinawan musicians learned to play rock for an American audience.

That music became the town's inheritance. Okinawan rock, a style of its own, was born there in the Vietnam years.

So did its most famous night. In December 1970, after a car driven by an American struck a pedestrian, a crowd gathered, and over several hours some 80 vehicles belonging to Americans were overturned and burned. Nobody was killed.

The riot followed months of anger at acquittals of servicemen by military courts, at a time when the island was still under American administration and Japanese courts had no jurisdiction at all.

Okinawa reverted to Japan in 1972. The riot is remembered locally less as violence than as the moment at which patience ended.

The district declined when the yen rose and servicemen had less to spend. Many of the old bars are shuttered. Others survive on nostalgia and on tourists.

Servicemen still go there in the evening, and since last year joint patrols of Japanese police, American military police and local officials have walked the same streets.

It was on one of those streets that investigators recognised the man they were looking for.

CULTURE

The Architect on the Ballot: Riken Yamamoto, 81, Who Builds Thresholds, Wants to Run a City

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Among the seven candidates for mayor of Yokohama is a man who two years ago received the highest honour his profession can give.

Riken Yamamoto was awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2024, the ninth Japanese architect to win it. He is 81 and has had his office in Yokohama for half a century.

He was born in Beijing in 1945 and grew up in Yokohama, in a house that was also his mother's pharmacy. He has said that living between a shop open to the street and the rooms behind it gave him his subject.

That subject is the boundary between private and public life. His buildings are arranged so that people see one another: glass walls, shared terraces, corridors that double as places to stop.

His best-known works include a university in Saitama whose departments are linked by walkways across a single roof, an art museum on the coast at Yokosuka half sunk into its hillside, and a university at Hakodate that puts students and teachers in one vast room.

Abroad he designed a large complex of shops and offices at Zurich airport.

He has always been as much a critic of housing policy as a designer. He argues that the Japanese flat, a sealed box for one family, has produced isolation, and that buildings should be planned for communities.

His platform in Yokohama follows from that. He proposes to rebuild the city's ageing public housing estates.

He announced his candidacy on the day nominations opened. He has no party behind him.

Architects have governed before. Kisho Kurokawa, another of the profession's great names, stood for governor of Tokyo in 2007 and lost.

CULTURE

Southern All Stars at Forty-Eight: The Band Behind the Name in the Tax Report

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The band whose bassist's company figures in a tax report this week has been part of the furniture of Japanese life for so long that it is difficult to remember it was once considered scandalous.

Southern All Stars were formed by students at Aoyama Gakuin University in the mid-1970s around the singer and songwriter Keisuke Kuwata.

Their first single, released in 1978, was a rush of half-intelligible syllables over a Latin beat. They performed it on television in shorts and running vests. Older viewers were appalled.

The following year they released a ballad, Itoshi no Ellie, which became a standard and was later recorded in English by Ray Charles.

From then they were two bands in one: a summer party act and a writer of slow songs that every karaoke room in the country knows.

A single released in 2000 sold nearly three million copies and is among the best-selling in Japanese history.

The line-up has scarcely changed. Kuwata's wife, Yuko Hara, plays keyboards. Kazuyuki Sekiguchi has played bass since the beginning.

Mr Sekiguchi has a second public life as an advocate of the ukulele, on which he has recorded several albums and written instruction books.

The band are associated with the coast of Shonan, south of Tokyo, where Kuwata grew up and which their songs mention constantly.

They have taken long breaks and always returned. Their concerts sell out stadiums.

CULTURE

Four Strings: The Long Japanese Affair With the Ukulele

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

The bassist named in this week's tax report is better known to many Japanese for a smaller instrument.

Kazuyuki Sekiguchi of Southern All Stars has spent three decades promoting the ukulele, through recordings, books and a festival.

He joined a tradition older than his band. Hawaiian music arrived in Japan in the late 1920s, brought by musicians of Japanese descent born in the islands, and was a fashion in the dance halls of the following decade.

It was suppressed during the war as enemy music and returned immediately afterwards. In the 1950s and 1960s Hawaiian bands played in beer gardens every summer.

A second wave came in the 1990s, led by younger players who treated the instrument as something more than a souvenir.

A Hawaiian virtuoso of Japanese ancestry, Jake Shimabukuro, became a star in Japan before he was known anywhere else.

CULTURE

The country is now the largest market for the instrument outside the United States. Its makers include some of the most respected in the world.

The appeal is practical as well as sentimental. It is small, quiet and inexpensive, which suits Japanese housing.

It is also bound up with the idea of Hawaii, the favourite destination of Japanese holidaymakers since 1964.

The instrument itself is Portuguese by origin. It was brought to Hawaii by immigrants from Madeira in 1879.

CULTURE

The Gate of Grief: The Strait in Today's Cartoon, and the Island in the Middle of It

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The second valve in today's editorial cartoon is labelled with a name that Arab sailors gave the place long before there was oil to carry through it.

Bab al-Mandab means the gate of lamentation, or of grief. One explanation is the danger of the passage itself, with its currents and its sudden winds. A legend offers another: that the strait was opened by an earthquake which parted Arabia from Africa and drowned those who lived between.

It joins the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. On one side is Yemen. On the other are Djibouti and Eritrea. At its narrowest it is about 30 kilometres across.

An island divides it. Perim is a bare volcanic rock of some 13 square kilometres, with no fresh water, lying close to the Yemeni shore. The channel on its eastern side is narrow and shallow. Large ships use the western one.

For most of history the strait led nowhere in particular. That changed in 1869, when the Suez Canal opened at the other end of the Red Sea and the passage became part of the shortest route between Europe and Asia.

Britain had anticipated it. It occupied Perim in 1857, built a lighthouse and later a coaling station, and held the island as part of its colony at Aden for 110 years.

The island passed to the independent state of South Yemen in 1967. In the 1973 war it was used to stop shipping bound for Israel.

Today about a tenth of the world's seaborne trade passes the island, and in ordinary times several million barrels of oil a day.

Japan has been here since 2009, when its destroyers joined the international patrols against Somali pirates. Its base at Djibouti, opened in 2011, was the first the Self-Defense Forces had built abroad.

Perim changed hands several times during Yemen's civil war. The Houthis are reported to have taken it on September 11.

CULTURE

The First Sunday of October: How a French Horse Race Became a Japanese Occasion

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

At a little after eleven on Sunday night, Japan time, a considerable number of people who do not ordinarily watch horse racing were watching it.

The Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe is run at Longchamp, in the Bois de Boulogne on the western edge of Paris, on the first Sunday of October. It has been held since 1920.

For the French it is the climax of the season. For the Japanese it is something closer to a quest.

Japanese racegoers travel to it in their thousands, and the racecourse provides information in Japanese.

Since 2016 it has been possible to bet on the race in Japan, through the national racing association. The sums wagered at home have on occasion exceeded those wagered in France.

Television shows it live. The commentators' voices rise as the field turns into the straight and fall, most years, about fifteen seconds later.

The attachment has something to do with the difficulty. Japanese horses have won almost everything else. A prize that will not be won acquires a value of its own.

It has something to do with place: Paris in October, chestnut trees, top hats.

There is no bitterness in it. The crowd at Longchamp

applauds Japanese runners warmly, and the trainers return every year.

On Sunday the two Japanese horses were eleventh and fourteenth. Planning for next October has presumably begun.

CULTURE

Jobs and Japan: A Zen Priest, a Tailor's Hundred Sweaters and a Moss Garden in Kyoto

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

Steve Jobs, who died fifteen years ago today, was shaped by Japan to a degree unusual in an American businessman.

The connection began with religion. As a young man in California he studied Zen under a Japanese priest of the Soto school, Kobun Chino Otogawa, who remained his teacher for many years and officiated at his wedding.

He considered, by his own account, entering a monastery in Japan. The priest advised him to stay in business.

What he took from Zen was an aesthetic as much as a practice: a preference for emptiness, for removing things until only what was necessary remained.

The second connection was industrial. He admired Sony above all other companies, and its co-founder Akio Morita. On a visit to a Sony factory in the 1980s he noticed that the workers wore uniforms, and learned that they had been designed by Issey Miyake.

His proposal that Apple's staff do the same was rejected by them. He asked Miyake instead to make something for him alone, and received about a hundred black turtleneck sweaters, which he wore for the rest of his life.

The early Macintosh was built in a factory modelled on Japanese practice. Its disk drive was Sony's.

He travelled to Kyoto repeatedly, often with one of his children. His favourite place there was said to be the moss garden of a temple in the western hills.

He was particular about sushi and about buckwheat noodles.

The telephone he introduced in 2007 went on to take a larger share of the market in Japan than in almost any other country.

CULTURE

Waiting for Stockholm: The Annual Vigil Outside Other People's Houses

By Naomi Kato | Culture & Society Editor

This evening, at universities and research institutes across Japan, rooms will have been set aside, chairs arranged and a telephone placed on a table, in case.

Nobel week is a ritual in Japan to a degree that surprises visitors. Newspapers publish lists of possible laureates. Television crews are assigned to each.

The candidates know they are being watched and behave accordingly.

When the announcement comes, the winner is driven to a news conference within the hour, to be asked what he felt and what his wife said.

The country has won often enough in this century to expect it. Since 2000 Japanese-born scientists have received about twenty prizes in the sciences, more than any country except the United States.

Last year brought two, in medicine and in chemistry.

Thursday is a different sort of evening. For nearly two decades readers of Haruki Murakami have gathered in bars and bookshops to await the literature prize, and have gone home disappointed.

The prizes matter to institutions for a plain reason. A laureate brings donations and students.

They matter to the public for a less tangible one. They are taken as evidence that the country still does serious work.

The medicine prize is announced at about half past six.

CULTURE

Mizuho: The Rebuilt Stadium Where the Games Began and Ended

By Kenji Fukuda | Real Estate & Urban Development

The stadium in which the Asian Games closed on Sunday night was the one significant building the organisers allowed themselves.

Nagoya's municipal athletics stadium, in the Mizuho

district in the south-east of the city, was first built in 1941. It was rebuilt for a national athletics meeting in the 1990s and demolished in 2021 to be rebuilt again.

The new stadium was finished this year. It holds about 30,000 spectators, with a roof over all the seats, and carries the name of a local manufacturer of gas appliances under a sponsorship agreement.

It stands in a public park beside a river lined with cherry trees, which is one of the city's best-known places for viewing blossom.

The design was constrained by the site. The park is surrounded by housing, and the height and the lighting were limited accordingly.

For the Games it was used for the opening and closing ceremonies and for athletics, in which Japan won ten gold medals.

Its regular tenant is the city's professional football club for some matches, though the club plays most of its home games at a larger ground in Toyota.

The organisers' policy otherwise was to build nothing. Swimming was held in an existing pool, the team sports in existing arenas across several prefectures.

The stadium's future use is athletics meetings and football. Whether a city needs a 30,000-seat athletics stadium is a question asked of every such building.

On Sunday night, with free tickets distributed, it was not full.

CULTURE

A Prince in the Stand: The Imperial Family and the Games

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The closing ceremony of the Asian Games was attended by Prince Akishino, the Emperor's younger brother, who served as honorary president of the Games, and by Princess Kiko.

The role is one the imperial family has played at every large international sporting event held in Japan since the war.

The Emperor Showa opened the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964 and in Sapporo in 1972. The present Emperor's father opened those in Nagano in 1998, and the present Emperor those in Tokyo in 2021.

For the Asian Games the pattern has been for a senior prince to act as patron. The Games of 1958 in Tokyo were opened by the Emperor Showa. Those in Hiroshima in 1994 were opened by his son.

Prince Akishino is first in the line of succession. His son, Prince Hisahito, who came of age last year, is second.

The family's connection with sport is also personal. The national championships in a number of sports are played for cups given by the Emperor and Empress.

The Emperor's Cup in football is the oldest competition in the Japanese game.

The presence of a member of the family at a ceremony determines its protocol: the order of entry, the anthem, the moment at which the crowd stands.

The playing of the wrong anthem during the Games was the kind of error that protocol exists to prevent.

The Para Games open on October 18.

CULTURE

The Brown Buds on the Cedars: A Walk in the Hills Where Next Spring Is Already Decided

By Grace Park | Food & Restaurants

Anyone who walks this month in the hills west of Tokyo can read next spring's pollen forecast for himself.

The Japanese cedar is the tall, straight, dark conifer that covers most of the slopes. Look at the ends of the branches and there are clusters of small oval buds, each about the size of a grain of rice.

In a heavy year the clusters are thick and brown, and the whole tree takes on a rusty tinge by November. In a light year they are sparse and the tree stays green.

Each bud holds some hundreds of thousands of grains of pollen. They will open in February and March, on dry, warm days after rain, and the hills will appear to smoke.

This autumn the buds are thin. The summer in which they formed was cloudy, and September was the wettest on record.

The trees were planted, most of them, between the

1950s and the 1970s. The government paid landowners to replace mixed woodland with cedar and cypress, which grow quickly and straight. Imported timber then undercut them.

The plantations were never thinned as intended. They stand too densely, and little grows beneath them.

Varieties that produce almost no pollen have been bred. Replanting a mountainside takes a generation.

Felling is slow and expensive on steep ground.

Until then the forecast each October depends on the summer, and on a walk in the hills.

CULTURE

Baku: An Oil City on the Caspian That Has Made Itself a Home of Judo

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The world judo championships are being held this week in a city that many Japanese followers of the sport now know better than they know some of their own.

Baku is the capital of Azerbaijan, on a peninsula on the western shore of the Caspian Sea. It has about two million people.

It was the world's first oil city. In the late nineteenth century its wells supplied half the oil sold anywhere, and the mansions of that boom still line its centre.

Since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 the government has spent a second oil fortune on arenas and on bringing international events to fill them.

Judo is among the favoured sports. The country's judoka have won Olympic gold medals, and an annual tournament in Baku is a fixture of the international calendar.

The city held the world championships once before, in 2018.

It is five hours behind Japan, which is why this week's finals take place at eleven at night, Tokyo time.

The championships are staged in an arena built for gymnastics.

Wrestling and judo are close to national sports across the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the crowds there know what they are watching. Japanese champions are received with respect and not much sympathy.

Koga's opponents on Sunday came from Mongolia and Italy.

CULTURE

An Opening, a Ceremony and a Throne: How a Session of the Diet Begins

By Hana Ito | Research & Archive

The Diet convenes today. What happens on the first day follows a form that has changed little since 1947 and in some respects since 1890.

Members assemble in their own chambers at the appointed hour. Each house settles the length of the session and its committees.

The formal opening is a separate event. It is held in the chamber of the House of Councillors, the upper house, and members of both houses attend.

The reason for the venue is architectural. The upper chamber was built for the House of Peers, and behind the president's rostrum is a recess with a throne.

The Emperor attends and reads a short address. Under the constitution he convokes the Diet as an act in matters of state, on the advice of the cabinet.

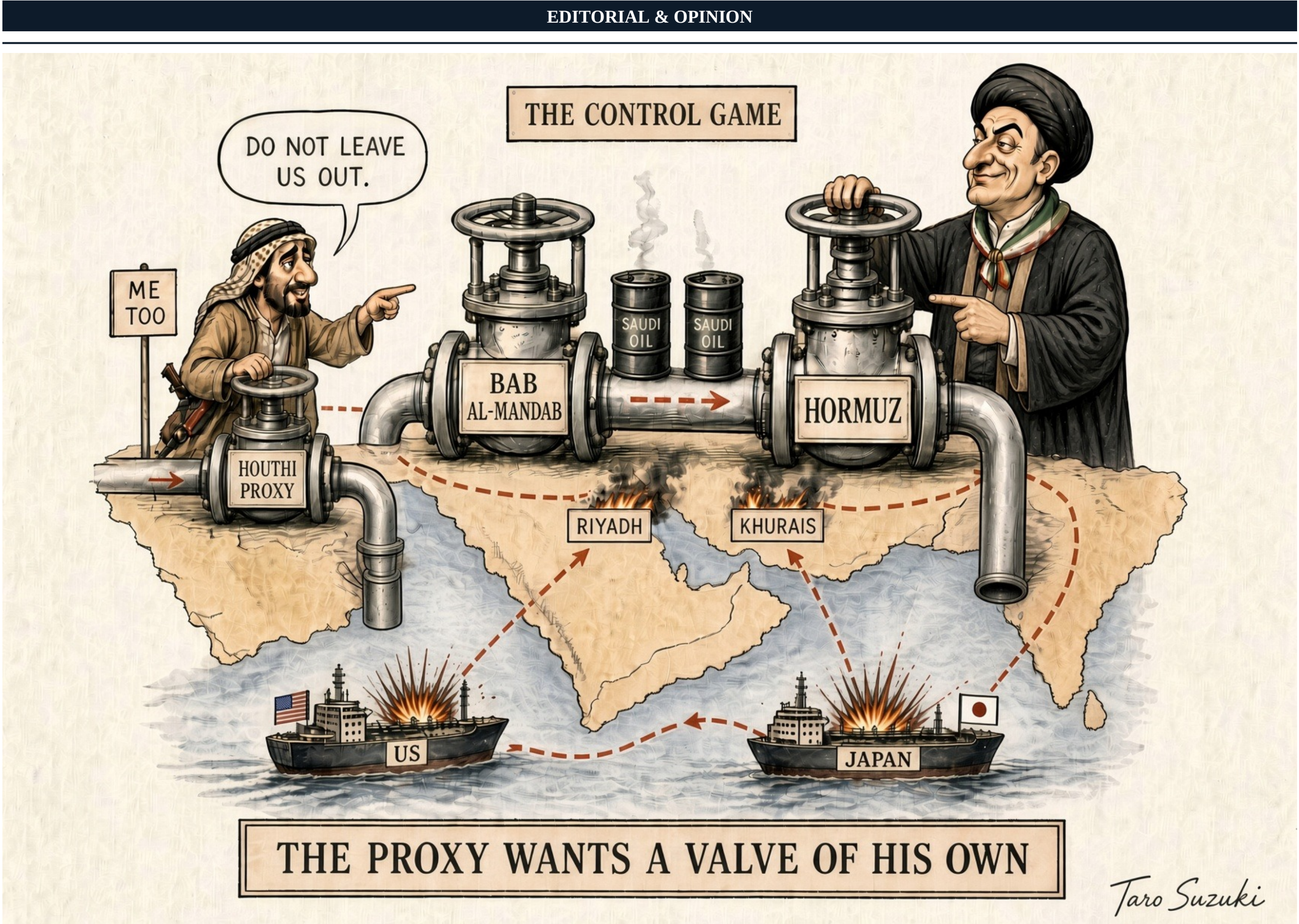
The speaker of the lower house replies on behalf of both.

The ceremony lasts a few minutes. The Japanese Communist Party boycotted it for decades as incompatible with popular sovereignty, and began attending in 2016.

For an extraordinary session the substantive opening is the prime minister's policy speech, delivered to each house, followed over several days by questions from the party leaders.

Those questions will this time be about an agriculture minister, a missile and a crime in Okinawa.

The building in which all this takes place was completed in 1936, after seventeen years of construction.



Editorial cartoon by Taro Suzuki for The Japan Morning Post.

EDITORIAL

The Proxy Wants a Valve of His Own

Iran closed one strait. The movement it armed now sits beside the other, and is setting Saudi refineries alight. A settlement that leaves it out will not reopen the sea, and one that pays it will invite the next.

By Samantha Ortiz | Editorial Page Editor

Taro Suzuki has drawn the oil of the Middle East as plumbing. A pipe runs across the map from left to right, and on it are two great valves. One is labelled Hormuz. A cleric in a black turban, a scarf in Iran's colours round his neck, rests a hand on its wheel and smiles. The other is labelled Bab al-Mandab. Between them sit two barrels of Saudi oil, with nowhere to go.

At the left-hand end of the pipe, on a branch of his own, a smaller man has a smaller valve. The plate on it reads Houthi proxy. He has a rifle on his back and a signpost behind him that says Me too. He is pointing at the larger valve beside him, and he is saying: Do not leave us out.

Below, fires burn at Riyadh and at Khurais, and two tankers, one under the American flag and one under the Japanese, are drawn in flames. The drawing is called The Control Game. Its caption is The proxy wants a valve of his own.

It is the most exact statement we have seen of what has changed in the past three months, and of why a war that most Japanese have followed, if at all, as a quarrel between Washington and Tehran has become a matter of what they will pay to drive to work.

The weekend's fires

On Saturday the Houthi movement, which rules the north of Yemen, said it had struck an oil installation in the Saudi capital with ballistic missiles and drones. A correspondent of the French news agency in Riyadh saw flames and black smoke rising from a refinery of the state oil company in the south of the city.

On Sunday the movement said it had done it again, in Riyadh and at the company's installations in the east of the kingdom. One account names the district of Khurais. It accused the Saudis of continuing to bomb Sanaa, the Yemeni capital, which it controls, and promised to go on attacking what it called the enemy's bases and oil facilities.

The Saudis, by the movement's own count, struck Sanaa 26 times on Saturday. On Sunday the head of

the Yemeni government that Riyadh supports announced a military campaign to retake the whole country.

Crude oil rose when markets opened on Monday. The principal exporters, meeting on Sunday, left their production targets where they were, which is an academic exercise: the oil they are permitted to pump cannot at present be shipped.

Sirens now sound somewhere in Saudi Arabia almost every day.

How a truce became a blockade

It is worth recalling how recently this front was quiet. The Houthis and the Saudis fought for seven years, from 2015, and stopped in 2022. The truce held through the first months of this year's war, while Iran and the United States exchanged blows and the Strait of Hormuz closed.

It broke in July. Saudi aircraft bombed the airport at Sanaa. The Houthis answered on July 20 by declaring a blockade of Saudi shipping, and three days later said they had hit two Saudi tankers near the Bab al-Mandab. President Trump warned that if it happened again he would hold Iran responsible.

It happened again. A refinery at Jizan was struck in August. On September 10 the pipeline that carries Saudi crude across the peninsula to the Red Sea was attacked and shut. On the same day the Houthis took the port of Mocha, and on the next the island of Perim, which sits in the middle of the strait.

On September 19 they struck Riyadh for the first time in this round, and the oil terminal at Yanbu. A senior figure in the movement told a Japanese television network last week that it controlled the strait and every island in it, completely.

That is the sequence the cartoon compresses into a man with a wrench.

Two valves

To see why it matters, look at the pipe.

Saudi Arabia's oil is in the east of the country, on the Persian Gulf. The natural way out is by sea through

Hormuz, and when Iran made that passage impassable in the spring, the kingdom fell back on a route it had built forty years ago for exactly that purpose. It pumped its crude 1,200 kilometres across the desert to Yanbu and loaded it there.

From Yanbu a tanker bound for Asia sails south down the Red Sea and out through the Bab al-Mandab, a channel about 30 kilometres wide between Yemen and the Horn of Africa. The name means the gate of grief.

For some months this worked. It meant, however, that the whole of the kingdom's export trade to the East passed within sight of a coast held by a movement with which it was technically still at war.

The Houthis now hold that coast from end to end, and the island in the channel. The pipeline that feeds the port has been shut by an attack that the Saudis blame on drones launched from Iraq, and the port itself has been set on fire. The cartoonist's two barrels, stranded between the valves, are an accurate picture of where Saudi oil stands this morning.

Analysts began in July to speak of a double blockade. It has since stopped being a figure of speech.

Whose hand is on which wheel

The cleric in the drawing is smiling, and he has reason. A second strait has been closed to his chief regional rival, at no cost to himself and with no fingerprints. Mr Trump's threat to hold Iran responsible has not been carried out.

But the drawing is subtler than that, and so is the situation. The small man is not turning his valve on the cleric's instructions. He is demanding one of his own.

The word proxy has always fitted the Houthis loosely. They are armed by Iran, and their missiles and drones are of Iranian design. They are not commanded by Iran. They began as a religious movement in the mountains of northern Yemen and fought six wars against their own government before Tehran took an interest. Their aim is to be accepted as the rulers of Yemen.

Their own experience has taught them how that is done. In 2019 an attack on the plants at Abqaiq and Khurais, which they claimed, cut Saudi output in half for a time. Within three years Riyadh had agreed to a truce. From 2023 they attacked merchant ships in the

Red Sea, and the world's navies came, and after a year and a half of bombing it was the United States that agreed to stop.

Each time, the capacity to interrupt trade earned them a hearing that their standing as a government never had. A movement that has learned this does not need to be told to seize a strait when one comes within reach.

Do not leave us out is addressed to two audiences. To Washington and Riyadh it says that no arrangement for the Gulf will hold without the Houthis' consent. To Tehran it says the same thing.

The limits of a deal with Tehran

That is the point on which present diplomacy is weakest.

Such negotiation as exists is between the United States and Iran, through intermediaries. Iran has set seven conditions for resuming talks, among them the lifting of the American blockade of its ports, the release of its frozen funds, and an end to fighting on all fronts.

On all fronts is the phrase to notice. Iran presents itself as able to deliver a general peace, Yemen included. Whether it can is the question the cartoon raises. A patron can stop the supply of weapons. It cannot recall the ones already delivered, or the island already taken.

The American side, for its part, shows little interest in finding out. Mr Trump, according to the Wall Street Journal, turned down an Iranian offer of a seven-day ceasefire and has told aides he may resume attacks on Iran after next month's elections. His senior ministers have met at the presidential retreat to discuss Iran and the Houthis together, Reuters reports.

There may be a case for striking Iran again. It would not reopen the Red Sea. The men on Perim island would still be there on the morning after, with their own reasons and their own stock of missiles, and with every incentive to show that they had not been disarmed by proxy.

A settlement that treats the Houthis as an appendix to Iran will be a settlement of half the problem.

The other mistake

There is an opposite error, and it is the more tempting because it would work for a while.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Houthis say their quarrel is with Saudi Arabia alone. Their spokesmen have been careful about it. The blockade applies to Saudi vessels. Others may pass as before. One of their officials went out of his way in July to say that Japanese ships were not targets.

It would be easy for a country in Japan's position to take that assurance at its word, keep its head down and let its tankers go through under the eyes of the men on the island. Ships of other flags are still passing.

Mr Suzuki has drawn a Japanese tanker on fire, and we take him to be saying what such assurances are worth. In November 2023, when the Houthis said they were aiming only at ships linked to Israel, they boarded and seized a car carrier operated by a Japanese line and held its crew for more than a year. An Indian merchant ship went down off Yemen this August in what was suspected to be an attack.

More to the point, a passage that is open by permission is not open. If a militia with a few hundred missiles can decide which flags may use an international strait, and is seen to profit by it, the lesson will not be lost on others. There are narrow seas nearer home than the Red Sea, and more capable powers beside them.

Japan has more to lose from the establishment of that principle than any country on earth. Almost everything it eats, burns and sells crosses water that somebody could close.

What Riyadh can and cannot do

The Saudis have chosen force. Their air force is bombing Sanaa daily, and the Yemeni government they sponsor has announced an offensive to take back the country.

One understands the choice. No government can watch its capital's refinery burn and do nothing. But they have been here before. Seven years of bombing from 2015 did not dislodge the Houthis from Sanaa. It killed a great many Yemenis, most of them by hunger, and left the movement stronger and better armed than it began.

The forces of the recognised government have seldom prevailed against the Houthis. The loss of Mocha and Perim last month was theirs.

The kingdom is reported to have asked Washington for military help. The Houthis have answered in advance that an American build-up would end what they call the calm in the strait, by which they mean their forbearance towards everyone else's ships.

Nor is the kingdom's own conduct beyond question. This round began with a Saudi air raid on a civilian airport, and the Houthis' blockade was declared in reply. A government that wants the sympathy of its customers, and their navies, would do well to remember that they have read the sequence of events.

That is the valve being shown to the customer. It is also, for now, the best argument against the offensive: the Houthis can do more damage than they have yet chosen to do.

Where Japan stands

Japan buys more than nine-tenths of its crude oil from the Gulf, and Saudi Arabia is one of its two largest suppliers. It has no pipeline to any producer and no neighbour to borrow from.

It is better defended against a shock than it was in 1973. It holds reserves equal to more than two hundred days' consumption and has been releasing them in concert with the other industrial democracies; the Group of Seven agreed last week to put a further 100 million barrels on the market over four months. A subsidy shields motorists from the full price.

These are painkillers. The reserve is finite and the subsidy is paid for with borrowed money. The yen, in the upper 150s to the dollar, is weak in part because the country's oil bill has risen.

Japan also has an asset that is seldom mentioned. Since 2011 the Self-Defense Forces have kept a base in Djibouti, on the African shore of the Bab al-Mandab, from which a destroyer and patrol aircraft protect shipping against pirates. The base is little more than a hundred kilometres from the island of Perim.

Japan has, besides, a history of acting in these waters when its interest required it. It sent minesweepers to the Gulf in 1991, refuelling ships to the Indian Ocean after 2001, and in 2020 a destroyer to the Gulf of Oman to gather information when tankers were being attacked there. Each of those decisions was contested

at home and each was taken. None was taken quickly. Their mandate does not cover what is now happening. The law under which they operate was written for Somali pirates in skiffs. It gives no authority to defend a tanker against a missile fired from the shore by an organised armed force.

What Japan should do

The first thing is to say plainly what it thinks. Japan has condemned attacks on Saudi oil installations in the past, and should do so now, at the level of the foreign minister and without waiting to see what Washington decides. A customer's silence is read as indifference.

The second is to use the access it has. Japan is one of the few allies of the United States that has kept working relations with Tehran throughout. It has no leverage over the Houthis. It has some standing with Oman, which has brokered most of the arrangements the Houthis have kept, and with the Gulf states that would have to guarantee any new one.

The message to carry is the one in the cartoon. Any agreement on the Gulf has to bind the party that holds the second valve, by name, with obligations of its own. That will mean dealing with the Houthis as what they have made themselves, and it will stick in many throats. The alternative is an agreement that they are free to ignore.

The third is to prepare for the case in which assurances fail. The government should settle now, and not on the night a Japanese-flagged ship is hit, under what authority the destroyer at Djibouti could escort or defend one. The Diet, which opens today, is the place to do it.

The fourth is to tell the public the truth about the cost. Every week of this adds to a subsidy bill that already runs into trillions of yen. Voters are entitled to know that the price on the forecourt is not the price being paid, and that the difference will be collected later.

And the fifth, which is not new, is to be less exposed. The restart of nuclear plants, long contracts for oil and gas from outside the Gulf, and the electrification of transport have all been policy for years and have all moved slowly. Each barrel not needed is a barrel that nobody can hold hostage.

What should not be done

Two things should be resisted.

One is the idea that this can be bombed away. The United States and Britain struck the Houthis repeatedly in 2024 and 2025. The attacks on shipping stopped when a deal was done, not when the missiles ran out. An organisation that has lived under air attack for most of a decade is not going to be surprised by more of it.

The other is the idea that it can be bought off cheaply and forgotten. Whatever the Houthis are given for opening the strait, they will have been given for closing it. The terms need to be ones the world can live with when the next group in the next narrow place asks for the same.

That argues for an arrangement in which passage is guaranteed by the states of the region collectively, with the navies of the importing countries behind it, and in which the Houthis gain what they want, a recognised place in Yemen, in exchange for giving up what they have taken, a hand on the gate. It will be hard to negotiate. It is the only version in which the valve is removed and not merely left open.

A drawing of the future

The cartoon is about the Middle East. It is also a picture of a kind of power that is going to be seen more often.

For most of the past century, closing a strait took a navy. The powers that had navies were few, and they could be bargained with as states. What the Houthis have shown is that it can now be done from the shore with weapons that fit in a lorry and cost less than the ship they are aimed at.

The big valve in the drawing belongs to a state. It can be negotiated over, blockaded, deterred. The small valve belongs to a man with a rifle and a grievance, who has discovered that the world's trade passes his door. There will be more of him.

Japan lives at the end of several long pipes. The nearest of them runs through the waters around Taiwan, where the same weapons exist in far greater numbers and in the hands of a far more formidable owner. What is tolerated in the Bab al-Mandab will be studied there.

The cleric in Mr Suzuki's drawing is pleased with himself. The figure worth watching is the other one, the small man at the edge of the map with his own wheel in his hand, asking not to be left out. He has understood something about the age, and he is not going to forget it because larger powers find him inconvenient.

The task for those who depend on the sea, Japan first among them, is to make sure that what he has learned is not that it pays.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

COMMENTARY: What Is Owed to Okinawa

A woman is dead in Naha and a Marine is in a police cell. The alliance that defends Japan is being judged by how its two governments behave in the days that follow, and regret will not be enough.

By William | Senior Political Analyst

A woman of 39 went into a hotel in the Wakasa district of Naha in the early hours of Saturday and did not come out alive. The post-mortem found that she had been strangled. Her wallet and her bag were taken, and were found later nearby.

On Sunday the Okinawa police arrested a lance corporal of the United States Marine Corps, aged 20, stationed at Futenma. He says he knows nothing about it. He is entitled to be believed until a court decides otherwise, and nothing written here assumes his guilt.

What can be said without waiting for a verdict is that a family in Naha has lost a daughter and a sister, that her brother has spoken of a household sunk in grief, and that for the people of Okinawa the arrest of an American serviceman for a crime of this kind is not a surprise. It is a recurrence.

That is the fact with which both governments have to deal, and this page, which has argued for the alliance with the United States for as long as it has had opinions, would be failing its readers if it treated the matter as a local difficulty to be managed until attention moves on.

The week it happened in

The timing could hardly be more pointed. On Saturday morning North Korea fired a missile that it describes as an intermediate-range strategic weapon, and claimed the next day that it had flown a thousand kilometres along a path its neighbours could not follow. The same day Japan showed residents of Kumamoto the launchers of the first weapon it has ever possessed that could answer such a missile at its source.

On Friday the first of 66 new fighters reached Taiwan. Later this month Japanese and American forces begin their largest joint exercise.

Every one of those events is an argument for the presence of American forces in Okinawa. The island sits on the line that any Chinese fleet must cross to reach the Pacific and within reach of the Korean peninsula. The Marines based there are the part of the alliance that moves first.

And in the middle of that week, one of those Marines was arrested for murder. The people who are asked to host the deterrent were given, on the same weekend, the best reason to want it and the best reason to resent it.

What the governor said

Genta Koja is new to the governor's office. His response on Sunday repays attention, because it was neither of the things that Tokyo has learned to expect from Naha.

He did not call for the bases to go. He did not say that the alliance was the problem. He said that the crime was vicious, that it had shocked people who are obliged to live beside the bases, and that he was very angry.

Then he said the thing that matters. Each time something like this has happened, the prefecture has asked the American forces to see that it does not happen again. It has happened again. He was therefore bound to conclude that their discipline and the education of their personnel were not functioning at all.

As a description of several tens of thousands of servicemen, most of whom will leave Okinawa without ever troubling its police, that is unfair. As a description of what the forces' assurances are worth to an Okinawan who has heard them after every case since 1995, it is accurate.

The governor is going to Tokyo. The prime minister

should receive him herself, and should have something to tell him.

Thirty years of the same promise

The modern history of this subject begins in September 1995, when three servicemen abducted and raped a girl of twelve. Eighty-five thousand people gathered in protest. The two governments promised to reduce the burden, and agreed the following year to return Futenma.

Futenma has not been returned. The air station in the photograph on our front page is the same one, in the middle of the same city, thirty years later.

In 2016 a young woman was murdered by a former Marine working on a base. In 2019 a sailor killed a woman and himself. In 2024 it was learned that servicemen had been charged with sexual offences against local women and girls and that nobody had told the prefecture.

After each case there were apologies, briefings on cultural awareness, new restrictions on drinking and on the hours at which junior personnel may be off base. After the cases of 2024 the two sides began joint patrols.

It should be said plainly that these measures have had an effect. Offences by American personnel are a fraction of what they were a generation ago. But the measure that Okinawans apply is not a rate. It is whether a woman can go about her own city at night without this being one of the things that might happen to her, and on that measure the answer this weekend was no.

The luck of an arrest

One thing went right. The police found the suspect themselves.

Officers who had memorised the appearance of the man in a security camera's footage, down to the tattoos on his arms, saw him walking in Okinawa City nineteen hours after the body was discovered. They stopped him, and he has been in Japanese custody since.

Had he made his way back through the gate of a base, the position would have been different. Under the Status of Forces Agreement an American serviceman in American hands stays there until he is indicted. Japan may ask for him earlier in the most serious cases, and the United States has undertaken to consider such requests sympathetically. It is not obliged to agree.

In practice transfers are now made. In principle the decision still belongs to the commander of the accused. Every Okinawan knows it, and it colours every case.

That the question did not arise this time is a credit to the prefectural police. It is not a credit to the agreement.

The governments have always resisted amending the text, on the ground that it would open negotiations with every country in which American forces are stationed. Germany and South Korea have both obtained changes to their own arrangements. The objection is one of convenience.

A provision that custody of a serviceman accused of murder, rape or robbery passes to Japan on request, without discretion, would cost the United States nothing it now exercises, and would remove the single most corrosive symbol in the relationship.

What Washington owes

The ambassador telephoned the governor within hours. The embassy expressed condolences. A general called the vice-governor. All of that was right and all of it was the minimum.

What the American forces owe Okinawa now is evidence that they regard this as their failure and not merely one man's.

The forces' own rules restrict the movement of junior personnel off base in the small hours. The crime is alleged to have taken place between two and four in the morning. If a lance corporal of twenty was in a hotel in Naha at that time, someone in his chain of command will know how, and the answer should be made public.

The measures adopted after earlier incidents were being put into effect when this happened, by Nikkei's account. The Marines should say which of them applied to the suspect's unit, and whether they were observed.

There is the matter of the family. Compensation for the victims of crimes by off-duty servicemen has in

EDITORIAL & OPINION

past cases been slow and grudging, because the agreement leaves the amount to American discretion and the Japanese government makes up the difference later. That should be settled quickly and without argument, whatever the outcome of the trial as to who was responsible.

There is, too, the question of what the forces tell the public. After incidents in the past the announcement has been of a period of reflection, a stand-down for a day, a tightening of rules already tight. Okinawans have learned to discount these. What they have not been given is information: how many breaches of the liberty rules are detected in a month, how many are punished and how. An organisation that published those figures would be showing that it measured its own discipline and was prepared to be judged on it.

And there is the matter of rank. Armed services understand accountability. When a ship runs aground, the captain loses his command whether or not he was on the bridge. Nothing would persuade Okinawans that the forces are serious so quickly as seeing that principle applied here.

The trial to come

If the prosecutors bring a charge, the case will be heard in Naha by three judges and six citizens of Okinawa chosen by lot. That is as it should be, and it places a duty on everyone who comments in the meantime.

The accused denies the allegation. The evidence so far made public is a camera recording and a resemblance. A court will require more, and the police, who have put nearly two hundred officers on the case, know it.

There will be pressure on that court of a kind no judge should have to bear. Some will want a conviction as a statement about the bases. Others, further away, will worry about the effect of a conviction on the alliance. Neither consideration has any place in a courtroom.

The American authorities can help by doing what they have promised: producing witnesses and records from inside the fence promptly and without negotiation. In earlier cases delay over exactly that has done more damage than the crime.

The Japanese authorities can help by conducting the interrogation and the trial to a standard that no one can afterwards question. An accused foreigner is entitled to an interpreter he can understand and a lawyer he can see. A verdict that is fair will be accepted. One that looks like a foregone conclusion will be used against Japan for years.

What Tokyo owes

The Japanese government's first day was better than usual. The vice-minister telephoned the ambassador in the morning, the foreign minister summoned him, the defense minister spoke of outrage and the prime minister of a cruel and heinous crime. The prefecture was told of the arrest within hours.

That last point is not trivial. In 2024 the government knew of charges against servicemen for months and did not inform Okinawa. It has evidently learned.

The test is what follows. Three things would show that the words were meant.

The first is to take the governor's protest as the opening of a discussion and not the closing of one. He will ask for a review of the forces' preventive measures with the prefecture in the room. He should get it.

The second is to raise the custody clause with Washington. The prime minister has, by several accounts, the regard of the president. When she next speaks to him she will want to talk about North Korea and China. She should also talk about this.

The third is to deliver what has already been promised. The return of Futenma and of the land south of Kadena was agreed long ago. Each year of delay is a year in which Okinawans conclude that the burden is permanent and the promises are not.

The Diet opens today. The opposition will use the case against the government, as oppositions do. The government would do better to arrive with proposals than with regrets.

What the mainland owes

There is a party to this that is seldom named. It is the rest of Japan.

The forces in Okinawa are there to defend the whole country. The country has been content for half a century to let one prefecture carry them. Proposals to

move units or training to the mainland have been made many times, and almost every one has been defeated by the prefecture or town that was asked to accept it.

The Marines themselves were moved to Okinawa from Gifu and Yamanashi in the 1950s because the people of those prefectures objected to them. Okinawa, then under American administration, was not asked.

Some training has been transferred since. Artillery practice that used to close a road in Okinawa is now carried out on ranges in Hokkaido, Miyagi, Yamanashi and Oita. Aircraft exercise from bases in several prefectures. These are small things, and each was resisted.

A governor in Naha who is told that the alliance requires sacrifices is entitled to ask who else is making them. Voters in Tokyo, Osaka and Aichi who support the alliance, as this page does, should ask the same question of their own representatives.

The honest position is that the burden cannot be made equal, because geography is not. Okinawa is where it is. But the difference between unequal and grotesquely unequal is a matter of political choice, and the choice has been made on the mainland.

The Diet's part

The session that opens today will be tempted to treat the case as ammunition. The opposition will accuse the government of subservience to Washington. The government will accuse the opposition of exploiting a tragedy.

There is a better use of the time. Both houses have committees on security and on Okinawan affairs. They could summon the officials who administer the Status of Forces Agreement and ask them, in public, three questions.

How many times since 1995 has Japan requested the transfer of a suspect before indictment, and how many times was it refused? What preventive measures did the American forces undertake after the cases of 2024, and what evidence is there that they were carried out? And how long, on average, has a victim's family waited for compensation?

The answers exist. They are held by a joint committee whose minutes are not published. A legislature that votes the budget for the bases is entitled to see them.

A resolution of both houses, calling for the custody provision to be revised, would strengthen the prime minister's hand with Washington and cost her nothing. Governing and opposition parties in the prefectural assembly in Naha have passed such resolutions together for years. Their colleagues in Tokyo might try it.

The Marines' own interest

It should not need saying that the people most damaged by a crime of this kind, after the victim and her family, are the Marines themselves.

The Corps is in the middle of reorganising itself for exactly the contingency that Okinawa's position implies. Its new formations are designed to operate in small groups from islands, among civilian populations, with their consent. A force that depends on the goodwill of islanders cannot afford to be known among them for this.

Its commanders know it. They have said after every incident that the conduct of a few does not represent the many. That is true and is not an answer. An organisation is responsible for what its members do, and the more so when it has put them, young and far from home, in someone else's country.

If the rules that already exist had been enforced on Friday night, a woman in Naha might be alive. That is the sentence the Corps has to reckon with, whatever the court decides about the individual.

What should not be said

There are two responses to a case like this that do harm, and both will be heard this week.

One is to say that the alliance itself is to blame, and that the bases should go. The people who say it are sincere. They are also wrong about the world in which Japan lives. A country within range of the missile fired on Saturday, beside a power that is building a navy to dominate its sea lanes, does not have the option of being left alone.

The other is to say that one crime by one man should not be allowed to disturb a relationship of such importance, and that Okinawa should keep a sense of

proportion. That is the voice of people who do not live there.

The alliance is strong enough to hear the truth about itself. A woman is dead. The man accused wore its uniform. Those are facts about the alliance, and an ally that cannot look at them is not behaving like one.

The woman in the hotel

Very little has been published about the victim, and that is as it should be. She was 39. She lived in Kokuba. She had a brother who spoke for the family through the police and asked for nothing.

Reporters will go to her neighbourhood and to her family's door, as they always do. Her family has asked for nothing except to be left to grieve. The public interest in this case lies in what two governments do next, and not in the life of a private citizen who did nothing to invite attention. Editors should hold to that.

The public argument that will now be conducted in her name, about treaties and bases and the Diet, would have meant little to her on Friday. It is being conducted because she is dead.

The least that those conducting it can do is to remember that the case begins and ends with her. The trial, when it comes, must be thorough and fair, and conducted entirely by the country in which she lived. The outcome must be seen to owe nothing to the nationality of the accused.

What an ally is

The treaty that binds Japan and the United States speaks of mutual co-operation and security. It says nothing of gratitude, and nobody in Okinawa is asking for any.

What Okinawa is asking is simpler. It hosts, on a small island, the larger part of a foreign army that is in Japan for the benefit of the whole country. In return it wants to be safe from that army, to be told the truth by its own government, and to see promises kept.

None of those things is beyond the two richest democracies in the Pacific. All of them have been promised before.

The missile of Saturday showed why the alliance is needed. The arrest of Sunday showed what it costs the people who live closest to it. A government that takes the first seriously and not the second will find in time that it has neither.

The prime minister called the crime cruel and heinous. She was right. She now has to show the governor, when he arrives, that the adjective was the beginning of her response and not the whole of it.

ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS: Japan's Oil Now Depends on a Pipeline That a Drone Can Reach

By Yuki Saito | Economics & Finance Correspondent

For half a century the phrase that summed up Japan's energy insecurity was the Strait of Hormuz. This autumn it has acquired a second address, 1,200 kilometres to the west.

When the strait became unreliable in the spring, Saudi Arabia did what it had planned for since the 1980s. It sent its crude across the desert by pipeline to the Red Sea and loaded it there.

The arrangement worked for some months. It moved the exposed point from a waterway that Iran can threaten to a pipeline and a port that the Houthis can.

They have now hit both, repeatedly. The pipeline was shut by an attack on September 10. A refinery in the capital was set alight on Saturday.

The weapons used are cheap. A drone that costs less than a family car can stop a pump station that took years to build, and the defender has to succeed every time.

Japan's position in this is that of a customer with no alternative supplier of comparable size. More than nine-tenths of its crude comes from the Gulf.

It has two protections. One is its reserves, which are among the largest in the world and have been drawn on in co-ordination with the other industrial countries. The other is the budget, which absorbs higher prices before they reach the pump.

Both are finite. Reserves run down, and a subsidy that grows with the price of oil competes with every other claim on the treasury.

The longer answer is the one successive governments

have given since 1973 and never fully acted on: to use less oil, and to buy it from more places. The restart of nuclear plants and the spread of electric vehicles are parts of it.

In the meantime the price of petrol in Japan is being set, in part, by men launching drones from the mountains of Yemen.

ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS: Pyongyang's Thousand Kilometres Is a Claim About Radar, Not About Range

By Maya Suzuki | Science & Innovation Desk

North Korea already had missiles that could fly a thousand kilometres. It has had them for thirty years. The number announced on Sunday was therefore not a boast about reach.

It was a boast about sight. Japan said the missile flew 680 kilometres and South Korea said more than 700. By announcing a figure well beyond both, the North was saying that the last 300 kilometres took place where its neighbours could not see.

Kim Yo Jong had made the point the night before, in words chosen to sting. The enemy lost the target, she said.

Seoul's reply, that its forces and the Americans can detect and intercept such a weapon, was the one a defence ministry must give. It did not address the discrepancy.

For Japan the honest position is uncomfortable. The country has built its defence against ballistic missiles on the assumption that a warhead can be tracked from launch to impact, and that its course in between can be computed. A weapon that changes course late in flight breaks the assumption.

That does not make the existing defences worthless. Most of North Korea's missiles are of the ordinary kind. It does mean that the more capable ones have to be handled differently, with sensors in orbit and interceptors not yet built.

It also explains the emphasis the government now places on striking back. If some missiles cannot be stopped in flight, the alternative is to threaten the launchers.

The North knows this, and its second statement of the weekend, warning Japan that it was coming to be seen as a target, was aimed at that policy.

The exchange has the quality of a conversation. Each side is describing what it could do to the other's missiles.

It is a conversation that Tokyo can hold only alongside Washington, which is one more reason why the events in Okinawa this weekend matter beyond Okinawa.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

The Japan Morning Post corrects errors of fact as soon as they are identified. Correction requests may be sent to corrections@japanmorningpost.com, giving the date, page and headline of the article concerned.

The notes supplied for today's edition say that Governor Tamaki of Okinawa protested over the arrest of a Marine. The governor is Genta Koja, and the remarks reported today are his. The notes say that the United States sold two fighter jets to Taiwan after the summit with China; the aircraft that arrived on Friday are the first two of 66 F-16s whose sale was approved in 2019.

Sunday's edition described Kim Yo Jong as a vice department director of North Korea's ruling party. Jiji Press gives her present title as director of the party's general affairs department. Sunday's edition reported that the forecast track of Typhoon No. 27 passed about 330 kilometres east-north-east of Chichijima before dawn on Tuesday; today's bulletin puts the closest point about 370 kilometres to the east this evening. The forecast changed; the earlier report was correct when printed.

On the sports pages, the notes describe DeNA as advancing with a fourth consecutive winning record; the club has had a winning record in four consecutive months. The Japanese horse that finished fourteenth in Paris is Meisho Tabaru. Hanshin's pennant, decided on Saturday, is the club's first in consecutive years in the Central League, not its first. The notes' reference to 83 gold medals as a record for the Games means a record for a Japanese team.

The notes give the typhoon's storm-wind radius as about 165 kilometres. The bulletin of 6:45 a.m., on which today's map is based, gives 220 kilometres on the eastern side and 165 on the western, and both figures are used.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY, OCT. 5: The extraordinary Diet session convenes. Okinawa's governor protests to Japanese and American officials. Typhoon No. 27 passes east of Chichijima in the evening. Consumer Confidence Survey, 2 p.m. Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, about 6:30 p.m. ISM services index, 11 p.m. Kirin Cup final. World judo: women's 52 kg, men's 66 kg. TUESDAY, OCT. 6: The typhoon east-south-east of Tokyo in the afternoon. The Bank of Japan's governor speaks. Nobel Prize in Physics. Japan Open final.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7: The typhoon east of Japan; extratropical by night. Nobel Prize in Chemistry. THURSDAY, OCT. 8: Literature. FRIDAY, OCT. 9: Peace. SATURDAY, OCT. 10: Anniversary of North Korea's ruling party; funeral of Masayoshi Otaki. SUNDAY, OCT. 11: World judo ends. MONDAY, OCT. 12: Sports Day; Nobel prize in economics. OCT. 18: Yokohama mayoral election; Asian Para Games open. OCT. 19 to 29: Exercise Keen Sword.

TYPHOON AND MARINE ADVISORIES

Typhoon No. 27 (Choi-wan), 6 a.m. Monday: large and very strong, at 24.7 degrees north, 146.7 degrees east, 520 km east-south-east of Chichijima, moving north at 20 km/h; 925 hPa; maximum winds 50 m/s, gusts 70; storm-force winds within 220 km to the east and 165 km to the west; gales within 850 km to the east and 560 km to the west. Forecast: 925 hPa at 6 p.m. Monday; 935 hPa at 6 a.m. Tuesday; 950 hPa at 3 a.m. Wednesday; extratropical by 3 a.m. Thursday. No landfall expected.

Ogasawara Islands: gusts to 35 m/s and very rough seas with swell from Monday evening to Tuesday morning (Nishinippon Shimbun). Pacific coasts of eastern and northern Japan: high waves on Tuesday and Wednesday. Chiba and Kanagawa: ground loose after Typhoon No. 25. Tropical depression near the Marshall Islands, 10.2 north, 167.7 east: forecast to become a typhoon by Friday.

MARKET REFERENCE

Tokyo, Friday's close: Nikkei 225 at 68,309.46, down 647. TOPIX 4,091.00, down 40.98. Yen: 156 to 158 to the dollar (Gaitame.com). Tokyo consumer prices, September: up 2.7 per cent on the year. Bank of Japan policy rate: 1.25 per cent. United States, September: payrolls up 29,000; unemployment rate 4.2 per cent. ISM services index, August: 55.4. Markets in mainland China and South Korea are closed on Monday.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

THE JAPAN MORNING POST

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PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS IN THIS EDITION

Front page: Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from the air, May 26, 2010 (Photo: Sonata, Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0). Page 3: map of Typhoon No. 27 supplied for this edition, from the Japan Meteorological Agency's bulletin of 6:45 a.m. on October 5. Politics: Prime Minister Takaichi at the rostrum of the House of Representatives, file (WPM Productions). International: a luncheon for technology executives at the White House in September, file (White House Official). Economy: the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TG2, CC). Weather: the Japan and United States maps supplied for this edition. Editorial page: cartoon by Taro Suzuki.

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THE RECORD BOOK

Asian Games, Japan, final: 83 gold, 95 silver, 91 bronze, 269 in all; second to China; previous Japanese bests 78 golds (1966) and 218 medals (1994). Central League: Hanshin 77 wins, 61 defeats, 2 draws, champions, three games to play; Yomiuri 76-64-3; DeNA 71-69-3, both complete. Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe: Daryz, the eighth horse to win in consecutive years. World judo, women's 48 kg: Wakana Koga, first title, fifth championships. Typhoon No. 27: 970 hPa on Saturday morning, 945 on Sunday, 925 on Monday.

NOBEL WEEK

Monday, October 5: Physiology or Medicine, about 6:30 p.m. Japan time. Tuesday: Physics. Wednesday: Chemistry. Thursday: Literature. Friday: Peace, announced in Oslo. Monday, October 12: the prize in economic sciences. Japan's laureates last year were Shimon Sakaguchi, in medicine, and Susumu Kitagawa, in chemistry. The prizes are presented on December 10.

THE SYMBOLS ON THE WEATHER MAP

A sun: sunny. A cloud: cloudy. A cloud with strokes beneath it: rain. Two symbols joined by an arrow: the first sky gives way to the second during the day. Two symbols separated by a slanting stroke: the first sky, with the second at times. The figure in red is the forecast high and the figure in blue the low observed this morning, in degrees Celsius. On the United States map the figures are in degrees Fahrenheit, and a cloud with a lightning bolt means thunderstorms.

ABOUT THE OPINION PAGES

The editorial states the view of the newspaper's editorial page and is written by its editor; it takes its subject from the day's cartoon. Articles headed Commentary or Analysis are the judgment of the

writer whose name they carry. The news pages report; the opinion pages argue, and say that they are doing so. Letters in reply are welcome at letters@japanmorningpost.com.

TYPHOON TERMS USED TODAY

Strong: maximum sustained winds of 33 to 43 metres a second. Very strong: 44 to 53. Violent: 54 or more. Large: gales extending, on average, 500 to 800 kilometres from the centre. Storm-force wind: 25 metres a second or more. Gale: 15 or more. Forecast circle: the area in which the centre is expected to lie with a probability of 70 per cent. Tropical depression: a tropical low whose winds are below 17 metres a second; it is numbered and named when they reach that speed. Extratropical cyclone: a former typhoon that has lost its warm core.

UNITS AND CONVENTIONS

Wind speeds are given in metres a second; one metre a second is 3.6 kilometres an hour, or about 1.9 knots. Pressure is in hectopascals. Temperatures are in degrees Celsius except on the United States map, which uses Fahrenheit. Times are Japan Standard Time unless another place is named; Japan is at present nine hours ahead of Greenwich, 13 ahead of New York, 16 ahead of Los Angeles and 5 ahead of Baku. Japanese names are given with the family name last. A person arrested is a suspect and is presumed innocent.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Police: 110. Fire and ambulance: 119. Coast guard, for emergencies at sea: 118. Disaster message dial: 171. Police consultation, not an emergency: #9110. Consumer hotline: 188. Child consultation centres: 189. Support for victims of crime and their families is available through each prefectural police headquarters and through the victim support centres affiliated to the national network. Typhoon bulletins are published by the Japan Meteorological Agency at www.jma.go.jp.

SOURCES FOR THIS EDITION

Reports in this edition draw on the Monday morning papers and Sunday night's wires: Asahi Shimbun, Yomiuri Shimbun, Sankei News, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Chunichi Shimbun, Tokyo Shimbun, Nishinippon Shimbun, the Ryukyu Shimpo, the Okinawa Times, Kyodo News, Jiji Press, NHK, TBS, RBC and TV Asahi; on the sports dailies; on AFP for the Middle East; on Gaitame.com for the currency; on Weathernews and the Japan Meteorological Agency for weather; and on the Wall Street Journal as reported by Jiji Press. Where accounts differ the difference is stated.

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TOMORROW'S EDITION

Tuesday's edition carries the first day of the Diet session; the Okinawa governor's protests and the two governments' replies; the passage of Typhoon No. 27 past the Ogasawara Islands; the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine; the reopening of the Tokyo markets and the consumer confidence figures; and the Kirin Cup final. Weather maps for Japan and the United States appear daily on the weather pages, and the typhoon map for as long as the storm is within range.

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