Faults may void Tepco’s Niigata plant | The Japan Times

Hindu nationalist party appoints new president

India’s main opposition party has elected a new leader after the scandal-tainted incumbent resigned abruptly following a corruption scandal.
Stay on the nonnuclear path

It would be unrealistic for the Abe administration to return to the energy polices that prevailed before the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster of 3/11.

- Obama’s quest for greatness
- Discovered while still alive
- The American comeback kid
- Manipulation of a key index
- Ensure sufficient welfare support

Language | BILINGUAL

Men shouldn’t fear seductive snake women this year

Did you have a hatsuyume (初夢, first dream of the new year) and did it involve hebi (蛇, snakes)? If the answer is yes to both, omedetō gozaimasu, you’ve hit the jackpot.

- Premium bourbon at Century Southern Tower; Setsubun sushi rolls; new Hilton Tokyo rooms
- Point-and-shoot cameras that focus on quality
- Kei Ochiai
- Fukushima’s powder paradise
- Impossible forests where tides ebb and flow

- Voices
- Issues
- Our Lives
- Events
- Event Listings
- How-tos
- Columns
How-tos | LIFELINES: LABOR PAINS

AKB48: Unionize and take back your lost love lives

They started performing on stages in Tokyo’s Akihabara electronics district, and today their ubiquity is unrivaled. The current flavors of the month pepper the TV schedules and covers of weekly magazines all year round. In Tokyo, you can’t swing a carrot without hitting a ...

- Kyoto gardens give up all their secrets during intimate guided tours
- So many small things Japan should be proud of
- Advising Abe on the wisdom of a nuclear restart
- Niigata/Nagano: Should Japan make all of its highways free or is the present toll system fair?
- From Taiji to Okinawa, readers dissect some issues of 2012

- Film
- Music
- Art
- Events
- Books
- TV

Stage

With ‘Desh,’ Khan proves you can go home again

If art’s purpose is to ask the relevant questions, then British-Bangladeshi dancer Akram Khan successfully interrogates humanity — and himself — with his latest production, "Desh.”

- Show business wiz Johnny Kitagawa keeps on rolling
- "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"
- "Mulan, Sayonara (See You Tomorrow, Everyone)"
- A monk’s teenage angst can be monstrous
- "Life of Pi"

- Baseball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Sumo
- More Sports
- Columns
Japanese Baseball | NPB NOTEBOOK

Trading four-time All-Star Itoi doesn’t make sense for Fighters

So why did the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters trade away arguably the best player on their team, if not in the entire Pacific League?

- Questions abound as second half of season gets going
- Grizzlies send Lakers to fourth straight loss
- Li, Azarenka advance to final
- Sullivan’s hat trick powers Coyotes
- Undefeated yokozuna Harumafuji inches closer to title
- National
Faults may void Tepco’s Niigata plant

Kyodo

Some of the faults running under the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa atomic plant, the world’s biggest, could be considered active under the new nuclear regulator’s safety standards, according to documents disclosed by Tokyo Electric Power Co.

If the faults are judged “likely to be active” by the Nuclear Regulation Authority, the nation’s top utility will have a difficult time restarting reactors at the massive plant on the coast of Niigata Prefecture.

Under government criteria, active faults are defined as those that have moved in the past 120,000 to 130,000 years. But the NRA, set up in September after its predecessor was discredited over the March 2011 triple-meltdown crisis at Tepco’s Fukushima No. 1 plant, plans to move the benchmark to cover the past 400,000 years in new safety standards with teeth set to take effect in July.

A draft of the new standards presented by the NRA on Tuesday stated that utilities won’t be allowed to build reactors directly above active faults.

Tepco is conducting a geological survey of the faults under the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant’s reactors, which produce a combined 8,212,000 kw.

The NRA said it will decide whether to conduct its own probe after the outcome of Tepco’s survey becomes clear. Tepco said two faults, “alpha” and “beta,” run below reactors 1 and 2. Faults have also been found under reactors 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Tepco denies the faults are active under existing guidelines, but the beta fault, for example, could be categorized as active under the upcoming standards because it has displaced a ground layer that includes volcanic ash dating back 240,000 years.