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Hot topics

Porno starlet tied to bizarre murder-suicide pact

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It was a shocking enough killing to attract national attention. But the Oct. 12 murder-suicide in Shiojiri, Nagano Prefecture achieved notoriety when it was learned that one of the victims was Nozomi Momoi, one of Japan's up-and-coming porno starlets, according to **Asahi Geino (10/31)**.

The charred remains of a car were found on the banks of the Narai River that runs through Shiojiri late on the night of Oct. 12.

Inside the skeletal frame of the vehicle was a set of human remains so badly burned it took hours of testing before investigators could determine they belonged to a man. Other than announcing the man was a company employee who lived in Nagano Prefecture, police have released no other facts related to his identity.

Nozomi's body was found some 10 meters away from the car.

"She had been stabbed and left lying face-down on the ground," an investigation source tells **Asahi Geino**. "There is a possibility the deaths may have arisen from a suicide pact."

Nozomi seemed to have something Japan's myriad other porno starlets lacked and, at just 24, she was on her way up in the world before her tragic end.

Medatsu Midashi Headlines from the Weeklies

- The new year's first issue of **Shukan Jitsuwa (1/2)** says that Japan is on the verge of ushering in its 2nd "golden age" of bowling.

- **Shukan Bunshun (12/26)** gasps that Kaoru Hasuike, one of the Japanese abducted to North Korea, had never been informed that Emperor Hirohito passed away in 1989.

- **Shukan Shincho (12/26)** says the Imperial Household Agency was perturbed when Princess Masako voiced complaints at a recent press conference.

- Lovely female taxi drivers tell **Asahi Geino (12/26)** about having to constantly fend off amorous male customers.

- **Spa! (12/24)** surveys people in their 20s and 30s about their disappointments in work, marriage and life in general.

- **Shukan Asahi (12/27)** provides hints on the care and feeding of Chihuahuas.

- Citing a recently issued report on sex

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"She made her debut about two years ago," a porno industry source tells **Asahi Geino**. "She was known for her baby face that topped off a huge set of boobs. She'd made over 100 movies since her debut. Recently, she'd gotten together with a group of other porno actresses to form a band. They'd only just released their first CD. Nozomi was also keen on working. Where most other girls in this business are glad not to have work, she was well known for going around asking for her next job."

Police say Nozomi was stabbed at least six times before she died.

"Forensic specialists have been able to work out that Nozomi was sitting in the passenger seat of the car when she was stabbed in the right armpit. She got out of the car only for her killer to track her down and stab her several more times to the abdomen. He then covered the actress with gasoline and set her on fire," the investigation source says.

Police have, according to **Asahi Geino**, basically written off the deaths as a bizarre suicide pact. However, chances are that murder charges may be laid posthumously on the man, a typical move for Japan's shame-oriented legal system that aims at ensuring criminals do not perish in a blaze of glory.

Unfortunately for Nozomi, there were apparently some warning signs that pointed to her gruesome fate.

"She went to junior high school in Nagano and had lots of friends living in the prefecture. She visited Nagano whenever she was on holiday. Just before she made this trip, her manager had warned her to look out for trouble...yet that's exactly what she met up with," a friend of the slain porn starlet tells **Asahi Geino**. "She had some guy she really liked. She told me she was going to get married and quit working in porn so she could become a stage actress."

WaiWai stories are transcriptions of articles that originally appeared in Japanese language publications. The

among children, **Sunday Mainichi (12/29)** says workers in day care centers and nursery schools are embarrassed to see growing numbers of their young wards stroke their genitals or even masturbate.

- **Shukan Gendai (12/28)** noticed that disgraced politician Yukio Hatoyama's hair began falling out soon after he was forced to resign as head of the Democratic Party of Japan.

- **Yomiuri Weekly (12/29)** wonders if extension of the Tohoku Shinkansen line to Hachinohe will spell doom for Japan's few remaining overnight sleeper trains.

- Japan's domestic tourist industry is gearing up to "warmly welcome" up to 1 million annual visitors from mainland China, kowtows **Aera (12/23)**.

- **Shukan Taishu (12/30)** swerves and lurches over the tougher penalties imposed on drunken drivers.

- A Shinto shrine in Iwate Prefecture featuring an altar containing a pair of mummified foxes brings Takarakuji lottery luck to people who worship there, marvels **Friday (12/27)**.

- **Weekly Playboy (12/24-31)** announces its 2002 "Grand Prix" awards for the best sex shops in Japan.

- **Shukan Post (12/20)** rumbles that privatizing toll roads won't make driving on them any cheaper.

- The 5th marriage of imprisoned publisher Haruki Kadokawa will be to a woman 23 years his junior, while he's still behind bars, rattles **Flash (12/17)**.

- A housewife totally

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- Honey, sorry, but I just don't feel like having sex
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- Firms feel their way into lucrative sexual harassment market
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- Drivers tap into low-alcohol beer to beat new ban
- Paper panties, octopus balls used to lure Osaka lechers
- Leashed lover slips from grease monkey's grasp
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- Waterproof vibrator

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addicted to pachinko yacks to **Shukan Tokuho (12/16)** about a male "sex slave" she purchased for just 10,000 yen.

(Compiled by Masuo Kamiyama)

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