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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, February 14, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most networks led with reports that the UN Security Council held an emergency meeting on Monday and issued a press statement condemning North Korea's launch of a mid-range ballistic missile on Sunday. The networks also quoted President Trump as saying on Monday: "North Korea is a big, big problem. We will deal with that very strongly." Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning: "The statement represents the UN Security Council's unified stance that it does not tolerate repeated missile launches."

TV Asahi gave top play to a report that the Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine Hospital is suspected of helping a senior yakuza member stay out of prison by issuing him a certificate falsely claiming he was not well enough to be put behind bars.

## INTERNATIONAL

### National Security Advisor Flynn resigns

NHK reported on its website that the White House announced on Monday that President Trump's National Security Advisor Michael Flynn has resigned after apologizing for hiding details of his phone calls with the Russian ambassador to the U.S. last December concerning U.S. sanctions on Russia. Jiji said Flynn was one of the President's closest aides, adding that his resignation will deal a heavy blow to the new administration. Jiji reported that the White House has appointed retired General Keith Kellogg to serve as acting national security adviser.

### [Abe speaks about his talks with President Trump in NHK interview](#)

Prime Minister Abe revealed the details of his two days of discussions with President Trump in Washington and Florida during a 30-minute live interview with NHK's primetime show "News Watch 9." Describing President Trump as a good listener, Abe said that golf and other private activities allowed him and the President to hold candid discussions on issues related to third countries, including China and Russia, and that he recommended that the President hold direct talks with President Putin to develop constructive relations with Moscow.

When asked by a reporter whether he raised the issue of President Trump's executive order on immigration, Abe replied that he did not mention the issue because it is a U.S. domestic matter, adding that they did discuss issues related to terrorism and refugees.

Concerning the United States' response to provocations by North Korea, Abe expressed the view that the Trump administration put more pressure on China than the Obama administration did to play a greater role in adopting additional UN Security Council resolutions.

Asked his view of the Trump administration's future policy toward China, Abe stated that the new administration is probably still in the process of establishing its policy vis-à-vis Beijing. The premier welcomed the fact that President Trump spoke by phone with Chinese President Xi ahead of his meeting with the U.S. leader, saying that the timing was good because he could understand the Trump administration's position on China ahead of his meeting with the President.

Concerning Russia, Abe said that he recommended that President Trump promote dialogue with Moscow and that the President showed his understanding of Japan's accelerating dialogue with Russia. Abe added that they also discussed the economic sanctions on Moscow.

With regard to the new economic dialogue to be co-chaired by Vice President Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Aso, the prime minister said that the U.S. and Japan will discuss macroeconomic issues, economic cooperation projects, and trade rules under the new framework.

When asked whether he urged the President to review his decision to withdraw from the TPP, Abe said that he stressed the significance of the TPP but the President did not respond. However, Abe added that the United States and Japan share the view that free and fair trade rules are important in the Asia-Pacific region. In response to a question on whether the possibility of setting numerical targets for auto trade was taken up for discussion at the summit, Abe said that such an approach would not be productive and that they did not discuss it.

In response to criticism at home that he was "too friendly" with President Trump, Abe said that the primary purpose of his summit meeting with President Trump was to confirm the solid alliance with the U.S. by developing a relationship of trust with the President, adding that a schism between Japan and the U.S. would not serve Japan's national interests. When asked whether he was able

to win President Trump's trust so that he will be able to tell the President what he might not want to hear, Abe said that he has already made a candid rebuttal of the President's criticism of Japan's auto trade and host nation support for U.S. troops.

### **GOJ lodges protest against Russia for naming five uninhabited islands**

NHK reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning that the GOJ lodged a protest through a diplomatic channel against Russia for naming five uninhabited islands, including islands in the disputed Northern Territories, after former Soviet Union generals and other figures. Suga was quoted as saying that this goes against Japan's position on the territorial issue and is extremely regrettable. Suga also said: "Above all, what is important is to resolve the Northern Territories issue itself. The government will continue to proceed with the negotiations with Russia tenaciously under the basic policy of resolving the issue of sovereignty of the islands and concluding a peace treaty."

### **U.S., Japan, ROK foreign ministers arranging meeting on sidelines of G20 in Bonn**

Fuji TV reported at noon that coordination is underway for Secretary of State Tillerson, Foreign Minister Kishida, and South Korean Foreign Minister Yun to hold an emergency trilateral meeting in Bonn, Germany, on Feb. 16 on the sidelines of the G20 foreign ministerial, according to a government source. The network said the meeting is being arranged at the request of the U.S., and that foreign ministers are expected to discuss measures to deal with North Korea.

- **Japan, U.S. still facing gaps on trade** (The Japan News)
- **Concerns about Japan's expanded security role after Abe-Trump summit** (Tokyo Shimbun)
- **Joint statement articulates U.S. commitment to Japan's defense: ex-diplomat Okamoto** (Yomiuri)
- **Japan's strategizing scores big win in Trump-Abe summit** (Nikkei Asian Review)
- **Tokyo stocks rise as trade concerns ease after Abe-Trump summit** (Kyodo News)
- **President did not use interpretation earphone at joint news conference with Abe** (Tokyo Shimbun)
- **Abe: Golfing with Trump a "diplomatic asset"** (Yomiuri)
- **Editorial: Japan, U.S. should pursue reciprocal economic benefits/Reinforce alliance through personal trust** (The Japan News)

- [Editorial: Abe must weigh global interests beyond Trump 'honeymoon'](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Japanese market reacts favorably to Abe-Trump summit, split over economic dialogue](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: U.S.-Japan summit](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Why did North Korea launch missile at this time?](#) (Sankei)
- [Personality analysis behind success of Japan-US summit](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [North Korean athletes to be granted entry to Japan for 2017 Sapporo Asian Winter Games](#) (Asahi)

## SECURITY

### [Ospreys fly at altitude of 60 meters in training despite GOJ's claim of 150 meters](#)

Ryukyu Shimpo gave top play to a report saying that although the GOJ announced in September 2012 ahead of the U.S. Marines' deployment of MV-22 Ospreys in Okinawa that the minimum safe altitude for low-altitude training by the aircraft was set at 500 feet (about 150 meters), the Marines are actually flying Ospreys at an altitude of 200 feet (about 60 meters). Noting that 60 meters is lower than the prefectural government building at 70 meters, the paper alleged that the GOJ "exaggerated" the U.S. safety measure in its briefing to Okinawa. Suspecting that the Osprey that made an emergency landing in waters off Nago during night-time training last December was flying at an altitude of 60 meters, the paper claimed that Osprey drills have been conducted based on the GOJ's discrepant explanation for more than four years.

### [Takae residents drop suit against helipad construction at NTA](#)

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that a group of about 30 residents of the Takae district of Higashi Village, Okinawa, dropped on Feb. 10 their suit filed against the GOJ last September for the suspension of helipad construction at the Northern Training Area. An attorney for the residents said that they have withdrawn the complaint because the construction has been completed.

- [Total of 7,300 U.S. civilian base workers under SOFA in Japan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: South Sudan PKO](#) (Asahi)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 11-13](#) (Nikkei)
- [DP losing support from Renqo](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Labor union decides to support the LDP instead of the DP](#) (Sankei)
- [Administration furious about leakage that suggests “GPIF for U.S. infrastructure”](#) (Shukan Bunshun)
- [Cartoon: Amakudari](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

## ECONOMY

### [Keidanren to send female delegation to U.S.](#)

Asahi reported that the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren) plans to dispatch to the U.S. in late February a delegation of female executives to learn the Trump administration’s approach toward diversity and women's empowerment. According to the daily, the eight-member team to be headed by BT Japan President Haruno Yoshida will tour Washington D.C. and New York for four days starting on February 27 and meet with leading American businesswomen and IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde. The delegation is also reportedly seeking a meeting with Assistant to the President Dina Powell, who is responsible for entrepreneurship, small-business growth, and the global economic empowerment of women.

- [Focus: Export-driven growth poses challenges for Japan amid uncertainty](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe mum on his inconvenient outcomes](#) (Mainichi)
- [Former NPA chief calls for inclusion of foreigners in Japanese society](#) (Asahi)

## SCIENCE

- [Japan small-rocket launch failed due to electrical circuit problem](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Genetics researchers develop less costly method of detecting breast cancer risk](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## OPINION POLLS

### [NHK poll: 68% welcome outcome of U.S.-Japan summit](#)

An NHK poll conducted over the weekend showed that the approval rate for the Abe cabinet rose by 3 points to 58% from a survey conducted last month, while nonsupport fell 6 points to 23%.

When asked about their views on the outcome of the recent U.S.-Japan summit, 13% said they welcomed it very much, 55% said they welcomed it somewhat, 21% said they didn't welcome it very much, and 6% didn't welcome it at all. Concerning the joint statement released after the summit in

which the two leaders affirmed that the Senkaku Islands fall within the scope of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, 31% welcomed it very much, 40% said they welcomed it somewhat, 16% said they didn't welcome it very much, and 5% didn't welcome it at all.

When asked their views about the new U.S.-Japan economic dialogue to be chaired by Vice President Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Aso, 23% welcomed it, 6% didn't welcome it, and 60% said they weren't sure. Concerning President Trump's telephone conversation with Chinese President Xi, during which the U.S. leader stated his administration's plan to uphold the "One China" policy, 9% welcomed it, 23% didn't welcome it, and 55% said they weren't sure. Asked their views about President Trump's executive order on immigration, 1% welcomed it very much, 12% welcomed it somewhat, 33% didn't welcome it very much, and 46% didn't welcome it at all.

- [70% of Japanese satisfied with Abe-Trump talks, Kyodo News poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Infographic: Abe cabinet support rate, Kyodo News poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Difference in views on Henoko construction by gender, Kyodo News poll](#) (Okinawa Times)

## TV PROGRAMS

### [Japanese workers laugh off harsh reality by composing poetry](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Monday reported on the popular annual "salarymen senryu poetry contest." The contest marked its 30th anniversary on Monday. The program introduced several of these satirical poems written over the last 30 years that colorfully reflect various changes and trends in Japanese society.