
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, April 6, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks reported on the telephone conversation between President Trump and Prime Minister Abe this morning, during which the two leaders agreed that North Korea's ballistic missile launch is a grave threat to Japan's security. The networks also highlighted the President's remarks that "all options are on the table."

INTERNATIONAL

Latest missile launched by North Korea was probably a Scud-ER

NHK reported at noon that a Pentagon official said that the ballistic missile that North Korea fired on Wednesday is believed to have been a Scud-ER missile, which has a range of 1,000 km. The official reportedly told the network that it is highly likely that the missile became uncontrollable right after it was fired and the launch failed. The network added that the U.S. Pacific Command had earlier identified the missile as a new medium-range KN-15.

- **Analysis: Japan stuck between hawkish U.S., provocative N. Korea** (Kyodo News)
- **Revisiting the coordination process for Japan-U.S. summit ahead of bilateral economic dialogue** (Asahi)
- **No progress made on tariff issue in Japan-EU EPA talks** (Yomiuri)

- [Editorial: Bilateral deal on ‘comfort women’ must continue to be implemented](#) (The Japan News)
- [LDP lawmakers criticize gov’t’s decision to return top envoy to Seoul](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Gov’t made last-ditch compromise over return of diplomats to S. Korea](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Will China continue to do nothing about North Korea’s missile launches?](#) (Sankei)

ECONOMY

- [TPP without U.S. could lead to conflicts among participants](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan’s economy marks third-longest postwar recovery](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [MUFG readies US railway maintenance venture](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [MHLW to provide subsidies to companies rehiring former employees](#) (Nikkei)

SECURITY

[Okinawa tells defense bureau to obtain permit for crushing rock reefs off Camp Schwab](#)

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged reports on the Okinawa prefectural government’s administrative guidance to the MOD Okinawa bureau on Wednesday, asking the central government to obtain a permit from the prefecture for crushing rock reefs off Camp Schwab. The prefectural government’s previous permit expired on March 31. However, the defense bureau plans to continue its work there without renewing the permit because the guidance is not legally binding. In response, the prefectural government is considering taking countermeasures against the central government, such as seeking a court injunction.

- [Gov’t completes nationalization of uninhabited remote islands](#) (Sankei)
- [Anti-U.S. base activist lashes out at tactics used in Okinawa](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on April 5](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opposition parties draft common policy platform](#) (Yomiuri)

EDUCATION

- [Editorial: Prewar imperial rescript shouldn't be used as teaching material at schools](#) (The Mainichi)

SOCIETY

Privacy concerns grow over use of fingerprint data, security systems

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that it has become possible to extract fingerprints from photos taken using smartphones equipped with high-resolution cameras, saying that such fingerprint data can be used to hack into computers. One expert warned about technology that can identify personal information about an individual and also extract his or her fingerprints from a photo, saying that people should be careful not to show their fingers when being photographed. The program also reported that a growing number of retail outlets are using new security systems with high-resolution cameras that can instantly identify chronic shoplifters and other criminals. The program said ordinary people are being monitored without their knowledge, quoting one expert as saying that a social consensus must be reached about using such systems just for the sake of identifying shoplifters.

- [Osaka becomes the first Japanese city to recognize a same-sex couple as foster parents](#) (The Japan Times)
 - [Average age of homeless people passes 60 for first time](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
 - [Japan sees rise in stalking, domestic violence reports](#) (Kyodo News)
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