
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, June 16, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

TBS and Fuji TV led with reports that Regional Revitalization Minister Yamamoto announced the results of the Cabinet Office's investigation into the existence of documents concerning Kake Educational Institution, saying that the Cabinet Office staff did not make comments implying that PM Abe wished that the institution be allowed to establish a new veterinary medicine department and that the prime minister did not give any instructions to that effect. NHK, NTV and TV Asahi led with reports that a defendant attacked and injured two police officers with a knife while his sentence was being handed down at the Sendai District Court this morning.

SECURITY

Leaders of municipalities near Kadena to boycott change of command ceremony

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Okinawa Mayor Kuwae and Chatan Mayor Noguni will join Kadena Mayor Toyama in boycotting a change of command ceremony scheduled for July 10 at Kadena AB in protest of parachute training and the use of a Navy ramp. The municipal assembly chairpersons of Chatan and Kadena are also unlikely to attend the event. The Okinawa mayor said: "I will not be able to participate in the ceremony because the U.S. military has failed to uphold the SACO final accord. There is no need for us to seek rapprochement given that no explanations have been given regarding the parachute training or use of the ramp."

- **Rear Admiral Fenton assumes top post of U.S. Naval Forces Japan** (Kyodo News)

- [U.S. military airplanes keep losing parts](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 15](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of CCS Suga's remarks on Kake Gakuen scandal documents at news conference](#) (Asahi)
- [Cabinet Office denies staff spoke of PM "wishes" in favoritism scandal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Newly found email indicates Deputy CCS Hagiuda's involvement in Kake Gakuen scandal](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Opinion: Abe's dominance prevented exposure of Kake Gakuen scandal documents](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion: Kake Gakuen affair shows need to rectify document management systems](#) (Mainichi)
- [Analysis: Scandal damage control behind "conspiracy" law's crash landing](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Commentary: What will become of our freedom and human rights?](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe faces pitfalls of invincibility as public grows wary](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Democratic Party decides not to announce target for Tokyo Metro Assembly election](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP to hold intensive discussions on constitutional amendment bill through August](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Upper house's railroading of 'anti-conspiracy' bill into law irresponsible](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Kaneda](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Probe into expanding Kake faculty scandal has just begun](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Abe, Kaneda, and the panda](#) (Mainichi)

- [Cartoon: The Kake papers](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't finds 27 suspected illegal bureaucrat job placement cases](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Forebodings of “rebellion” against Abe in the LDP](#) (Sande Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet support rate falls for fourth consecutive month, Jiji Press poll](#) (Jiji)
- [Different perceptions persist between Japan and ROK, Yomiuri-Hankook Ilbo poll](#) (Yomiuri)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Yokohama to host African development confab in 2019](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

ECONOMY

- [Japan achieves 3rd-longest postwar economic expansion](#) (The Japan News)
- [Commentary: Long working hours are hobbling Japan](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Mori to be reappointed as FSA commissioner](#) (Mainichi)
- [Takata close to filing for bankruptcy protection in Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Nearly half of young eels farmed in Japan may be illegally caught](#) (Kyodo News)
- [MHLW to conduct national study on cost effectiveness of drugs](#) (Nikkei)

SCIENCE

- [Japan teams up with the UN to tackle space debris](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan to conduct flight test of reusable rocket next fiscal year](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan to enhance GPS services with launch of 3rd satellite in Aug.](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

Making profits from vacant homes

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on the issue of vacant homes due to the aging population. Such homes have become a headache for their owners because of real estate taxes and maintenance fees. Abandoned homes also pose a security risk, since the vacant structures are vulnerable to fire and burglary. The program said architects and experts are teaming up to convert vacant homes into cafes and office spaces, and hostels for foreign tourists in cities such as Kyoto. Abandoned homes in rural regions are becoming popular as weekend getaways for company employees who work in cities.

- [Mothers more respected than fathers in Japan: survey](#) (Jiji Press)
 - [20 pct of Japanese elderly supporting offsprings' living costs](#) (Jiji Press)
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