



Afternoon Alert - Monday, June 26, 2017

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TBS gave top play to reports that Takata Corp. has filed for bankruptcy protection, adding that its overall debt is estimated at over 1 trillion yen. Other networks led with reports on the match between teenage shogi players Sota Fujii and Yasuhiro Masuda that began this morning.

SECURITY

Parachute drop drills at Kadena administered by U.S.-based special unit

Okinawa Times gave top play to a report saying that it has learned from an [article](#) posted on the official website of the U.S. Marine Corps on April 26 that the parachute drop drills that were conducted at Kadena AB in April were administered by a special unit that usually conducts training at an Army facility in Yuma, Arizona. The article posted on the Marines website said, "For the first time in history, the military freefall jumpmaster course was delivered outside of the continental United States. Hosted by the U.S. Marines Corps 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion and administered by a Mobile Training Team, the course qualified 27 Marines, Soldiers and Airmen as military freefall jumpmasters in Okinawa, Friday, April 21, 2017." Speculating that it is possible that the U.S. military will carry out similar drills in Okinawa again in the future, the paper wrote that this might increase the base-hosting burden on the prefecture. The paper also wrote that the Okinawa Marines and the 18th Wing have not yet responded to its inquiry about the details or future plans for the drills.

- [Inada plans to visit Aegis Ashore test site in Hawaii](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Plan to deploy air-to-surface missiles on F-35s to spur debate on enemy base attack capability](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Relocation of carrier-borne wing offers hope for less noise in Atsugi](#) (Yomiuri Yokohama edition)
- [Editorial: Strike balance between deterrence, reducing Okinawa's U.S. base burden](#) (The Japan News)
- [Obstructions cause cost of Okinawa helipad construction to grow 15-fold](#) (Sankei)
- [U.S. forces, ConGen Naha, chamber of commerce honor fallen U.S. soldiers in Okinawa](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Companies take out cyber insurance](#) (The Japan News)
- [First woman to head regional Japan Coast Guard office focused on the mission, not her novelty](#) (The Japan Times)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Source: ROK's Park administration planned to topple Kim Jong Un, mulled his assassination](#) (Asahi)
- [South Korea to review deal on comfort women](#) (The Japan News)
- [N. Korea seeks U.N. post for official, arousing concerns](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Snatching Taiwan's allies will backfire on China, says Premier Lin](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: How will U.S.-China diplomatic dialogue narrow gap over N. Korea?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Ex-SDF member held in ROK for tampering with "apology monument" to comfort women](#) (Sankei)
- [46,000 abandoned Japanese chemical weapons destroyed in China](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

[**Japan mulls lowering tariff on European beef**](#)

TV Asahi said it has learned that the GOJ has entered the final stage of talks on reducing the 38.6% tariff on European beef during the EPA negotiations with the EU. The network said Japan is hoping for the elimination of tariffs on Japanese cars, while the EU is calling for the cancellation of tariffs on European agricultural products. The network added that since beef imports from the EU constitute only 0.1% of total beef imports to Japan, the impact of the reduction would be small. The network said Japan had agreed to reduce its tariffs on American and Australian beef to 9% during the TPP talks, and it is likely that the tariff rate on EU beef will be reduced to the same level.

Economists discuss Japanese economy

NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show aired a discussion by six economists about the current state and future prospects for the Japanese economy. The panelists agreed that Japan's economy is on a recovery path with strong exports and stable capital investment. However, consumers don't necessarily feel the turnaround. The panelists speculated that this is partly because of the lack of progress in structural reform to address Japan's aging society and in government efforts to rectify socioeconomic disparities and other issues of public concern.

- [Japan lures record foreign investment in 2016](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Large tariff elimination eyed for EU / Govt's plan would affect 90% of imports](#) (The Japan News)
- [Toshiba teeters on brink of delisting](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: GOJ needs to revisit policies before injecting public funds into Toshiba](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Australian farm group president stresses need for Japan to lower beef tariffs](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan boasts top market share in 11 categories in 2016 global market share study](#) (Nikkei)
- [Market share survey shows China Inc. losing steam](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [New Tepco chief seeks to reorganize nuclear ops](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 25](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on June 24](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on June 23](#) (Nikkei)

- [Editorial: LDP should not leave deterioration of its lawmakers' quality unattended](#) (The Japan News)
- [LDP eyes submitting Constitution proposals to Diet in fall: Abe](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan in Depth / Abe aims to secure time for top law deliberation](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gist of PM Abe's speech on constitutional revision, EPA with EU, other issues, June 24](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe not campaigning for LDP candidates in Tokyo election for fear of negative impact](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Full discussions on various issues sought in Tokyo assembly election](#) (The Japan News)
- [2 officials hit back over claims of favoritism by PM's office](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Stage set to stipulate existence of Self-Defense Forces in top law](#) (The Japan News)

OPINION POLLS

- [Tomin First and LDP in close battle in Tokyo assembly election, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [68% say they will definitely vote in Tokyo assembly election, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Combined forces supporting Koike may take majority in Tokyo assembly race, Kyodo poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

SCIENCE

Will AI be a blessing or a burden?

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on artificial intelligence, saying that it is evolving at an incredible speed. The program looked at a recent match between grand shogi master Sato and AI in which Sato was utterly defeated, saying that human beings can no longer compete with AI. According to the program, AI is already being used in the real world in various ways. For example, a taxi company in Nagoya has been able to increase sales by using AI to pinpoint good spots for picking up fares, and a bus company in Singapore uses AI to figure out which drivers are more likely to cause accidents.

In the U.S., the risk of recidivism projected by AI is being used to determine the length of sentences. Meanwhile, a Japanese company has begun utilizing a system using AI to identify signs that employees are getting ready to quit. In Seoul, an AI politician is being developed. The program said although it is still uncertain whether AI will be a blessing or a burden, it is certain is that the evolution of AI will never end.

- [Tax agency taps AI to select audit targets, answer taxpayer queries](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Driverless vehicles undergo road tests in Okinawa](#) (Kyodo News)

EDUCATION

- [Municipalities moving toward setting up night junior high schools](#) (Asahi Evening edition)

