

---

 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, July 10, 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](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

All broadcasters led with reports that former Vice Education Minister Maekawa testified during questioning in the Diet after the legislative body had adjourned that the process of selecting and allowing Kake Gakuen to create a new veterinary medicine department lacked transparency and hinted that there were moves by the Kantei to select Kake Gakuen.

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### Former PM Mori meets with Russian leader Putin

NHK reported this afternoon that former Prime Minister Mori met with Russian President Putin over dinner in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on Sunday. The network said Mori told reporters after the meeting that he urged President Putin to swiftly conclude a peace treaty, including resolving the issue of the Northern Territories. In response, the Russian president reportedly said: "Prime Minister Abe is an earnest person. My inclination to resolve the issue together with him is growing." Concerning the planned visit by former residents of the Northern Territories to their ancestors' graves, which was cancelled due to bad weather, President Putin reportedly said: "We will make utmost efforts to realize that visit in September this year." The network said the meeting was proposed by the Russian side ahead of Mori's 80th birthday, adding that Mori received red-carpet treatment.

##### Nuclear ban treaty adopted without Japan's participation

TV Asahi's "Hodo Station" on Friday evening reported on the Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) that was adopted during a UN meeting on Friday, saying that none of the nuclear powers or nations under the U.S. nuclear umbrella, including Japan, took part in the negotiations. The program said that although Foreign Minister Kishida, a native of Hiroshima, once announced that Japan would participate in the talks as a mediator, he later announced that Japan would not participate. The

program said the U.S. sent documents asking its allies to vote "no" to the convention, which could be interpreted as "pressure."

The program interviewed U.S. Permanent Representative to Conference on Disarmament Wood, asking if there was any "persuasion" from the U.S. side. "With regard to Foreign Minister Kishida's decision, he obviously talked to a number of countries, including the United States," said Ambassador Wood. "We had very fruitful and serious discussions." The program said that although the nuclear powers insist they will pursue nuclear arms reduction based on the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), no progress has been made. The program also interviewed U.N. disarmament chief Izumi Nakamitsu, who said she is making efforts to work as a mediator between the nuclear powers and non-nuclear powers, and stressed the importance of Japan's role in allowing the NPT and the Nuclear Weapons Convention to coexist.

Kishida stressed during an interview with the program that Japan will patiently seek ways for the nuclear powers and the non-nuclear powers to participate before trying to forge treaties or legal frameworks, adding that there was no pressure from the U.S. and it was his own decision not to participate in the NWC negotiations. He defended his decision by saying that he made a "realistic" choice in order to make it possible for Japan to play a role into realizing a world free of nuclear weapons in the future.

### **Experts discuss North Korea**

During NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show, six experts discussed North Korea's escalating nuclear and missile development, including the recent ICBM test. MIT Center for International Studies Senior Fellow Yukio Okamoto commented that North Korea will likely continue its nuclear and missile development based on the assumption that the U.S. will not take military action against Pyongyang even if it continues to stage provocations. Former Japanese Ambassador to China Yuji Miyamoto speculated that North Korea's "success" in its ICBM test has major implications for East Asian security. Keio University Professor Yasushi Watanabe pointed out that there is talk in the U.S. on holding discussions in the international community on how to "control" North Korea's nuclear and missile development instead of struggling to put an end to it because Pyongyang appears unlikely to abandon its nuclear and missiles programs no matter what kind of pressure the international community applies. Waseda University Professor Lee Jong Won expressed the view that the DPRK's official announcement of its ICBM test was aimed at provoking the U.S. Former MSDF fleet commander Yoji Koda said that North Korea has been steadily advancing its missile technology, while Hosei University Russian expert Nobuo Shimotomai speculated that Russia has been carefully watching the spat between the U.S. and China over their responses to the DPRK.

- [Gist of G-20 leaders' declaration](#) (Kyodo News)

- [No longer advanced vs. emerging nations at G-20](#) (Yomiuri)
- [G-20 declaration exposes tensions with Trump](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gist of bilateral talks between Abe, Trump on fringes of G-20 summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Trump prods Abe to address U.S.-Japan trade imbalance](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Japan, U.S., S. Korea must stand firm on unity to boost pressure on North](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gist of Japan-Russia summit on July 7](#) (Sankei)
- [Abe, Putin to step up talks for joint activities on disputed isles](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of meeting between Abe, Xi on sidelines of G-20 summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Xi Jinping, Shinzo Abe agree to hold more face-to-face talks](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Chinese communist paper publishes photo of Abe-Xi meeting with Japanese flag in background](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Japan, China must make concessions to rebuild mutually beneficial relationship](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gist of meeting between Abe, Moon on sidelines of G-20 summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe, Moon keep eyes forward in first meeting](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Deal on comfort women issue a basis for future-oriented Japan-S. Korea ties](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gist of Japan-U.S.-ROK summit on July 6](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cartoon: President Trump and Chairman Kim](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Trump-Putin summit](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Nuke weapons ban treaty offers historic chance for eradication](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Commentary: It's time to protect the liberal international order](#) (The Japan Times)

<b>POLITICS</b>
-----------------

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 8–9](#) (Nikkei)

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 7–8](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 6–7](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of PM Abe's informal meeting with reporters in Stockholm, July 9](#) (Nikkei)
- [Shinzo Abe's hotel spa and gym visits have the media running wild](#) (The Japan Times)
- [LDP members call for appointing veterans in upcoming cabinet, party leadership reshuffle](#) (Yomiuri)
- [DP to reshuffle leadership in September; Secretary General Noda's job in jeopardy](#) (Yomiuri)
- [DP lawmakers leaving party in "domino effect"](#) (Yomiuri)
- [MPD official ordered not to serve arrest warrant on reporter close to PM Abe](#) (Sentaku)

#### OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet support down another 13 points to 36%, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [37% hope Tomin First goes national, 51% call for pressure in dealing with DPRK, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)

#### ECONOMY

- [Japan gov't to take steps to support farmers after EU trade deal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan-EU EPA to mutually protect geographical brand names for specialty products](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe, May agree to work on early conclusion of Japan-EU FTA deal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Interview with JETRO chief Ishige on Japan-EU EPA](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Japan-EU trade pact a guiding light to counter protectionism](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Toshiba to meet with major lenders over memory-chip sale](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Low water level debris extraction method considered for Fukushima nuclear plant](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gov't joins intl accord to crack down on fish poaching](#) (The Japan News)

## SOCIETY

### Record rainfall hits Kyushu

Sunday evening's "NHK Special" reported on the record rainfall in Fukuoka and Oita prefectures in northern Kyushu, which claimed 21 lives. The program reported that many homes were hit by mudslides triggered by torrential rains, adding that many residents are still isolated or unaccounted for. The program said the disaster was unexpected because the mountains in the region are not very high. However, it was learned that a large volume of moist air can develop into thunderclouds even over low mountains. The program also warned about secondary disasters such as mudslides.

### Keys to shogi prodigy Sota Fujii's success

Saturday evening's "NHK Special" took up Sota Fujii, who became the youngest professional shogi player at the age of 14 last year and recently set a record of 29 consecutive victories. The program interviewed a number of professional shogi players who played against Fujii. They said one of the keys to his strength is his ability to anticipate many moves, especially in the latter part of the game, which he acquired by solving numerous "tsume shogi," shogi problems in which the goal is to checkmate the opponent's king. The program also reported that his use of shogi online games employing artificial intelligence has helped him achieve the ability to make unconventional moves. The program also said that the 14-year-old prodigy has the courage to make bold moves.

- [Sacred Japanese island added to UNESCO heritage list](#) (Kyodo News)
- [The sheer poetry of the world's first English-language 'karuta' game](#) (The Japan Times)

## SECURITY

- [Okinawa vents frustration over U.S. parachuting drill at Kadena base](#) (Kyodo News)
- [ASDF fighters, USAF bombers conduct joint exercise](#) (Yomiuri)
- [External forces behind Japan's cybersecurity](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, India agree to deepen security cooperation with U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)



## **Local governor, mayors lodge protest against increased operations at Kadena**

Saturday's Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo gave top play to reports on Defense Minister Inada's meeting on Friday with Okinawa Governor Onaga and the mayors of Kadena, Okinawa, and Chatan, which host Kadena AB. The Okinawa officials asked the GOJ to call on the U.S. to stop using a navy ramp at the base and conducting parachute drop drills there. Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the governor asked the GOJ in his letter of protest to take up the issue at the U.S.-Japan Joint Committee, indicating the possibility of the matter developing into a campaign to seek the closure of Kadena AB. The paper wrote that Inada told the Okinawa officials that the central government will handle the matter in good faith but did not mention any specific steps.

---

