
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, July 11, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report on a powerful earthquake that hit Kagoshima just before noon today. NTV gave top play to a report that Iraqi Prime Minister Abadi has officially declared victory over ISIL in Mosul. TBS, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi led with reports that the death toll for the record rainfall in the Kyushu region has reached 25, adding that 24 people remain missing.

POLITICS

GOJ decides to sign Convention on Transnational Organized Crime

NHK reported this morning that the GOJ decided at a cabinet meeting this morning that following the effectuation of the anti-conspiracy law, Japan will sign the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime. Japan's participation in the convention will take effect 30 days after procedures at the UN are completed. The network said since accession to the convention will make it easier for Japan to cooperate with other signatories in investigations and collection of information on felons, the GOJ is hoping to strengthen cooperation with the international community in measures against international organized crime. The network quoted Foreign Minister Kishida as telling reporters after the meeting: "As the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics are drawing international attention to Japan, it is very significant for Japan to become the 188th signatory nation. We hope to further strengthen cooperation with the international community in measures against organized crime, including terrorism."

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 10](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ex-bureaucrat repeats Abe favoritism claims in Diet testimony](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Editorial: Abe has yet to offer the clear explanation he pledged to give](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Sagging support for cabinet, LDP indicates “change of tide”](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Will Motegi opt to go without a portfolio in next personnel reshuffle?](#) (Sentaku)
- [Eyes glued on selection of LDP Tokyo chapter head](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Keidanren chief: Postponing consumption tax hike for a third time not an option](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: PM Abe](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Japan’s anti-conspiracy law takes effect amid civil rights concerns](#) (Kyodo News)

OPINION POLLS

- [Abe cabinet support rate reaches new low of 35%, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)
- [Cabinet and political party support rates, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)
- [Support for Abe cabinet falls to record low of 33%, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [61% say PM Abe “untrustworthy,” Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Reporters’ round-table: G20 turns out to be bittersweet trip for Trump](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Detached US stance at G-20 summit could hollow out global cooperation](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Trump should not allow conciliatory policy by China-Russia toward N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan Coast Guard vessels deter illegal North Korean fishing boats in Japanese EEZ](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan to help emerging nations develop health care systems](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Denmark to strengthen cooperation in Arctic development](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Japan loans Sri Lanka \\$392 mil. for water, infrastructure projects](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

Japan to propose setting catch quotas for saury

NHK reported this morning that in order to prevent the depletion of saury, the GOJ has decided to propose the introduction of country-by-country annual catch quotas at an upcoming international conference in Sapporo. The conference will be held from July 13 to 15 with the participation of eight nations and regions, including Japan, China, South Korea, and Taiwan. The network said Japan made the decision in light of the fact that China's annual catch of saury has increased 30-fold over the last five years and Taiwan's annual catch has already exceeded Japan's. According to the network, the total annual catch of saury for the eight nations and regions will be set at about 560,000 tons, and coordination is underway to allow Japan to catch 242,000 tons, Taiwan 190,000 tons, and China 46,000 tons. The network said although this is the first attempt to set an international quota for saury, intense debate is expected since China is likely to react sharply to the proposal.

Subcontractors being exploited by major companies

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported that many small and mid-sized subcontractors are being "abused" by major corporations, saying that the number of cases in which the Japan Fair Trade Commission provided administrative guidance to major companies for violating the Subcontract Act reached a record high of 6,302 last year. The program pointed out that many major corporations are forcing subcontractors to slash prices or provide unjustified, irrelevant work. In April the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency reportedly formed an investigation team that has been looking into 2,000 subcontractors, adding that investigators found that abuse is prevalent even in the retail and auto industries.

- ["Inside story" of process leading to broad agreement on Japan-EU trade pact](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan to work with labor on white-collar overtime exemption](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SOCIETY

- [Japan's national museums work to lure foreign visitors](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SECURITY

- [Former defense ministers discuss counterattack, preemptive strike capabilities](#) (WILL)



Okinawa governor, municipal leaders skip 18th Wing change of command ceremony

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Okinawa Governor Onaga and the leaders of Kadena, Chatan, and Okinawa, which host Kadena AB, did not attend an 18th Wing change of command ceremony held at the base on Monday. The prefectural and municipal governments decided not to participate in the event in protest of the parachute drop drills and continued use of a Navy ramp at Kadena AB. The papers wrote that it was unusual for the prefectural and municipal governments to skip an 18th Wing change of command ceremony.

