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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, July 21, 2017

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#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

Most broadcasters gave top play to reports on Defense Minister Inada's possible involvement in concealing the existence of daily activity logs kept by the GSDF in South Sudan, saying that she flatly denied such allegations this morning. TBS led with a report that Regional Revitalization Minister Yamamoto has denied media claims that he indicated the government intended to help open a new veterinary school in Ehime Prefecture two months before the plan was officially approved.

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### **USG urges continued healing and reconciliation, but ROK media outlet reports "U.S. condemns Japan's wartime sexual slavery"**

Sankei filed an online report from Washington saying that concerning the Moon administration's plan to designate a national day to remember the comfort women and the Japanese government's protest against the idea, spokesperson Adams for the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs told Sankei on Thursday that "the United States has long encouraged both Japan and South Korea to approach the issue of comfort women in a way that would promote continued healing and reconciliation." Adams added that "in general the trafficking of women for sexual purposes by the Japanese military during World War II was a terrible, egregious violation of human rights and the USG's position on the issue has not changed."

The paper wrote that prior to the clarification by Adams, when State Department Spokesperson Nauert was asked by Yonhap News about the USG's views about "sexual slavery" during a regular

press briefing on Thursday, she said that the U.S. condemns it, adding that this is a very sensitive matter. Yonhap reported on the remarks by Nauert by saying that “the U.S. condemned Japan’s wartime sexual slavery.” Sankei asked the State Department to confirm the remarks by Nauert because the Yonhap report could be interpreted to mean that the USG acknowledged that the comfort women were sex slaves. Adams then responded to Sankei’s inquiry.

Sankei noted that Prime Minister Abe described the comfort women as having “experienced immeasurable pain and suffering as a result of victimization due to human trafficking” at a joint press conference with President Obama in April 2015. The paper speculated that Abe’s remarks were probably intended to draw a line between the GOJ’s position and the allegation that the Imperial Japanese Army “carted off” the women.

### **PM Abe’s aide to visit U.S. from July 24 to 28**

Jiji Press reported on a GOJ announcement today that Katsuyuki Kawai, Special Adviser to Prime Minister Abe, will visit the U.S. from July 24 to 28 to exchange views with U.S. government officials and members of Congress on such issues as North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs.

### **President Trump’s remark that Akie Abe doesn’t speak English causes stir**

NHK reported this morning that President Trump, who was seated next to Prime Minister Abe’s wife Akie during the G20 summit dinner earlier this month, told The New York Times in an interview that Mrs. Abe does not speak English. The President reportedly said: “I was seated next to the wife of Prime Minister Abe...and she’s a terrific woman but doesn’t speak English.” When asked whether she speaks any English at all, the President reportedly said: “Like, not ‘hello’....It would have been tough without an interpreter.” The network said U.S. media questioned the President’s remarks, pointing out that Akie Abe delivered a speech in English in New York in 2014. The network added that some media are speculating that she pretended not to understand English in order to avoid having a conversation with President Trump. Commercial networks, as well as Nikkei, Sankei, Asahi, and Mainichi carried similar stories.

- [Commentary: Half year in office, Trump struggles to deliver, lowers U.S. standing](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Commentary: World adjusting to Trump impact](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Russia denies blocking Hokkaido mayor’s entry to disputed isles](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan farm minister eager to hold regular talks with Chinese counterpart](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [JBIC, Japan megabanks to co-finance hospital in Turkey](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan protests to S. Korea over “comfort women” memorial day creation](#) (Kyodo)

News)

## ECONOMY

- [Trump pressed Abe to open up auto market at G-20](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Labor shortage poses challenge to Japan's economic growth: report](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Labor shortage can help Japan beat deflation: government report](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Keidanren holds summer forum on trade policy, constitution](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [BOJ further delays timing of achieving 2% inflation, maintains policy](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Atomic Energy Commission stresses need to secure stable use of nuclear power](#) (Asahi)
- [Gov't starts spending billions for TPP accord not yet in force](#) (Nikkei)
- [Rokkasho reprocessing plant to cost 1.3 trillion yen more than previous gov't estimate](#) (Mainichi)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 20](#) (Nikkei)
- [Komeito seeks to mend ties with Kantei after rift in Tokyo assembly election](#) (Nikkei)
- [Distance from Abe \(6\): Abe, Koizumi size each other up](#) (Nikkei)
- [Distance from Abe \(7\): How long can Nikai and Abe stay in sync?](#) (Nikkei)
- [Interview with LDP's Ishiba on Abe's power, cabinet reshuffle, constitutional revision](#) (Mainichi)
- [Constitution should enshrine civilian control of SDF: LDP vice pres.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Inada must clarify involvement regarding hidden SDF logs](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Predicting the cabinet for PM Abe to recover from setbacks](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [Cartoon: Pursuing Inada](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Kake Gakuen scandal](#) (Mainichi)

- [Nagashima and Matsuzawa may tie up with Koike if she forms new party](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Seven political parties receive 8 billion yen in subsidies](#) (Sankei)

## SCIENCE

- [Coral reef cover has declined dramatically in Okinawan waters, Environment Ministry](#) (Nikkei)

## SOCIETY

### **Abused children unable to return home from hospital**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that the number of child abuse cases in Japan is rising and many children who are admitted to the hospital because of parental abuse are forced to stay there even after they recover because they have nowhere to go. Some of these children have been hospitalized for as long as nine months. The program said although such children usually return to their parents or are placed in foster homes or orphanages, the network found that there were 356 children in 2015 and 2016 who could not immediately be discharged from the hospital. Some hospitals have been unable to treat other children in need of medical care because they had to take care of such children. The program said one of the reasons for this phenomenon is that child consultation centers, which work as mediators between children and parents, foster parents, and orphanages, are understaffed. The program also pointed to a shortage of foster homes and orphanages in Japan.

- [45% of women feel "men treated better at workplace," survey](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LGBT books targeting elementary school students grab spotlight](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan life expectancy up 4 yrs over past 25 yrs, regional gap widens](#) (Kyodo News)

## SECURITY

### **U.S. service member in Okinawa arrested on assault charge**

Asahi reported online that the Okinawa police arrested an airman at Kadena AB today on the charge of assault, explaining that the 21-year-old service member allegedly injured a local female by punching her in the face several times in the restroom of a night club in Okinawa city at around 2 a.m. Friday. The suspect has reportedly denied the charge by saying that the allegation is not true.

NHK Okinawa's website also ran a story on the incident, quoting the suspect as telling the police: "I didn't touch the woman." The report added that the airman apparently violated the USFJ liberty policy that prohibits being out from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m.

- [Ryukyu Shimpo, Okinawa Times warned against using illegally taken photos](#) (Sankei)
- [Citizens' group photographs unloading of Tomahawk missile canisters](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Coast Guard chases off 460 North Korean fishing boats in Sea of Japan since July 9](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Dual-use funds leave academics caught up in pacifism debate](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Chinese ships prompt more vigilance](#) (The Japan News)



### **U.S. military conducts external lift training amid local opposition**

Okinawa Times front-paged a report on external lift training conducted by the U.S. military at Camp Hansen in Okinawa on Thursday morning. The paper wrote that according to local residents who witnessed the drill, what appeared to be supplies were hanging from one of the two Ospreys involved in the drill. The aircraft flew from the northern side of Camp Hansen to Landing Zone Falcon and circled the area at a low altitude for about one hour. This was the first time for the U.S. military to conduct such a drill since a U.S. military helicopter accidentally dropped some of the tires it was carrying on a residential area during training in March. The local residents are becoming increasingly concerned there might be another incident involving external lift training. Ryukyu Shimpo ran a similar inside-page report.

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