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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, July 28, 2017

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**HEADLINES****Noon news**

NHK and all commercial broadcasters led with reports on a press conference held by Defense Minister Inada this morning, during which she expressed her intention to resign. Prime Minister Abe told reporters that he has accepted Inada's intention to step down and apologized to the people of Japan for the consequences. Abe added that he plans to have Foreign Minister Kishida take on the role of defense minister in addition to his current post until the cabinet is reshuffled.

**INTERNATIONAL****William Hagerty sworn in as Ambassador to Japan**

TBS reported in a noon news program that William Hagerty was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to Japan at a ceremony held in Washington on Thursday. The network quoted the new ambassador as saying that he is prepared to make contributions to what is already a wonderful relationship between the U.S. and Japan to make it even stronger. The broadcaster added that Hagerty will probably focus on strengthening U.S.-Japan cooperation in dealing with North Korea and economic issues.

NHK reported on the swearing in ceremony online. Vice President Pence stated at the ceremony: "Under President Trump, the United States is firmly committed to our treasured friend and ally, Japan. One of the clearest signs of the commitment is the President's choice of Bill Hagerty as America's Ambassador to Japan." The Vice President added that the U.S.-Japan alliance remains the cornerstone of peace, prosperity, and freedom in the Asia-Pacific, the U.S. and Japan stand together to confront the threat posed by North Korea, and President Trump is committed to expanding bonds of commerce between the two nations.

NHK said that Hagerty expressed his readiness to serve as Ambassador to Japan by saying that it is

a great honor for him and he is prepared to work vigorously to address the challenges lying ahead.

Asahi also posted a story about the new ambassador on its website, saying that some 60 guests, including his family, lawmakers from his home state of Tennessee, Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. Sasae, and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Kawai, attended the swearing in ceremony. The paper wrote that the new ambassador will hold his first press conference after attending a welcome ceremony to be hosted by Ambassador Sasae at his official residence in Washington on Friday.

### **Japan enhances sanctions on DPRK**

NHK reported that the Abe administration decided on Friday to impose additional sanctions on North Korea, explaining that five entities, including the Bank of Dandong based in Liaoning Province and a Chinese cargo operator, were added to a list of concerns which are subject to asset freezing in connection with their transactions with the DPRK. The financial assets of nine additional North Koreans will also be frozen. The dailies said the designation of the two Chinese entities signifies Tokyo's plan to step up pressure on Pyongyang in coordination with the U.S. since similar punitive measures were applied to the same entities by the Trump administration about a month ago.

- [Japan expands North Korea sanction blacklists](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Overseas press reports on Inada resignation saying she was “under fire for lying and making gaffes”](#) (Mainichi)
- [Gov't urges Asia-Pacific countries to work together to bring CTBT into force](#) (Mainichi)
- [Justice Ministry remains cautious about accepting refugees](#) (Mainichi)
- [Furnaces that can be converted for production of nukes sold to Iran, China](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [Russia unrivaled in nuclear power plant exports](#) (The Japan Times)
- [LDP's Motegi, Indonesian vice president agree on peaceful solution to South China Sea issues](#) (Yomiuri)

## **ECONOMY**

### **Japan to impose safeguard tariffs on frozen U.S. beef starting on Aug. 1**

NHK reported that the GOJ announced today that it will invoke an import safeguard mechanism on frozen beef from the U.S. starting on Aug. 1. Finance Minister Aso told reporters that Japan will raise the levy on frozen beef from America in accordance with the law as the volume of imports of such

products has exceeded the designated level. Japan will raise the levy from the current 38.5% to 50% through the end of March 2018. This will be the first time in 14 years for Japan to invoke a safeguard measure. Aso stated that the mechanism will be invoked automatically based on WTO rules and that Japan will explain to the U.S. through their economic dialogue and other venues that the action is based on international trade rules. Agriculture Minister Yamamoto reiterated Aso's statement, adding that Japan will provide the U.S. with explanations on the issue.

The U.S. Meat Export Federation released on Thursday a [statement](#) saying that the safeguard will not only have negative implications for U.S. beef producers, but will also have a significant impact on the Japanese food service industry. It added that it will be especially difficult for the "gyudon" beef bowl restaurants that rely heavily on American beef. The federation also stated that it will encourage the U.S. and Japanese governments to reach a mutually beneficial resolution to the issue.

- [Sysmex, Eisai teaming up on Alzheimer's blood test](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Hitachi Group company wins U.S. subway contract](#) (Nikkei)
- [China, ROK close in on Japan in high-speed railway industry](#) (Mainichi)

## POLITICS

- [Inada's qualifications as defense chief have long been questioned](#) (Asahi)
- [Defense chief's exit comes too late as Abe faces backlash](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Resignation of Inada, Renho reflects administration's arrogance, DP's incompetence](#) (Nikkei)
- [Dispelling image of "favoritism" to be Abe's challenge after Inada's resignation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gov't, LDP to closely watch DP's upcoming presidential election](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP, Komeito go all-out in Yokohama mayoral election campaign](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Strained ties between Aso, Seko may pose obstacle to Abe](#) (FACTA)
- [Editorial: After DP Secretary General Noda's resignation, can the party rebuild?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Inada's last stand](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Renho falls](#) (Sankei)

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 27](#) (Nikkei)

## SCIENCE

- [Environment Ministry to support renewable energy projects by companies, local governments](#) (Nikkei)

## SOCIETY

### **Can Dentsu successfully implement work-style reforms?**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on major advertising agency Dentsu, which has been strongly criticized for allowing its employees to work long hours after a young female employee committed suicide due to overwork last year. The program reported on various efforts by Dentsu to change the working styles of its employees, including turning off all the lights at 10 p.m. and setting a goal to reduce working hours by 20% by 2019. However, that some employees have no choice but to continue working at home or at restaurants even after 10 p.m. because of their workload. Dentsu CEO Yamamoto said in an interview that it is his responsibility to create an environment where employees can do good work while maintaining healthy lifestyles. The program said about 200 people die or commit suicide due to overwork annually in Japan, stressing that Japanese firms and workers can no longer put off addressing the issue.

- [Japanese 2nd in world life expectancy, living longer for 5th yr](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Women account for 5.1% of executives at large Japanese firms, survey shows](#) (The Japan Times)



### **Nearly half of crimes by U.S. military community in Japan occurred in Okinawa**

Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged a report saying that a recent survey showed that 47.4% of the crimes committed by U.S. service members, civilian base workers, and their dependents from 2008 through 2015 occurred in Okinawa. A group of the Association of Prefectural Governors studying the local burden of hosting U.S. bases conducted the survey at the request of Okinawa Governor Onaga. According to the survey, 486 of a total of 1,025 such crimes in Japan were committed in Okinawa in the eight-year period. Noting that 70.4% of the land in Japan that is exclusively used for U.S. military facilities is concentrated in Okinawa and that Okinawa is forced to deal with noise pollution and the risk of aircraft accidents, the paper wrote that the results of the survey showed once again that Okinawa is bearing a heavy base-hosting burden.

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