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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, July 31, 2017

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**HEADLINES**

**Noon news**

Most networks gave top play to reports that President Trump and Prime Minister Abe held a telephone conference this morning in the wake of North Korea's ballistic missile launch on Friday, quoting Abe as telling reporters afterwards: "I completely agreed with President Trump that we need to take further actions against North Korea." Fuji TV led with a report that a 20-year-old man is being questioned by police in connection with a missing woman in Gifu.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**President Trump, PM Abe agree to increase pressure on DPRK**

All networks reported at noon that President Trump and Prime Minister Abe spoke by phone for 50 minutes this morning in the wake of the ballistic missile launch by North Korea on Friday night. They agreed to strengthen pressure against North Korea and take concrete actions to enhance the U.S.-Japan defense posture and capabilities. According to NHK, Abe told Trump: "With the launch of a ICBM-level missile, the North Korean threat has dramatically increased. This is not acceptable. It was very encouraging that you immediately issued a statement saying that the U.S. will take all necessary measures to protect its allies, and I appreciate it." In response, the President reportedly said: "I am very concerned because the missile landed at a point that is extremely close to the Japanese archipelago. The United States and Japan are strong partners, and our commitment to the defense of Japan remains strong." The network said the two leaders agreed to hold a "2+2" meeting at an early date. They also agreed to seek the adoption of a new sanctions resolution at the UNSC and urge China and Russia to thoroughly implement the sanctions. According to NHK, Trump told Abe about his tweet in which he said he is "very disappointed in China" and that China does "NOTHING for us with North Korea." Abe reportedly responded by saying that he had seen the tweet. The network quoted the premier as telling reporters afterwards: "We have made efforts to peacefully resolve the

North Korea issue. However, North Korea has trampled on our efforts and unilaterally escalated its behavior. I completely agreed with President Trump that we need to take further actions."

- [Abe, Trump agree to take new action after North Korea's 2nd ICBM test](#) (The Mainichi)

### **U.S. mulls sanctions on Kim Jong Un**

TV Asahi reported at noon that according to a diplomatic source, there is a plan among the U.S. and other nations to add Kim Jong Un and his close aides to the list of individuals whose assets will be frozen as part of a new UNSC sanctions resolution. The network said naming the North Korean leader in the resolution would have a symbolic significance in increasing international pressure on North Korea and that even proposing it would serve as a pressure against North Korea. The network also quoted Vice President Pence as saying: "China should do more...China has a unique ability to influence decisions by the North Korean regime." The Vice President also reportedly stressed that the era of strategic patience is over and that all options are on the table.

- [PM Abe's comments on North Korea's ICBM launch at 1:42 a.m., July 29](#) (Kantei Website)
- [PM Abe's comments on North Korea's ICBM launch at 2:00 p.m., July 29](#) (Kantei Website)
- [Missile adds confusion at Defense Ministry](#) (The Japan News)
- [Encirclement of North Korea on brink of collapse after second ICBM launch](#) (Nikkei)

### **Experts discuss North Korea's ICBM launch**

During NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show, three experts held a discussion on North Korea's ICBM test launch on late Friday night. Canon Institute for Global Studies Research Director Kunihiko Miyake expressed the view that North Korea is continuing its provocations in order to achieve its ultimate goal of concluding a peace treaty with the U.S. Former MSDF fleet commander Yoji Koda commented that North Korea may fire its next ICBM on a normal trajectory instead of a lofted trajectory, and that the projectile may fly over the Japanese archipelago as a result. Waseda University Professor Lee Jong Won said that the DPRK's aim was to demonstrate its ability to launch an ICBM capable of traveling as far as 10,000 km to express its readiness to use the missile for actual operations.

- [Japanese experts comment on DPRK's second ICBM launch](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opinion: Japan, U.S., ROK, China, Russia need to meet on dealing with DPRK](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: China and Russia must bear onus to boost pressure on North Korea](#) (The

Japan News)

- [Common ground sought in 19th round of RCEP negotiations](#) (Sankei)
- [Analysis: U.S. may link currency, trade in economic dialogue with Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cambodian PM Hun Sen to make 4-day visit to Japan from Aug. 6](#) (Kyodo News)
- [My Japanology / Step into classroom opened eyes to the nation of Sen no Rikyu](#) (The Japan News)

<b>POLITICS</b>
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- [Abe struggles to break cycle of scandal](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Prime minister's advisor says drop in support rate caused by secrecy and failure to keep official and private matters separate](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: A shake-up at Defense Ministry needed to bring turmoil to an end](#) (The Japan News)
- [Out-of-session Diet meetings on GSDF daily logs to be held after cabinet reshuffle](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Alleged cover-up impacts far beyond Defense Ministry, GSDF](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Katashi Toyota, minister's secretariat director-general, to replace Vice-Minister Kuroe](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Edano, Maehara to run for DP leadership](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Renho's resignation raises alarm over Japan's party politics](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: In resigning as DP head, Renho pays price for lack of leadership](#) (The Japan News)
- [Incumbent Yokohama Mayor Hayashi easily wins 3rd term](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 30](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 29](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 28–29](#) (Nikkei)

## ECONOMY

- [Japan, U.S. to share cost of high-speed rail in Texas](#) (FACTA)
- [Japan may reverse course, issue more government bonds](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan consortium to build power station, port in Bangladesh](#) (Nikkei)

## SCIENCE

### Geo Japan – Part 2: How Japan became a mountainous country

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on how Japan became a mountainous country, focusing on the last two of the four "miracles" that resulted in the formation of the Japanese archipelago. The third miracle was the largest eruption of a caldera in the history of the earth that occurred on the Kii Peninsula, which created mountains in the Kansai region. The last miracle was the major Pacific plate movement about 3 million years ago, which compressed the continental plate and created mountains in the Kanto region.

- [Boeing, JAXA to start testing clear-air turbulence detection system](#) (Nikkei)
- [Privately developed observation rocket Momo fails to reach space](#) (The Japan News)

## EDUCATION

- [Editorial: Government should provide tuition aid to Korean schools](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

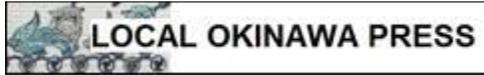
## SOCIETY

- [MOJ to issue 1,000 visas to fourth-generation Japanese immigrants aged 18 – 30](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Panel urges Justice Ministry check asylum requests more thoroughly](#) (The Japan Times)

## SECURITY

- [Is Japan ready for a real crisis? Cover-up scandal reveals risks](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Opposition parties say Inada resignation does not close issue](#) (Asahi)

- [Editorial: Inada's resignation raises questions about civilian control of SDF](#) (The Mainichi)



### **[Ambassador Hagerty expresses desire to visit Okinawa](#)**

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the new U.S. Ambassador to Japan, William Hagerty, held his first news conference in Washington on July 28 after receiving Senate confirmation on July 13. Concerning the current stalemate between the GOJ and the Okinawa Prefectural Government over the FRF construction at Henoko, the paper quoted the Ambassador as saying that he will deepen his understanding of issues in Japan and that the U.S. should play a constructive role. Hagerty added that he would like to express deep appreciation to all of the communities that host U.S. bases. The paper interpreted these remarks to mean that he will give consideration to the base issues in Okinawa. The Ambassador added that although he has no specific plan to visit Okinawa at this stage, he would very much like to visit Okinawa and the U.S. military installations there.

- [Governors' group rejects view that Okinawa economy depends on bases](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Gov't to provide 25.9 billion yen for U.S. Marines' relocation to Guam](#) (Okinawa Times)