
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, August 1, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that Prime Minister Abe officially announced this morning his intention to reshuffle his cabinet on Aug. 3. NTV gave top play to a report that Abe is planning to appoint LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Motegi and Deputy Chairman Onodera to important cabinet posts. TBS led with a report that President Trump dismissed Anthony Scaramucci as communications director on Monday, only 10 days after he took office. Fuji TV and TV Asahi reported on the arrest of former Moritomo Gakuen President Kagoike and his wife on charges of fraudulently receiving public subsidies for his company's school businesses.

INTERNATIONAL

Charge d'Affaires Rapson to attend Hiroshima peace memorial ceremony

Mainichi said it learned on Monday that Chargé d'Affaires Robert Rapson will attend the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony to be held on Aug. 6. Noting that the U.S. government has been sending officials to the ceremony since 2010 under the Obama administration, the paper said attention had been focused on the moves of the Trump administration, which intends to build up the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The paper said since the new U.S. Ambassador to Japan, William Hagerty, will not arrive in Japan until mid-August, Chargé d'Affaires Rapson will attend the ceremony.

- [Gist of Abe-Trump teleconference, July 31](#) (Mainichi)
- [Commentary: Abe-Trump teleconference signals U.S. "reverting" to close ties with Japan](#) (Sankei)

U.S. research institute believes DPRK may be able to field ICBM next year

NTV reported at noon that U.S. research institute 38 North announced on Monday that based on the

result of its investigation into North Korea's ICBM launch last week, North Korea may be able to master re-entry technology after a few more tests and be able to field an ICBM as early as next year. The network said 38 North's analysis shows that North Korea's ICBM failed on re-entry in last week's test launch. The network added that four engines were mounted on the missile this time, explaining that North Korea's aim was to show the U.S. how far the missile is capable of flying.

- [Opinion: Maritime order should be rebuilt under U.S.'s leadership](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japanese, Vietnamese top diplomats agree to cooperate in dealing with DPRK](#) (Nikkei)

China anchors drilling vessel in E. China Sea, Japan protests

NHK reported at noon that Foreign Minister Kishida told reporters this morning that the GOJ has a lodged a protest against China after confirming that China has been engaged in activities in the East China Sea by anchoring a drilling vessel on the Chinese side of the Japan-China median line. "We have confirmed that China is anchoring a mobile drilling vessel on the Chinese side of the Japan-China median line and engaging in activities of some kind," Kishida was quoted as saying. "This is extremely regrettable, and we immediately lodged a protest through diplomatic channels. The Japanese government has been strongly urging China to stop its unilateral development and efforts to achieve a fait accompli, and we will continue to do so."

- [Japan protests China's activity in disputed E. China Sea gas field](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan taps special assistant to minister as ambassador to Italy](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

- [LDP National Defense Division: "Why should GSDF daily activity reports be disclosed?"](#) (Mainichi)
- [U.S. returns small strip of land at Futenma air base](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Opinion: DPRK may fire ICBM toward Pacific](#) (Yomiuri)
- [U.S. marines to participate in largest-ever joint exercise with Japan](#) (Akahata)
- [George Washington University Prof. Mochizuki to set up group to consider Henoko alternatives](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Editorial: Progress in N. Korea's ballistic missile technology cannot be overlooked](#) (The Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Calls for appointing experienced politicians to head defense, education ministries](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe likely to replace internal affairs minister](#) (Jiji Press)
- [“Lower House may be dissolved at any time,” Komeito leader Yamaguchi](#) (Mainichi)
- [DP gearing up for party presidential election](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Renho](#) (Asahi)
- [Yamaguchi ties Kanzaki as longest-serving Komeito leader](#) (Mainichi)
- [Komeito, labor group Rengo both suffering from alienation of rank-and-file members](#) (Shukan Ekonomisuto)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on July 31](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [Trend in average cabinet support rate, Saitama University Social Survey Research Center](#) (Saitama University Social Survey Research Center)

ECONOMY

Virtual currency rising in popularity

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the growing popularity of virtual currency such as Bitcoin, saying that the price of Bitcoin has almost tripled since the beginning of this year. The program said the total market price of virtual currency has increased six-fold to more than 10 trillion yen. While some people are pulling in excellent profits from their investments in virtual currency, there has also been an increase in the number of problems related to virtual currency. An expert warned that the virtual currency bubble could collapse any time.

- [Japan to discuss emergency tariffs on U.S. beef at bilateral dialogue](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan’s foreign direct investment jumped to record in 2016](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov’t panel recommends restrictions for casinos in forthcoming bill](#) (Kyodo News)
- [State-backed entity progresses Fukushima reactor fuel removal plan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Labor ministry employees putting in longest overtime hours: survey](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)

- [Mexico supports Japan's leadership in achieving TPP without U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Business community seeks output-based pay system](#) (Nikkei)

SCIENCE

- [World's 1st trial of drug developed from iPS cells to begin](#) (Kyodo News)
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