
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, August 16, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TV Asahi led with reports on President Trump's inconsistent remarks about the violence that erupted in Charlottesville, saying that his latest comment that both sides are to blame is being strongly criticized. NTV gave top play to a report that the Trump administration will closely monitor North Korea's next moves following the North Korean leader's remarks that he will "watch the conduct" of the U.S. Secretary Tillerson was quoted as saying: "I have no response to his decisions at this time.... We continue to be interested in finding a way to get to a dialogue but it's up to him." TBS and Fuji TV reported that it has been raining in Tokyo for 16 consecutive days.

INTERNATIONAL

- [Gist of Abe-Trump teleconference on Aug. 15](#) (Yomiuri)

DOS spokesperson: DPRK must take steps toward denuclearization before dialogue

NHK reported that following North Korea's announcement that it will watch America's conduct for a bit longer in relation to its plan to launch ballistic missiles toward Guam, the State Department reiterated the position that it is ready to hold dialogue with North Korea but stressed that North Korea first needs to take steps toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. DOS spokesperson Nauert was quoted as telling reporters on Tuesday: "We are willing to sit down and talk with them but it appears that is not going to happen imminently. They have to take some serious steps before we get there." In addition, the DOS spokesperson stressed that North Korea not launching ballistic missiles toward Guam would not be a good enough reason to hold dialogue.

- [Expert says Kim indicated he would "not mount enveloping fire around](#)

[Guam”](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Survey of newspaper editorials on response to North Korea’s ICBM launch](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: President Trump and Kim Jong-un](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Culture ministers of Japan, China, S. Korea to meet in Kyoto](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [No mention of Japan’s aggression in Abe’s Aug. 15 speech five years in a row](#) (Tokyo Shimbun Evening edition)
- [INTERVIEW: Komura wants LDP constitution proposal ready for parliament session](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Shimajiri named assistant to Okinawa affairs minister](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan PM sends ritual offering to Yasukuni on war anniversary](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Former aide to Mrs. Abe transferred to Japanese Embassy in Italy](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Study of the Cabinet Secretariat \(Part 1\): National Security Secretariat serves as linchpin of Japan’s diplomacy](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on Aug. 15, 2017](#) (Nikkei)

SECURITY

U.S.-Japan joint military drill in Hokkaido disclosed to media

TV Asahi reported at noon that the joint military drill between the U.S. and Japan in Hokkaido was disclosed to the media today. The network said live ammunition was used in the drill and about 300 U.S. and Japanese troops participated. The network said the GOJ announced on Tuesday that Ospreys will participate in the drill on Friday, adding that a total of six Ospreys are expected to participate in the drill and they are expected to arrive at Misawa AB today. NHK carried a similar story.

Three Ospreys depart Iwakuni for Misawa

NHK reported this morning that three MV-22 Ospreys took off from MCAS Iwakuni in Yamaguchi Prefecture for Misawa AB in Aomori. The networks said the Ospreys are expected to participate in the joint U.S.-Japan military drill being held in Hokkaido, according to MOD officials. The network said a total of six Ospreys were at MCAS Iwakuni as of this morning, and three of them took off from the base at about 11 a.m.

The network later reported that the three Ospreys arrived at Misawa AB at about 1:30 p.m.

ECONOMY

- [Sea urchin cultivation and cruise ship tourism eyed for joint economic activities in Northern Territories](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kanematsu, JFE Steel to build oil pipe processing R&D facility in U.S.](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kyokuyo to start shipments of closed-cycle bluefin tuna in November](#) (Nikkei)
- [Seabed survey to be conducted off coast of western Kyushu to assess damage from coral poaching](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [Politics intervenes, permanent listing of rice futures trading shelved](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll on Gambling](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)

SCIENCE

- [METI to cover research and development costs for AI semiconductors](#) (Nikkei)
- [Joint venture launches 4 Japanese companies into minirocket market](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

EDUCATION

- [Universities stepping up emergency preparedness for students abroad](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

At Imphal, starvation took more Japanese lives than British bullets

"NHK Special" reported on the Battle of Imphal, which took place in the vicinity of the capital of the state of Manipur in Northeast India from March until July 1944. The Japanese Imperial Army attempted to wrest Imphal from the British forces, but it suffered a historic defeat. Although the Imperial Army leadership had planned to take Imphal in three weeks, the battle lasted for months and tens of thousands of soldiers lost their lives. The program found from interview tapes and notes by commanders and survivors that the Imperial Army decided to head to Imphal despite the fact there was not enough logistical support for the soldiers. The program said 60% of the Japanese soldiers who died in the battle actually died of hunger or disease after they were forced to retreat to Burma. The program said the remains of many Japanese soldiers are still buried in the region.

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