
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, August 29, 2017

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HEADLINES**Noon news**

All broadcasters led with extensive reports on the GOJ's response to North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile this morning, including Prime Minister Abe's teleconference with President Trump.

INTERNATIONAL**President Trump, Prime Minister Abe agree on further pressure on North Korea**

NHK and all commercial networks led with extensive reports on the GOJ's response to North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile this morning. Prime Minister Abe spoke by phone with President Trump for about 40 minutes starting at 9:30 a.m. The premier reportedly told the President that the missile, which was fired amid the increasing international pressure including UNSC resolutions and flew over Japan, posed a different level of threat and constitutes an unprecedented provocation. Abe added it is time to step up the pressure on the DPRK because it is obvious that Pyongyang is not prepared for dialogue, and that Japan supports the United States' position of putting all options on the table. The broadcasters said that President Trump responded that America stands one hundred percent with its ally Japan. According to the networks, the two leaders agreed to apply further pressure on North Korea to urge it to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and ask the UN Security Council to swiftly convene an emergency meeting. Abe told reporters afterward that the GOJ will make utmost efforts to protect the lives and property of the Japanese people under the strong alliance with the U.S. He added that Japan will urge North Korea to alter its policy by applying strong pressure in cooperation with the international community, including the U.S., South Korea, China, and Russia.

TBS reported that the DOD announced an hour after the missile launch that the projectile flew over Japan, but since then has announced no further information, including the type of missile or the length of the flight. A Washington correspondent commented that Pyongyang is apparently taking advantage of the reluctance of China and Russia to impose economic sanctions and the Trump administration's preoccupation with the hurricane disaster in Texas.

NHK added in its online report that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga commented on the teleconference between President Trump and Prime Minister Abe during a news briefing this morning by saying that it is significant that the leaders of the U.S. and Japan demonstrated the robust alliance between the two nations by holding an in-depth discussion immediately after the provocative act by North Korea. The network added that Foreign Minister Kono also spoke by phone with Secretary of State Tillerson at around 9:00 a.m. and confirmed that the U.S. and Japan will work closely to apply pressure on North Korea. The two officials also confirmed the procedure for requesting an emergency UNSC meeting.

- [N. Korea fires missile over Japan amid int'l outcry](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Missile launch actually shows Kim has 'backed off': Japan's Kono](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [North Korean missile gives Japan a rude awakening](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Analysis: Japan holds no good cards in Korean Peninsula poker game](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: N. Korea should not conduct launches to heighten tensions](#) (The Mainichi)
- [FM Kono to participate in Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok next month](#) (Sankei)
- [Ex-residents to stay overnight in Northern Territories](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan transport ministry pitches Shinkansen in Singapore](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: "2+2"](#) (Akahata)

ECONOMY

Aso to visit U.S. for prior consultation with Vice President Pence

NHK reported that Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Aso told reporters this morning that he will visit the U.S. from Sept. 4 for a prior consultation with Vice President Pence in preparation for the second session of the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue slated for October. The network

speculated that the two officials will discuss such issues as bilateral trade, including Japan's safeguard on imports of frozen beef from the U.S.

- [Japan, U.S. to hold informal talks next week before economic dialogue: Aso](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Dollar slumps to upper 108 yen range on N. Korean missile launch](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Bill on merit-based pay system to become hot issue at extra Diet session](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Zen-Noh must change mind-set to promote reform based on new law](#) (The Japan News)
- [2 utilities keen to restart 3 nuclear reactors in early 2018](#) (The Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [DP prefectural leaders divided on opposition united front, Asahi survey](#) (Asahi)
- [Asahi survey of DP prefectural chapters on contentious issues in presidential race](#) (Asahi)
- [Tanigaki given permission to check out of hospital](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP group to listen to anti-Abe cabinet views launched](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Will timing of LH dissolution "boomerang back" to autumn?](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP to retain Miyazawa as tax commission chief](#) (Nikkei)
- [Discord emerges between Kantei, LDP chief Nikai over personnel issues](#) (Shukan Shincho)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 28, 2017](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [48% "not optimistic" about Nippon First no Kai, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Nikkei Digital](#) (Nikkei Online)
- [73% say they are "satisfied with their life today," Cabinet Office poll](#) (Sankei)

SCIENCE

Sea Shepherd will not obstruct Japan's research whaling this winter

NHK reported on an online statement issued by Sea Shepherd saying that the organization has decided not to obstruct Japan's research whaling program in the Southern Ocean this season on the ground that the group will not be able to compete with Japan whose satellite technology can track its vessels in the ocean. However, the environmental NGO promised to continue an anti-whaling campaign in the future by exploring new methods to sabotage and derail what it called "shameless activities." The Japanese Fisheries Agency said that it is aware of the released statement and will implement measures to ensure the safety of the whaling convoy.

- [Japan to launch 4th GPS-improving quasi-zenith satellite in Oct.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't to promote the use of private money to address global warming from FY2018](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [Gov't to cancel one Epsilon launch scheduled in FY19](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [National tests expose students' weakness in applied skills](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Students in major Japan cities score higher in achievement test](#) (Jiji Press)

SOCIETY

Factors behind high school players' homerun output

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" delved into the factors behind high school baseball players' increasing slugging power, concluding that in addition to their exceptional talent, they are bigger and stronger than players in the past.

SECURITY

Onodera meets with USFJ commander

Sankei took up yesterday's meeting at the Defense Ministry between Minister Onodera and Lt. Gen. Martinez, the USFJ Commander, during which the Japanese minister mentioned a planned drill in which ASDF PAC-3s would be deployed at USFJ installations. In response to the minister's statement that Japan would like to enhance bilateral security collaboration, the U.S. military chief said the training will send to North Korea the strong message that the U.S. and Japan are strongly committed to mutual defense.

- [Cartoon: Global Hawk](#) (Akahata)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa legislature adopts motion calling for cancellation of Osprey deployment

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times reported that the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly on Monday adopted a motion calling for the USG and the GOJ to cancel the deployment of the Osprey at MCAS Futenma, shut down base operations there within five years, and withdraw Marines from the island prefecture. The legislature embraced the resolution in response to the recent Osprey crash off Australia, with parts of the motion reading: “We have no choice but to express rage at the U.S. military’s posture of dismissing the Japanese government’s request for a flight suspension and disregarding the local residents while underscoring operational necessity.” The dailies added that LDP members of the assembly voted against the resolution.

- [Henoko protesters arrested for “minor offenses”](#) (Okinawa Times)
 - [Mobile library project features American Corner for first time](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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