
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, September 8, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TBS led with reports that the world is closely watching North Korea's moves as it celebrates its National Foundation Day on Saturday. NTV and TV Asahi gave top play to reports that the Democratic Party accepted the resignation of Shiori Yamao. Fuji TV reported that the solar flares unleashed by the sun on Wednesday reached the Earth this morning, disrupting magnetic fields.

INTERNATIONAL

Antifa stands up to white supremacists

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the rise of white supremacy in the U.S., including the KKK, neo-Nazis, and alt-right movement, saying that American society has become deeply divided under the Trump administration. The program said President Trump's policy and remarks on immigration have caused white supremacists to grow more violent. According to the show, many people are standing up to such white supremacists because they fear that the principles of equality and diversity are in jeopardy. A mysterious movement called Antifa, short for "anti-fascism," is even willing to use violence against white supremacists. The program interviewed a member of an Antifa group who justified the use of violence by saying: "History is filled with examples of people defending themselves against fascism and racism to great success.... When you are confronted with a violent threat by white supremacists, you are forced to do things to defend yourself."

The program also said President Trump's remarks made after the Charlottesville incident created confusion and led to the disbandment of the President's corporate advisory groups and the dismissal of the President's chief strategist Steve Bannon. The program noted, however, that despite this, the

President's support rate did not drop significantly because he still has many Republican supporters. Keio University Professor Yasushi Watanabe said Bannon's exit from the White House ended up increasing his influence on the President, as evidenced by the President's decision to scrap the "Dreamers" program. Patrick Harlan, a American comedian working in Japan who graduated from Harvard, said that although the current situation in the U.S. is frightening, he is hopeful that the situation will take a favorable turn after the division and confusion make people realize that the American values of freedom and equality must be protected.

- [Gist of PM Abe's speech at Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Sept. 7](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gist of Japan-Russia cooperation, joint economic project agreements](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of Japan-Russia joint press conference](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of Japan-ROK summit on Sept. 7](#) (Nikkei)
- [Journalist says he advised PM Abe to visit North Korea](#) (Asahi)
- [North Korea sends delegation to Russia's economic forum](#) (Asahi)
- [Russia to wait 2 months for progress in joint isle activities](#) (Jiji Press)
- [North Korea asked Russia for cooperation with railway from North Korea to Russian Far East](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Clamp down on North Korea with oil embargo](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Russia, Mongolia leaders engage in "judo diplomacy"](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Expert says N. Korea's warhead miniaturization skills nearing U.S., Russian level](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Even in face of N. Korean threat, anti-nuke policy should remain](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [China's No. 4 leader meets Japanese on diplomatic anniversary](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Japan needs to boost safety steps against threat of N. Korean EMP attack](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Enhance Japan's global presence with strategic ODA contributions](#) (The Japan News)
- [Former envoy to China says Japan's political lassitude reason for absence of](#)

[Senkaku talks](#) (Tokyo Shimbun Evening edition)

SECURITY

FM Kono says no need to review three non-nuclear principles

NHK reported on its website that Foreign Minister Kono told reporters today that while former LDP Secretary General Ishiba has questioned whether the three non-nuclear principles will function as deterrence, the GOJ has no plan to hold discussions on reviewing the principles since U.S. deterrence is functioning effectively. Ishiba has said there should be discussions on whether to allow the U.S. military to bring nuclear weapons into Japan. Kono also reportedly said: "President Trump and Secretary of State Tillerson have repeatedly stated that the U.S. stands by Japan 100%. U.S. deterrence is functioning extremely effectively." He also reportedly said: "The government has never reviewed the principles in the past and has no plan to do so in the future."

GAO calls on Navy to take measures to address readiness-related issues

NHK reported online that in response to the recent collisions involving Yokosuka-based Aegis ships, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) called on the Navy at a House committee hearing on Thursday to swiftly take appropriate measures. According to NHK, a senior GAO official stated that although the ships' aggressive deployment schedule gave the Navy more presence, it came with a cost. Pointing out that the operational schedule of the ships is growing despite shorter training hours and shortfalls in manning ships, the GAO called on the Navy to address the issue based on the view that the situation is affecting the overall readiness of the Navy.

USS Ronald Reagan departs Yokosuka

NTV and TV Asahi reported that the USS Ronald Reagan will leave Yokosuka around noon today. NTV quoted a U.S. Navy spokesperson who explained that the carrier got underway "to conduct surveillance operations that are carried out annually every fall." The network said the USS Ronald Reagan may make a port call in South Korea, which would be for the purpose of increasing pressure on North Korea, which will celebrate its National Foundation Day tomorrow. TV Asahi said the U.S. flattop may head for the Sea of Japan in light of the situation in North Korea.

Osprey takes off from Oita Airport

NHK reported this morning that the Osprey that made an emergency landing at Oita Airport while heading to MCAS Futenma from MCAS Iwakuni last month took off from the airport at about 10:30 this morning. The network said it confirmed that the Osprey arrived at MCAS Iwakuni at around 11 a.m.

- [Japan upholds non-nuclear principles despite N. Korea threat: Kono](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Japan eyes new system to alert fishing vessels of missile launches](#) (Kyodo News)
- [ASDF conducted PAC-3 deployment drill in Misawa](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [First drill in response to missile launches rescheduled for Nov. 22](#) (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

U.S. expert says North Korea may launch ICBM on Sept. 9

NTV reported that Heritage Foundation Senior Research Fellow Klingner said in an interview with the network that North Korea may launch an ICBM as early as Sept. 9 when the nation celebrates its National Foundation Day. He was quoted as saying in an interview: "North Korea always does things on anniversaries....They may do an ICBM test that flies over Japan to a fuller range than they have before."

Concerning a possible preemptive attack on the North by the U.S., Klingner said it appears that the U.S. is not considering that option at this point. He was quoted as saying: "Initiating an attack on North Korea to simply prevent them from crossing yet another technological line, which they may already have crossed, is really a case of starting a war to prevent a war." He also said that the Trump administration is considering a retaliatory attack or preemptive attack

- [Prime minister's schedule on Sept. 7–8, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [DP Maehara picks Tsujimoto as executive acting secretary-general](#) (Mainichi)
- [Study group signals LDP Diet members deserting Abe; more may follow](#) (AERA)
- [LDP chief Nikai's "rage" prevents lawmakers from joining study group meeting](#) (Sankei)
- [LDP's Komura desires to propose constitutional revision before Lower House dissolution](#) (Yomiuri)
- [DP mends ties with labor group Rengo](#) (Asahi)
- [Deputy CCS Sugita aims to give his post to cabinet intel chief Kitamura](#) (Sentaku)
- [Issue of allowing return of LDP rebels could trigger fallout between Koizumi and Nikai](#) (Sentaku)
- [Defeats in three by-elections could lead to Abe's lightning resignation](#) (Shukan Gendai)

ECONOMY

- [Japan to offer manufacturing, trade know-how to ASEAN](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan aims to more than quadruple rice exports in 2019](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Seven-Eleven Japan to school Vietnamese interns in the way of the 'conbini'](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [60% of employees report work stress, 2016 MHLW survey](#) (Nikkei)

SCIENCE

- [Tokyo Bar Assn focusing on legal professionals for AI, space](#) (Jiji Press)
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