
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, November 1, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that a special Diet session will be held today and Prime Minister Abe's fourth cabinet will be launched this afternoon. Most commercial networks gave top play to reports on the 27-year-old man who was arrested on suspicion of killing and dismembering nine people. TBS led with a report on the terrorist attack in New York.

INTERNATIONAL

President Trump expresses hope to advance U.S. priorities in Asia

NHK reported this morning that President Trump said during a meeting held at the White House on Tuesday that he will be visiting Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines this month, and expressed hope to advance U.S. priorities. The President was quoted as saying: "In a few days, I will be traveling to Asia to advance America's economic and national security priorities." The network said President Trump is expected to discuss with his counterparts measures to deal with North Korea's continued nuclear and missile development and exchange views on ways to realize fair trade based on the "America First" policy. The President also reportedly expressed his intention to strengthen ties with the Philippines, saying that the nation sits in "an important strategic location."

The network also reported that a senior USG official commented at a press conference on the President's visit to Japan, quoting him as saying: "The President will probably discuss how the U.S. and Japan can cooperate to promote fair and open trade and investment in the Indo-Pacific region."

President Trump moved by story of Japanese abductees

NHK reported this morning that an unnamed senior White House official told a news conference on

Tuesday that President Trump expressed strong interest in the situation of the Japanese abductees and was apparently moved when he was briefed by a senior USG official who met with families of the Japanese abductees in Washington in September. The White House official reportedly told the press that this briefing led to the President's comment on the abduction of a 13-year-old Japanese girl referring to Megumi Yokota in his address to the United Nations in September and his planned meeting with the families of the abductees during his visit to Japan starting on Sunday. The official reportedly added that the meeting will provide a good opportunity for the President to speak directly with victims of the North Korean regime. Concerning the President's trip to South Korea after Japan, the White House official said that the U.S. leader will not visit the DMZ due to time constraints.

- [Japan welcomes mending of China-S. Korea ties amid N. Korea threat](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Conduct diplomacy to contain China's ambition as a "maritime power"](#) (Sankei)
- [FOCUS: New China Politburo panel member attracts hopes from Japan](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Abe, Macron affirm coordination in stepping up pressure on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [New ROK envoy to Japan keen to improve bilateral ties](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan, Russia to form task force on joint business on disputed isles](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Strange tales of Tsushima \(Part 2\): China driving spree of real estate buying spree](#) (Sankei)
- [Frustrated with trying to anticipate America's wishes, Vice-Minister Sugiyama lets slip MOFA's true feelings](#) (THEMIS)

SECURITY

Security tightened at Haneda Airport ahead of President Trump's visit

NHK reported this morning that ahead of President Trump's three-day visit to Japan on Nov. 5-7, tighter security measures are being enforced at Tokyo's Haneda Airport. The airport, used by some 220,000 people a day, began on Tuesday locking 1,100 coin lockers after checking inside each one. The airport plans to step up security by increasing the number of security guards and removing trash cans.

Female police unit established ahead of First Lady's arrival in Japan

NTV and TV Asahi reported at noon that the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) held a kickoff ceremony this morning for about 1,500 riot police officers who will be deployed for President Trump's visit. TV Asahi said the MPD will mobilize more than 10,000 police officers for the visit by

President Trump and the First Lady to Japan from Nov. 5 to 7, adding that it has also established a new unit composed of female officers in order to protect the First Lady and other female VIPs. A female police officer was quoted as saying: "Our job is to check for suspicious objects and people where female VIPS visit.... We would like to use our female intuition and perspective to effectively maintain security."

Meanwhile, Fuji TV reported that MPD is asking hotels for cooperation in preventing terrorism, showing a police officer asking a hotel manager to notify the police if anyone makes a reservation for several days during the President's visit. The network said police are also asking car rental agencies to be on alert and drugstores to notify the police if anyone tries to buy a large volume of chemical agents.

- [Traffic restrictions to be imposed on Metropolitan Expressway during U.S. presidential visit](#) (Sankei)
- [SCJ President Juichi Yamagiwa is "critical of MOD," but not everyone is](#) (THEMIS)

ECONOMY

U.S. Meat Export Federation chief says no major progress expected on FTA

Jiji Press reported from Chicago that U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) CEO Seng held a press conference over the phone on Tuesday, during which he projected that there will be no major progress on a bilateral FTA at the upcoming U.S.-Japan summit on Nov. 6 because it is a low priority for Japan. Jiji said that the USMEF is strongly calling on the government to enter bilateral FTA negotiations with Japan, given that U.S. exports of beef and pork to Japan will be at a disadvantage compared with Australia and other nations due to the U.S. withdrawal from the TPP. According to Jiji, Seng analyzed that the Abe administration will prioritize the TPP for 11 nations and the EPA with the EU, and that a U.S.-Japan FTA will take fourth place.

Promoting the "nighttime economy" – Japan's new tourism strategy

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported that although Japan ranks 16th in the world in the number of foreign visitors, it ranks 44th in the amount of consumption by foreign visitors. The government is reportedly looking at the so-called night-time economy as a way to boost consumption by foreign tourists. The program pointed out that while shops, museums, entertainment facilities, and transportation services in many countries are open until late at night, most shops in Japan close at 8 p.m. Although entertainment accounts for nearly 10% of foreign visitors' spending in nations like the U.S., France, and Germany, it only accounts for about 1% in Japan. The program reported on ongoing efforts to promote the "night-time economy" in Japan.

- [Japan-U.S. FTA low priority for Trump during Japan visit: U.S. expert](#) (Asahi)

- [MOF wants review of consumption tax revenue distribution rules](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan takes 34th place in World Bank's "ease of doing business" ranking](#) (Nikkei)
- [METI to work with trading firms to help promote food exports by small, medium enterprises](#) (Nikkei)
- [33 businesses to join gov't project to boost Japan rice exports](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Plans underway to turn Yokohama into a LNG supply base](#) (Shukan Ekonomisuto)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 31, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe re-elected as Japan PM after election victory](#) (Jiji)
- [CDPJ elects Kaieda as supreme adviser](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Amari to be picked to lead LDP headquarters for administrative reform promotion](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP unveils Line stickers featuring Abe in apparent bid to appeal to women voters](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Takako Suzuki and three others join LDP's Nukaga faction](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Yuriko Koike](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Seiji Maehara](#) (Asahi)

SOCIETY

- [Column: Get rid of "middle class mentality" in dealing with child poverty](#) (Mainichi)