
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, November 8, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TBS gave top play to reports that President Trump delivered a speech at the South Korean parliament today, during which he called on the international community to maximize pressure on North Korea by saying that the nuclear threat of the rogue nation cannot be tolerated and that responsible nations must isolate North Korea's barbaric regime. NHK also reported that although the President was planning to make a surprise visit to the DMZ this morning, the trip was cancelled due to bad weather. Most commercial networks led with reports that a former SDF member has barricaded himself inside his apartment with a gun in Kitakyushu.

INTERNATIONAL

DM Onodera says no concrete discussions held with ROK on evacuation of Japanese nationals

NTV reported online that Defense Minister Onodera appeared on a BS program and disclosed that no concrete discussions have been held with South Korea on how to evacuate Japanese nationals during a contingency on the Korean Peninsula. Onodera was quoted as saying: "We are always communicating with the U.S. on the issue of evacuating Japanese nationals....We cannot openly hold discussions based on the assumption that a contingency will occur." The network said the defense minister disclosed that discussions with South Korea over the issue have not been held because "South Korea is more sensitive than Japan about the issue" and that if drills were to begin, "It would have a major impact on the South Korean economy." In addition, Onodera said that exhaustive diplomatic efforts will be made in the middle of November, and that if North Korea does not change its policy, tensions will rise. Onodera also expressed the view that President Trump will probably convey how serious he is to the Chinese side when he visits the nation.

Japan, Australian foreign ministers agree to maintain maritime order

NHK reported this morning that Foreign Minister Kono and his Australian counterpart Bishop met over dinner in Vietnam on Tuesday evening and confirmed their intention to maintain the maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region. The network said Kono conveyed to Bishop that Prime Minister Abe and President Trump agreed to enhance cooperation toward realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific region with China's maritime advancement in mind. According to the network, the two ministers also agreed to continue to work closely to maximize pressure on North Korea. The network said Kono also met with his Vietnamese counterpart Minh, adding that they agreed on the importance of the rule of law and freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific region and confirmed their intention to strengthen cooperation in maritime security.

- [China up next on Abe's diplomatic agenda](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Concerns voiced on lack of record keeping on Abe-Trump talks during golf game](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Commentary: Policy of pressure on North Korea is clearly at impasse](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Commentary: Inward-looking U.S. can't return to its former self](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, Korea parliamentarians' leagues to hold joint assembly in December](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan requests U.S. rescue of abductees in a North Korea contingency: CCS Suga](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Abe, Trump display strong alliance against N. Korea / Promote 'free and open Indo-Pacific' strategy](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Abe, Trump need to clarify solutions to N. Korea crisis](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Expert's view on Japan-U.S. summit: Waseda professor](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan mulls stricter penalties on soaring gold smuggling cases](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.N. Security Council reform is "long overdue": Japan envoy](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Shop selling Ivanka-brand goods sees rise in popularity](#) (NHK Online)
- [Yangon counts on Japanese sister city Fukuoka to fight flooding](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: Golf diplomacy](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

U.S., Japanese government finance institutions sign MOU on supporting infrastructure investment

NHK reported online that Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the USG's development finance institution, signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) at the Ambassador's Residence on Tuesday to promote infrastructure investment in Asia by Japanese and American companies. The network said that the three organizations will cooperate and help Japanese and American companies invest in infrastructure projects in developing nations in Asia and the Middle East. The network noted that President Trump and Prime Minister Abe agreed at their summit on Monday to promote bilateral cooperation in infrastructure investment in developing nations, quoting Ambassador Hagerty as saying at the signing ceremony: "We have gathered here today to create an economic cornerstone under the free and open Indo-Pacific strategy of President Trump and Prime Minister Abe." The network said that the move is aimed at increasing the presence of Japanese and American companies amid China's moves to create a "One Belt, One Road" economic zone and increase its influence in Asia.

- [Japan, Vietnam agree to cooperate toward TPP deal without U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to abolish tariffs on 94% of EU imports in EPA with Europe](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Interview: Abe adviser wants Kuroda to stay as BOJ chief](#) (Jiji Press)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 7, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ruling parties propose that PM Abe deliver policy speech to Diet on Nov. 17](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP in bind with opposition parties at loggerheads](#) (Mainichi)
- [Former UK PM advised Japanese Lower House delegation on referendums](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe resumes work to encircle N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [LDP resumes efforts to draft constitutional revision proposals within 2017](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Former farm minister Nishikawa to be named special adviser to the cabinet](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP names Takaichi, Amari, Moriyama as headquarters chiefs](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Komeito leader pessimistic about ruling party talks on constitutional amendment](#) (Mainichi)
- [CDPJ and Party of Hope set up separate investigation teams for Kake and Moritomo issues](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP, Ishin to cooperate in submitting gambling addiction prevention bill](#) (Asahi)
- [Komeito irked by LDP, Ishin cooperation on gambling addiction prevention bill](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Aso blasted for fear-mongering over warning of 'armed refugees'](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

SCIENCE

- [Japan's lead in the race for 'regenerative medicine' faces new threats](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan faces big hurdles in commercializing iPS cell products](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japanese astronaut Noguchi to join ISS mission again from 2019](#) (Kyodo News)

EDUCATION

- [31% of high schools fail to disclose selection criteria for scholarship applicants](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [MEXT to support regional universities become world-class research centers](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

Details of Zama serial killer unfold

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the horrifying incident in Zama, Kanagawa, last week, in which the dismembered bodies of nine people were found in the apartment of a 27-year-old man. The suspect allegedly killed nine people over the course of two months, targeting young women who had expressed a desire to commit suicide on social media. The program interviewed a woman in her 20s who got in touch with the suspect through Twitter and was about to visit his apartment on the day he was arrested. She explained that the suspect seemed "nice" and listened to her problems. The program pointed out that social media is often used by men to target teenage girls for sexual and other purposes.

- ["Unconscious" bias seen as challenge in tapping female potential](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Japan catering to rising trend in solo overseas tours](#) (The Japan Times)



Okinawa governor expresses dissatisfaction with U.S.-Japan summit

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on remarks made to the press on Tuesday by Okinawa Governor Onaga concerning the summit meeting between President Trump and Prime Minister Abe on Monday. Okinawa Times wrote that Onaga expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of reference to the Okinawa base issues at a joint press conference by the two leaders by saying that no consideration was given to Okinawa despite its support for the security of Japan since the end of WWII. The governor also expressed his displeasure by saying it is regrettable that the U.S. and Japanese governments confirmed that Henoko is the only option for Futenma relocation. Okinawa Times wrote that the governor commented on the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, which provides the legal basis for U.S. forces' stationing in Okinawa, by saying that although the treaty is supposed to support cooperation between the two nations based on their shared values such as freedom, human rights, and democracy, it gives no consideration to Okinawa. Onaga added that the security arrangements between the U.S. and Japan are being maintained by imposing an excessive base-hosting burden on Okinawa and this could lead to serious problems in the future.

