
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, November 13, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report on a powerful earthquake that struck the border of Iran and Iraq on Sunday, killing at least 135 people and injuring about 1,400. NTV gave top play a report on the start of the two-day ASEAN summit in the Philippines today, saying that North Korea will be a major topic. TBS, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi led with reports that a minibus carrying about 20 passengers fell off a cliff in Izumisano, Osaka, this morning, injuring several people.

INTERNATIONAL

Experts discuss President Trump's visit to China

Six experts exchanged views about President Trump's visit to China last week during NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show. The panelists included former Ambassador to the U.S. Ichiro Fujisaki, former Ambassador to China Yuji Miyamoto, Hosei University Professor Satoru Mori, Tokyo University Professor Akio Takahara, Sojitz Research Institute Chief Economist Tatsuhiko Yoshizaki, and Chief Researcher at Fujitsu Research Institute Ka Ryu. The discussants agreed that President Xi was very successful in pleasing President Trump by announcing more than \$250 billion in deals between the two countries across industries and demonstrating at home and abroad his status vis-à-vis the U.S. president. However, the panelists suspected that no details about the trade deals or how to step up pressure on North Korea were discussed at the meeting between the two leaders. Mori said the South China Sea was not apparently taken up at the U.S.-China summit meeting, and Fujisaki and Miyamoto stated that it was regrettable that President Trump did not refer to human rights issues in China.

Concerning Prime Minister Abe's bilateral meeting with President Xi on Saturday in Vietnam, the panelists welcomed it as a positive step toward improving the ties between Japan and China. Yoshizaki added that Japan, China, and South Korea should promote discussions on their trilateral FTA.

The Paradise Papers

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on the Paradise Papers, which revealed how politicians, multinationals, celebrities, and high-net-worth individuals, including many Japanese, use complex structures to protect their cash from higher taxes. The program said NHK staff examined the papers together with other foreign media, adding that they exposed ties between Russia and Commerce Secretary Ross. The program also reported on the finding that many people, including celebrities and athletes, avoid paying value added tax by buying jets on the Isle of Man.

Abe, Xi take step toward rapprochement

All Sunday morning papers reported on the summit held on Saturday between Prime Minister Abe and President Xi on the sidelines of the APEC Summit in Vietnam. Asahi wrote that the two leaders, who have both cemented their grip on power recently, agreed to accelerate moves to improve bilateral relations. President Xi reportedly said that the meeting represented a new beginning for Japan-China relations. The two leaders also agreed to work closely toward the complete implementation of the UNSC resolutions against North Korea and to hold a trilateral summit between Japan, China, and South Korea in Tokyo before the end of this year. The dailies also reported that PM Abe proposed the idea of reciprocal visits next year to mark the 40th anniversary of the Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty. President Xi reportedly responded by saying that he approves of high-level mutual visits.

- [Abe, Trump, Turnbull meet to talk N. Korea on ASEAN sidelines](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of Japan-China summit on Nov. 11](#) (Yomiuri)
- [People's Daily warms to Abe](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gist of Japan-Russia summit on Nov. 10](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gist of PM Abe's remarks to reporters on Japan-Russia summit, TPP on Nov. 10](#) (Sankei)
- [Abe, Putin keep ball rolling on economic deal for disputed islands](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Putin links peace treaty to Japan's alliances but agrees to follow through on North sanctions](#) (The Japan Times)

- [Abe, Putin to spur talks on economic projects](#) (The Japan News)
- [Can 'America first' thinking restore US leadership in Asia?](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [South Korea balks at joining US-Japanese 'Indo-Pacific' push](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [U.S.-China summit indicates military option against North Korea less likely: expert](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Trump's ability to realize strategy for Asia to be put to the test](#) (The Japan News)
- [Trump's Asia tour expands coverage of Japan-U.S. alliance to "Indo-Pacific"](#) (Sankei)
- [Commentary: Trump's foreign policy close to the conservative mainstream](#) (Sankei)
- [Trump urges Abe to produce tangible results on U.S. trade deficit soon](#) (Kyodo News)
- [FOCUS: Despite TPP agreement, Japan under pressure to make FTA deal with U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Suga rebuts criticism of Japan's contribution to women's fund](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kono to miss ASEM foreign ministers' meeting](#) (Yomiuri)
- [PM's special advisor Sonoura to travel to Middle East](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Trump, Xi meeting can't hide gap in their sense of crisis over N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Trump-Xi 'friendly' summit ignored Asia's key concerns](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Complete unity needed in global efforts to isolate N. Korean regime](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Trump's speech in South Korea sends strong warning to North](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan names new ambassadors to San Marino, Malta, Montenegro](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [TPP nations reignite multilateral trade hopes as Trump looks on](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Broad TPP agreement finally announced](#) (The Japan News)
- [Canada reluctant to join TPP on account of U.S. administration](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Japan must push multilateralism after TPP agreed on without U.S.](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [The reworked TPP deal worth total GDP of 1,200 trillion yen](#) (Yomiuri)
- [‘TPP 11’ nations reach agreement in principle, to take effect by 2019](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [GOJ appoints LDP heavyweights to dispel farmers’ concerns over TPP agreement](#) (Sankei)
- [EU trade chief reconfirms plans for EPA with Japan by Christmas](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Bidding begins for new Japan-backed port development in Indonesia](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe’s ruling party mulls expanding tax breaks for pay raises](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [TEPCO starts to install fuel-removing device at Fukushima N-plant](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Keidanren’s revised corporate behavior charter emphasizes diversity](#) (Sankei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on Nov. 12, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on Nov. 11, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on Nov. 10, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on Nov. 9, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kake institution, linked to Abe, gets nod to open faculty next year](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [LDP’s bid to trim opposition questions in Diet rejected by rival](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Japanese foreign minister to visit Bangladesh over Rohingya crisis](#) (Kyodo News)

OPINION POLLS

Public support for Abe cabinet improves

TBS reported at noon on the results of its weekend opinion poll, which found that public approval for the Abe cabinet rose to 53.1%, up 4.4 points from last month, exceeding the disapproval rate of 45.8% for the first time in five months. When asked whether they would approve of Prime Minister Abe serving a third term as LDP president, 36% of the respondents expressed support and 54% did not. Support for the LDP was 35.6%, up 2.8 points, followed by the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan at 11%.

Fuji TV also reported on the results of its weekend survey, saying that public support for the Abe cabinet rose 5.2 points from last month to 47.7%, while nonsupport fell 3.9 points to 42.4%. When asked whether Abe should be reelected as the LDP president next fall, 41.5% said he should and 51.9% felt otherwise. Furthermore, 63.2% welcomed the fact that President Trump and PM Abe agreed at the U.S.-Japan summit to maximize pressure on North Korea, while 28.2% did not. Only 20.9% said they have high hopes for the Party of Hope and 73.6% said they don't. Regarding Tokyo Governor Koike, 17.1% said she should stay on as the party representative, while 77.6% said she should focus on her gubernatorial duties. Meanwhile, 53.1% said they have high hopes for the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, while 42.1% said they don't. However, only 16.3% said the CDPJ will be able to take over the reins of government, while 74.5% felt otherwise.

SOCIETY

- [Kawasaki issues Japan's 1st guidelines on public facility use based on risk of hate speech](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Hours of terrestrial TV coverage of Lower House election](#) (Mainichi)

SECURITY

U.S. sailor arrested on suspicion of auto theft

TBS reported at noon that a U.S. sailor belonging to Sasebo base was arrested in Takeo, Saga, early this morning on suspicion of stealing a car from a convenience store parking lot. After taking the car, the sailor reportedly struck a pole at the entrance of the parking lot. The blood alcohol level of the sailor was found to be above the limit and the sailor refused to speak to the police.

- [Gov't to hasten Okinawa base construction with large rock delivery](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Akita, Yamaguchi to get Aegis Ashore / GSDF involvement expected to strengthen missile defense](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gov't says preparations being made for evacuating citizens from South Korea](#) (Yomiuri)

Defense Ministry rocked by Osprey accident rate

Sunday's Okinawa Times wrote that Defense Ministry officials were shocked by the accident rate for the MV-22 in the U.S. fiscal year ending in September of 3.27 per 100,000 flight hours, since they had stressed the Osprey's safety to Okinawa and other local governments by saying that its accident rate was lower than those of other Marine aircraft. The article explained that concern about the Osprey's safety record is growing not only in Okinawa but also in other parts of Japan, including Hokkaido, where the Marines are expected to fly the aircraft for training and other purposes. The ministry is also worried about the possibility of the planned procurement of the tilt-rotor aircraft for the GSDF being affected adversely if local governments lose confidence in the ministry's assurances of the Osprey's safety.
