

---

The logo for Japan Media Highlights (JMH) features the letters 'JMH' in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a black square. To the right of the square, the words 'JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked in two lines.

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, November 14, 2017

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact [TokyoMATT@state.gov](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

All TV networks led with reports that grand champion sumo wrestler Harumafuji allegedly injured a fellow wrestler by hitting him with a beer bottle last month.

#### ECONOMY

##### Commerce chief says Japan is “more protectionist than America”

NHK reported on remarks made by Commerce Secretary Ross at a business conference in Washington on Monday in which he called for bilateral trade talks with Japan. The network aired video of the Secretary saying: “Japan and other Asian countries routinely espouse free trade rhetoric but are far more protectionist than the U.S.” While dismissing criticism of the Trump administration for advocating a protectionist trade policy, the commerce official took issue with nontariff barriers in Japan’s auto sector.

Newspapers filed similar stories, taking up his separate remark that autos account for a considerable portion of the U.S. trade deficit with Japan. With this statement, the Secretary was apparently urging Japanese automakers to reduce their exports from Japan and Mexico and increase production in America.

- [U.S. commerce chief urges Japan carmakers to cut exports](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: New TPP pact should serve as basis for rebuilding free trade](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Conclusion of new TPP deal could forestall U.S. protectionist](#)

[pressure](#) (The Japan News)

- [National debt hits record \1.08 quad.](#) (The Japan News)
- [NTT unit to buy American IT services provider](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Las Vegas-based Caesars pitches IR design concepts to Tomakomai, Osaka](#) (Nikkei)

## INTERNATIONAL

- [Abe, Li hail improved Japan-China ties, commit to do more](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of Japan-China summit on Nov. 13](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Southeast Asian nations cautious about Trump's offer to mediate for South China Sea issues](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Ex-S. Korean envoy's detention won't affect ties with Japan: Kono](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Trump fails to present concrete vision at U.S.-ASEAN summit](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe seeks ASEAN's aid to check Chinese expansion](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Osaka may sever San Francisco sister city ties within the year: mayor](#) (Sankei)
- [Abe asks Duterte to take strong stance on N. Korea at ASEAN](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe, Xi agree to make "new start" toward improved bilateral ties](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe, Putin agree to strictly implement U.N. sanctions on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Utilize stable administration to promote territorial talks with Russia](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Trump-Xi meeting](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Trump-Xi meeting](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: President Trump's Asia trip](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## POLITICS

- [Tokyo Gov. Koike to resign as opposition party leader: sources](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 13, 2017](#) (Nikkei)

- [Vet school at center of Abe favoritism scandal gets final OK to open](#) (Jiji)
- [LDP frustrated by Kantei-led politics](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe's ruling party mulls expanding tax breaks for pay raises](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

#### OPINION POLLS

- [67% say Trump's visit a success; cabinet support rises to 47%, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Sankei Shimbun](#) (Sankei)
- [55% 'oppose' LDP proposal for cutting Diet question hours allocated to opposition, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)
- [Spot opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)

#### EDUCATION

- [Young Japanese losing interest in studying in U.S.](#) (TV / Social media)

#### SOCIETY

##### **Social media users increasingly fall prey to cyberbullying**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" took up the rapid spread of cyber harassment, stressing that users of social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram can easily become engaged in hostile and insulting interactions with other Internet users on such public forums as discussion boards and chat rooms. The program reported on several victims, one of whom committed suicide in the face of relentless Internet bashing. Cyberbullies react to messages and images posted by unknown social media users, and harm, humiliate, and intimidate them by posting offensive and nasty messages sometimes accompanied by unsubstantiated information about the victims.

Cyber harassment has reportedly increased as online news aggregators gather popular stories for a wider audience often without verifying the facts. Many cyberbullies are good at unmasking the identities of social media users and will reveal their names, addresses, phone numbers and other personal information without a moment's hesitation. "By participating in bashing SNS users on the Internet, I am able to experience and confirm the kind of bonds with other people that I can't enjoy in real life," said one cyberbully. "I don't think I'm doing a bad thing." An expert stressed the importance of "netiquette education" to teach Internet users appropriate and courteous online

conduct. He also called for legislation to hold malicious Internet users accountable for cyber harassment.

## SECURITY

### **U.S. military facility in Okinawa being upgraded for F-35 training**

NHK reported online that construction work has begun at Ie Jima Auxiliary Airfield in Okinawa to make the runway surface more resistant to the extremely high heat emitted by jet planes, projecting that the local government and people will react strongly to the apparent enhancement of base functions there. According to a U.S. military source, a special type of concrete will be used so that the F-35s can use the facility for training in the future. The report added that the Marine Corps have been renovating training facilities at the base since last August.

- [Gov't steps up U.S. base construction amid opposition](#) (Kyodo News)
- [South Korea rejected Japan involvement in joint US military drills](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Gist of meeting between Amb. Hagerty, Okinawa governor on Nov. 13](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)