
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, November 17, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NTV and TV Asahi led with reports that the Tottori police are planning to question sumo grand champion Harumfuji on a voluntary basis as early as this afternoon regarding an alleged assault case

INTERNATIONAL

Assistant secretary of defense nominee says DPRK is pressing issue

NHK reported this morning that Randall Schriver, who was nominated as the next assistant secretary of defense for Asia and Pacific affairs, said at a congressional hearing on Thursday that he will work on the pressing issue of North Korea's nuclear and missile development and expressed the view that a solution should be achieved through diplomatic means.

The network said Schriver is a close aide of pro-Japan former Deputy Secretary of State Armitage and is also known as a China expert. He was quoted as saying: "We need to get out of that binary trap of we either go to war and have a military conflict or treat North Korea as a nuclear state." On a possible dialogue with North Korea, he reportedly said that it must be a concrete dialogue toward denuclearization. Meanwhile, the network said Schriver expressed strong concern about the rise of China, adding that he pointed out the need to promote measures to ensure American superiority under a long-term strategy and stressed the focus should be on a response to China.

Sudan to sever ties with DPRK

NHK reported at noon that the State Department released a statement on Thursday saying that the Sudanese Foreign Ministry formally announced Sudan's commitment to sever all trade and military

ties with North Korea following meetings between visiting Deputy Secretary of State Sullivan and senior Sudanese government officials in Sudan. The network said the USG has been criticizing Sudan for importing weapons from North Korea, adding that a UNSC expert panel also pointed out in its report released in March that North Korean missiles were sold to Sudanese companies. According to the network, the State Department welcomed the Government of Sudan's pledge and called on Sudan to fully implement its commitment. The DOS also reportedly called for international cooperation, saying: "Isolating the North Korean regime is a top priority for the United States."

President Trump to announce next week whether DPRK will be put on terror sponsor list

NHK reported at noon that White House Press Secretary Sanders told reporters on Thursday that President Trump will announce early next week whether or not he will put North Korea back on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism. The network said while the Bush administration removed North Korea from the list of state sponsors of terrorism in 2008, there are growing calls from Congress to put the nation back on the list following such incidents as the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's brother, Kim Jong Nam. The network said the DPRK is likely to react sharply if it is put back on the list.

GOJ disappointed with President's tour of China

TV-Asahi "Hodo Station" took up President Trump's remarks on Wednesday proclaiming the success of his recent trip to East Asia. Regular commentator former Kyodo News managing editor Goto claimed that the GOJ was discouraged by the U.S. leader's behavior in China and the remainder of his trip since from a Japanese perspective, the President did not follow through with the promise he made in Tokyo for the United States to apply maximum pressure on North Korea. The Abe administration was particularly disappointed by the fact that the President did not make a decision on putting North Korea back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism while he was travelling in the region. Goto said the President appeared to shift into "businessman" mode after arriving in Beijing.

- [Trump watching whether Xi toughens on North Korea as promised](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan to pay dues again as UNESCO signals reform](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan to scrutinize U.N. recommendation on "comfort women"](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Student nuclear disarmament speech canceled due to Chinese pressure: gov't sources](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, China, Germany, Sweden ministers to meet in Bangladesh](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Exclusive interview with a Workers Party of Korea senior member: “We are ready for war”](#) (Shukan Bunshun)
- [Hong Kong cargo ship likely breached Japan’s N. Korea sanctions](#) (Kyodo News)
- [INSIGHTS into the WORLD / Japan should join AIIB, help Asia-wide growth](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

- [Leading minpaku service Airbnb under investigation for antimonopoly law violations](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Leverage the TPP11 to fight protectionism](#) (Sankei)
- [Top business lobby chooses Hitachi chairman as next chief](#) (The Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Gist of Abe’s policy speech to Diet](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe vows to promote aggressive diplomacy, raise pressure on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: The opposition goes fishing](#) (Sankei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on Nov. 16, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP abandons striking intraparty consensus on Constitution before New Year](#) (The Mainichi)
- [LDP constitutional revision headquarters agree on amending Articles 47, 92](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP’s envisioned constitutional revision schedule](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Kibo to discuss right of self-defense in constitution](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Labor group Rengo taking “equidistant” policy toward DP, CDPJ, Kibo](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Kibo, DP secretaries general agree to meet once a week](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Outline of key policies for “revolution in human resources development”](#) (Yomiuri)

SCIENCE

Interview with former Vice President Al Gore

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on its interview with former Vice President Al Gore, who received a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to fight climate change. The program said that 10 years after the release of the film "An Inconvenient Truth," a sequel called "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth To Power" will be released in Japan on Friday. The new film depicts Gore's fight against global warming, including efforts to help conclude the historic Paris Agreement and President Trump's announcement of the U.S. withdrawal. Gore said during the interview that the accord is attainable since renewable energy costs are dropping and more efficient technologies are being developed. On President Trump's announcement of the U.S. withdrawal, he said that he was happy to see all other nations pledging to uphold the Paris accord and U.S. states such as California and New York as well as major U.S. companies said they will adhere to the Paris Agreement regardless of the President's decision. He said that the U.S. is still within the framework of the accord, adding that the U.S. will reduce greenhouse gas emissions beyond the level pledged in the accord. He also said that support for measures to combat global warming is increasing in the U.S. With regard to Japan, he said it should stop subsidizing power generation using fossil fuels such as coal.

- [Japanese institute will try to extract precious metal from nuclear waste](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [GOJ develops new safety standards for rocket, satellite launches](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)

SOCIETY

- [Japanese young people helped LDP win election](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [For Japanese youths, LDP is "liberal" in name and reality](#) (Toyo Keizai)
- ["Premium Friday" proves no inducement to leave the office early](#) (Mainichi)
- [Quest for perfect Instagram shots gives economy a boost](#) (Nikkei, Sankei)

SECURITY

- [U.S. cybersecurity firm confirms Chinese hacking group's state-sponsored cyber espionage activities](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't examines how to block N. Korean agents in crisis](#) (The Japan News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Top Marine in Okinawa comments on SDF deployment, Osprey flights

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times took up a press conference by Okinawa Area Coordinator Nicholson held at Camp Courtney on Thursday, during which he disclosed that a Japanese version of a USMC unit will probably be deployed at a U.S. military facility in the island prefecture in the future, possibly at Camp Schwab or Camp Hansen. He expressed hope for the joint use of U.S. installations in Okinawa by the SDF.

The Marine general commented on the impact on local communities of intensive training by saying that he is sorry for the loud noise and other inconveniences caused by military aircraft while also justifying the need for continued training. “It is important to maintain readiness by conducting rigorous training day and night in order to ensure regional peace and stability,” he said. Lt. Gen. Nicholson also stressed that the U.S. military is careful to minimize the impact, explaining that when operating the MV-22 Ospreys in Okinawa, it tries to fly them over the ocean as much as possible. “They try to avoid flying over residential areas in accordance with the flight routes agreed upon between the U.S. and Japan,” he said. Regarding the sharp increase in the Osprey's accident rate, the general simply stated that it is hard to tell whether it can be attributed to human error or mechanical failure.

- [GOJ nervous about Okinawa's plan to expand environmental assessments](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [ConGen Naha to offer full scholarships for studying in the U.S.](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)