
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, November 29, 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.

HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, TBS, and TV Asahi led with reports on North Korea's missile launch this morning. NTV and Fuji TV gave top play to reports that sumo grand champion Harumafuji will hold a press conference this afternoon to announce his retirement following his assault of a junior wrestler last month.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. expert says North Korea's missile could have reached anywhere on U.S. mainland

TBS reported that while the ballistic missile launched by North Korea this morning fell within Japan's EEZ after reaching an altitude of more than 4,000 km, U.S. military analyst David Wright said that if the missile was fired on a normal trajectory, it could have flown more than 13,000 km, meaning it could have struck anywhere on the U.S. mainland, including Washington D.C. Wright reportedly pointed out that fitting the missile with a lightweight mock warhead perhaps extended its range. Meanwhile, Japanese military commentator Osamu Eya said that North Korea could have fired an ICBM "Hwasong-14," which can reach the west coast of the U.S., for the first time in about four months.

President Trump, PM Abe confirm importance of China's role

NHK reported online that PM Abe held a telephone conference with President Trump from 6:35 am to about 6:55 am today at the Kantei following a ballistic missile launch by North Korea. According to NHK, the two leaders agreed on the importance of China playing a further role, and confirmed to further strengthen pressure on the North, including enhancing the capability to respond to the threat it poses. The network said the premier reportedly told the President: "North Korea fired a ballistic

missile, making it clear its persistence in continuing its nuclear and missile development. Although the missile did not fly over Japan, it reached the highest altitude, more than 4,000 km, and flew for about 50 minutes. I believe that it had the range of an ICBM." The premier also reportedly said that the missile launch is unacceptable and expressed hope that the U.S. and Japan, as well as the U.S., Japan, and South Korea unite and respond. He also reportedly gave high marks to the U.S.'s relisting North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism. According to NHK, President Trump expressed strong concern over the missile launch and stressed the need to further strengthen pressure. The network said this was the 17th telephone conference between the two leaders.

Assessing President Trump's North Korea policy through U.S.-Japan summits

"NHK Special" on Tuesday evening focused on President Trump's policy on North Korea, looking at the communication between President Trump and PM Abe on North Korea at bilateral meetings and in telephone conferences held more than 20 times. The program also interviewed key GOJ and USG officials, including PM Abe, DM Onodera, former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, and National Security Advisor McMaster. The program said it learned for the first time that the two leaders had in-depth discussions on North Korea at their first informal meeting in New York in November, adding that in fact the President has had great interest in the North Korean threat since long before he became the President. The program said the two leaders agreed at their summit in February to maximize pressure on North Korea to make the regime give up its nuclear development program. The program said when North Korea fired a mid-range ballistic missile on the day the two leaders were playing golf in Florida, the U.S. side was preparing for the President a statement that indicated a possible military option against the North, adding that the Japanese side, fearing a possible military conflict, asked the President not to read aloud the statement but to only express support for Japan.

The program also reported that the U.S. deployed the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson to the Korean Peninsula around the end of April following another North Korean provocation, increasing the danger of a military conflict. PM Abe said during an interview: "I trust the United States one hundred percent, and President Trump trusts me one hundred percent. I have no doubt that the U.S. would protect Japan if it were under attack since the President has conveyed to the world the message that the U.S. is with Japan one hundred percent." The premier once again expressed support for President Trump's policy to put all options on the table. The program also reported that the President intended to increase pressure on China by deploying the USS Carl Vinson near the Korean Peninsula, adding that both the President and PM Abe have successfully cooperated in tightening the noose around the North by talking to such leaders as President Putin and President Xi. PM Abe also was quoted as saying: "The United States is the only nation that will act together with Japan to protect the lives of the Japanese people as its ally. U.S. cooperation is essential in protecting Japan...I explained to the President our constitutional restrictions, and the

President is well aware of those restrictions. Enhancing our bilateral cooperation is conducive to protecting the lives of the people."

- [Gov't to help Japan, China firms in 'Belt and Road'](#) (The Japan News)
- [INTERVIEW/ William J. Perry: Diplomacy only viable option to deal with North Korean crisis](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Japan, U.S. to closely work with Seoul after N. Korea missile launch](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to tighten controls against ships that called in North Korea](#) (Sankei)

ECONOMY

- [Canada proposes holding TPP 11 ministerial at WTO ministerial meeting in December](#) (Sankei)
- [Companies with political clout not immune to data tampering scandal](#) (Tokyo Shimbun, Evening edition)
- [Toray's data fraud points to broader ills](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [CCS Suga calls on Toray to "make maximum efforts" to regain trust](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan, EU officials to meet next week, aim to close trade deal this yr](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Luxembourg deputy PM optimistic about final agreement on Japan-EU EPA](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Keidanren to back Abe's call for 3 pct pay hike](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan's tax revenue likely to hit highest in 27 years](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan requires new cooling system for boiling water reactors](#) (Jiji)
- [Monju reactor set for decommissioning lacks sodium removal method](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Fukui's push for reactor restarts reflects local economy's reliance on nuclear power](#) (The Japan Times)
- [American GMO crops: Japan's dependence on U.S. Corn Belt](#) (Sande Mainichi)
- [Ministry of Finance to maintain safeguard mechanism for beef next fiscal year](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

- [Meeting held to press for passage of bill to increase number of female lawmakers](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Finance Ministry to impose stiffer penalties on gold smuggling](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 28, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Nov. 28](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Preparations for Diet grilling on Moritomo cause unusual postponement of cabinet meeting](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Ex-state minister's gaffe lacks common sense shared by int'l community](#) (The Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [Interpreting public opinion polls and cabinet support rates](#) (Nikkei)

SECURITY

- [Kono to visit Okinawa from Fri. to discuss school plan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Okinawa assembly passes resolution to protest fatal car accident involving Marine](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe open to restricting non-Japanese land ownership near SDF bases](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Navigational control of Tokyo Bay to be consolidated in Yokohama](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Japan looking to join multilateral space war games in 2018](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Residents call on prefecture to revoke permission to use Oku port for Henoko construction

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times ran front-page reports saying that representatives of the 174 residents of the Oku district in Kunigami Village called on the Okinawa prefectural government on Tuesday to immediately revoke permission for use of Oku Port to transport materials for the ongoing bank protection work at Henoko. The residents insisted that the port's involvement in the construction work has a grave impact on the local community because the use of the port runs counter to the will of their community. The papers wrote that the prefectural government is caught in a predicament over the issue because the local residents are not convinced by the prefecture's explanation that it had no choice but to grant permission from a legal point of view. The papers also wrote that local residents are becoming increasingly distrustful of Governor Onaga, who has pledged to use every possible means to prevent a new base from being constructed at Henoko.

- [Okinawa assembly adopts protest resolution against fatal traffic accident involving Marine](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)

