
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, January 12, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters led with updates on a JR train that was stranded in Niigata due to heavy snowfall.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. determined to keep applying pressure on DPRK

NHK reported on a press briefing on Thursday by DOS Director of Policy Planning Brian Hook regarding the UN Command meeting on North Korea to be held in Vancouver next week, quoting him as saying that the goal of the ministerial is to provide a practical mechanism to exert continued pressure on the Kim regime. The official reportedly projected that such measures as enhanced inspections of ships carrying materials to North Korea will be discussed so as to prevent smuggling of the sanctioned items to the Kim dynasty. He added that the U.S. and its partners are committed to continuing the pressure campaign until Pyongyang clearly shows that it intends to abandon its nuclear program.

Abe urges South Korea to honor comfort women accord

NHK highlighted press remarks by Prime Minister Abe this morning dismissing ROK President Moon's call for Japan to take additional measures to alleviate the suffering of former comfort women. On Seoul's negative assessment of the 2015 comfort women agreement, the premier said: "The agreement is a commitment made between two nations. It is a universal principle in the international community that bilateral agreements are upheld. It is absolutely unacceptable that South Korea is unilaterally asking for additional actions." He added that the Japanese side has been implementing the promises it made in the pact in good faith, asking the Moon administration to do the same. Other

networks broadcast similar stories.

China demonstrates its enforcement of UN sanctions against DPRK

NHK reported that trade data released by Chinese customs authorities on Friday shows that imports of North Korean products declined by 30% in monetary terms last year from a year ago as a result of the UN ban on imports of DPRK coal, iron, and seafood. The broadcaster said Beijing is anxious to demonstrate that it has been enforcing relevant UN sanctions resolutions on North Korea.

- [Abe rejects Seoul's call for apology to "comfort women"](#) (Kyodo News)

Australian PM Turnbull to visit Japan next week

NHK reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga announced this morning that Australian Prime Minister Turnbull will visit Japan on Jan. 18 for talks with Prime Minister Abe. "Japan and Australia are special strategic partners that share basic values and strategic interests," said the government spokesman. "By inviting the Australian leader, we would like to further deepen this special strategic partnership that has been forged in a wide range of areas."

- [Australian PM Turnbull to visit Japan next week for talks with Abe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Chinese vessels' intrusion near Senkaku waters meant to show uncompromising stance](#) (Yomiuri)
- [North Korea illegally obtains virtual money](#) (Sankei)
- [FM Kono keen on meeting with ROK counterpart in Canada](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan foreign minister urges Suu Kyi to ensure Rohingya's safe return](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ex-SDF officer given suspended prison term for defacing comfort woman monument](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Editorial: S. Korean policy on 'comfort women' agreement hurting basis of deal](#) (The Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [JR Central to appoint Kaneko as new president](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Casino bill to face public backlash, questions from opposition](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Foreign tourists to Japan reach record high 28.7 mil. in 2017](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Japan looks to bring Okinawan liquor to the world](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cartoon: Koizumi the snake charmer](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

- [Gov't to strengthen surveillance against Chinese submarines in light of Senkaku intrusions](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan govt plane's part may have fallen off](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Information sharing to boost Aegis defense](#) (The Japan News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 11, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ruling bloc to propose allowing Abe to spend less time in Diet](#) (Jiji Press)
- [CCS Suga on Abe administration's domestic, foreign, economic policies](#) (Sande Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [80% of Japanese and Americans view "North Korea as a threat," NHK opinion poll in Japan and U.S.](#) (NHK)

SOCIETY

Physical restraints used widely at Japanese hospitals

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" took up the prevalent practice at the nation's hospitals of strapping patients with mental disorders into their beds with special equipment for the purpose of restraining them. Despite Health Ministry instructions to limit the use of this measure to the "bare minimum," the number of medical institutions that employ the practice has almost doubled in the past 10 years. Explaining that these types of restraints often cause serious harm to patients both physically and emotionally, the program warned that many people may be subject to such treatment in the future as the number of people with dementia is expected to top 7 million nationwide in 2025.

- [6.5% say they "have become better off," Bank of Japan survey](#) (Mainichi)
- [More than half of local gov't chiefs sign petition supporting anti-nuke treaty](#) (The Mainichi)



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