


JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, February 7, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and all commercial networks other than Fuji-TV led with reports on the record snowfall in Fukui Prefecture. Fuji-TV led with a report on the announcement that Princess Mako and her fiancée Kei Komuro will postpone their marriage until 2020.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE

- [Abe, Pence meet to confirm need for cooperation on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.S. Vice President Pence visits MOD, inspects PAC-3](#) (Mainichi, Online)
- [U.S. Second Lady Karen Pence visits Chiba City, meets with junior high school students](#) (Nikkei, Online)
- [Pence at Winter Games in Korea — sign of hope or a warning?](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

INTERNATIONAL

Japan lodges protest over Russian exercise in Northern Territories

NHK and Asahi reported online on remarks at the Diet earlier today by Foreign Minister Kono, who disclosed that the GOJ has filed a protest with Moscow over Russian military exercises that began in the Northern Territories on Tuesday. The cabinet minister said: “As they will lead to an arms buildup

by Russia, they are not compatible with the Japanese government's position on the islands."

Senior U.S. diplomat comments on DPRK's nuclear capabilities

Yomiuri and Nikkei took up remarks made in Geneva on Tuesday during a UN disarmament conference by U.S. Ambassador Robert Wood, who said that North Korea may be "only months away" from being able to strike the United States with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles. The USG official underscored that the DPRK poses an "urgent and unpredictable threat to the United States, its allies, and partners."

- [Survey of newspaper editorials on FM Kono's visit to China](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan protests Russian military drills on disputed isles](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Russia conducts military exercises in Northern Territories](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Kantei allegedly leaked information on secret U.S.-DPRK talks to foil soft line on North Korea](#) (Sentaku)
- [METI urges Japanese firms in South Korea to prepare for "early evacuation"](#) (Sentaku)
- [Editorial: Use NPR to examine global realities, reinforce deterrence against N-threats](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, Russia make scant progress in latest isles talks](#) (Kyodo News)
- [International Court of Justice judge Owada eyes resigning](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Special advisor to prime minister to visit Myanmar and Laos from Feb. 7](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

- [Japan ranks as 3rd-biggest country for U.S. trade deficit in 2017](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe hints at retaining BOJ Governor Kuroda](#) (Yomiuri)
- [MGM Resorts eager to launch business in Osaka](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan set to lift import ban on British beef this year](#) (Asahi)
- [Environment Ministry to tighten rules on legal certification of ivory tusks](#) (Asahi)
- [Abe, German president agree to implement Japan-EU trade pact soon](#) (Kyodo)

News)

SECURITY

U.S. Marines, JGSDF conduct joint amphibious training in California

Sankei reported that the "Iron Fist" joint exercise currently being conducted by the JGSDF and USMC at Camp Pendleton in California was opened to the press on Monday. The paper wrote that troops from the two militaries carried out simulated operations for island defense by mobilizing Ospreys and AAV-7 amphibious vehicles. Some 360 JGSDF members are reportedly participating in this year's exercise.

- [Editorial: Hurry to remove the dangers posed to residents by Futenma Air Station](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Incoming Nago mayor needs to ease residents' divide over base relocation](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Gov't concerned that SDF helicopter crash will affect Osprey deployment](#) (Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 6, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Feb. 6](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP's Nikai corners Abe into attending PyeongChang Olympics opening ceremony](#) (Sentaku)
- [DP aims to transition to a new "middle-of-the-road" party](#) (Yomiuri)

EDUCATION

- [Gov't OKs bill to limit univ. enrollments in central Tokyo](#) (Jiji Press)
- [How Japan can attract more students from overseas](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

Male infertility on the rise

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on the issue of male infertility, which is usually caused by low sperm count or poor sperm quality. Research data released last year showed that sperm counts have dropped by more than half in the last 40 years. The program discussed treatment for male infertility and ways to prevent it, such as quitting smoking.

- [Number of female presidents in Tokyo rises to 95,176](#) (Nikkei)
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