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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

**Afternoon Alert - Friday, February 23, 2018**

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## **HEADLINES**

### **Noon news**

NHK gave led with a report that two men were arrested after firing several shots in the direction of the gate of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) in Tokyo this morning. All commercial networks led with reports on the PyeongChang Olympics.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **FM Kono says the term “sex slaves” runs counter to comfort women agreement**

NHK reported on its website that Foreign Minister Kono criticized South Korea's Minister of Gender Equality and Family Chung Hyun-back for describing the comfort women as "sex slaves" during a session of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in Geneva on Thursday. Kono was quoted as telling reporters this morning: "We confirmed with South Korea in the Japan-ROK agreement on comfort women issue that we would address them as 'comfort women.' It is unacceptable and extremely regrettable that the South Korean delegation used the word 'sex slave'." He went on to say: "South Korea should acknowledge that the Japan-ROK agreement is a final and irreversible international promise and thoroughly implement it. Japan has been sincerely implementing the agreement and I expect the South Korean side to do the same."

### **Abe's aide gives speech in Washington warning against North Korea's charm offensive**

NHK reported that Prime Minister Abe's aide Sonoura delivered a speech in Washington on Thursday, during which he pointed out that it is important not to be blinded by North Korea's charm offensive and stressed the need to maximize pressure. He also reportedly stressed that nations should use every possible means to maximize pressure on North Korea, as confirmed by PM Abe and President Trump.

Concerning the TPP, Sonoura reportedly expressed hope for the U.S. to return to the agreement. In addition, Sonoura called for U.S. cooperation in implementing the "free and open Indo-Pacific strategy," proposed by PM Abe. On China, he said: "If it grows its economy by adhering to openness and transparency, it would be a plus for the world and I would welcome it." He also kept China's maritime advancement in check by saying: "We must say no to any attempt to change the status quo by force."

- [CCS Suga: "Don't be deceived by North Korea's smile diplomacy"](#) (Sankei)
- [WTO backs Japan complaint against S. Korea over Fukushima import ban](#) (Kyodo News)
- [S. Korea to appeal WTO ruling against import ban on Japanese seafood](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Turkey ends restrictions on Japanese food imports imposed after Fukushima nuclear accident](#) (Yomiuri)
- [NSC head Yachi to visit China soon to meet with Chinese state councilor](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Deal with China's Belt and Road Initiative on a case-by-case basis](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan to offer technologies to improve Russian manufacturing](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [IOC official: North, South Korea may form joint teams, march together at Tokyo Olympics](#) (Yomiuri)
- [North Korea's fishing boats classified into three types](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan to back Iwasawa in election for new ICJ judge](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan names new ambassadors to Namibia, Cyprus, Solomons](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

- [TPP's remaining members ease path for trade deal](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Plug loopholes in Japan's market to put a stop to illegal ivory trade](#) (The Japan News)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 22, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Feb. 22](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP bigwig Ibuki urges caution on Constitution](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Abe, Kishida woo junior lawmakers' support for LDP election, Ishiba focuses on local chapters](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Ishin "cannot agree" with LDP constitutional revision proposal on education](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opposition lawmakers find at least 117 errors in botched labor survey, as scandal over Abe's key work style reforms deepens](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Ruling LDP embraces even weaker anti-smoking bill ahead of Tokyo 2020](#) (The Japan Times)

## SOCIETY

### **American man arrested in Osaka in connection with missing woman**

NHK reported at noon that the police arrested an American man for the confinement of a woman in her 20s from Hyogo Prefecture, saying that police are searching for her. According to the network, the woman went missing on Feb. 15 after telling a friend she was going to meet a male

acquaintance in Osaka. The police reportedly learned that the woman became acquainted with an American man in his 20s through social media, and he had been staying for about a week at an apartment he was leasing in Higashinari, Osaka. Security camera footage reportedly showed the woman entering the apartment with the man, but not leaving it.

#### **SECURITY**

- [Former senior MSDF official says Izumo's conversion to aircraft carrier was considered before it was built](#) (Asahi)

#### **OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS**

- [Okinawa leader to visit U.S. next month](#) (Okinawa Times)
  - [Okinawa finds discrepancies between SOFAs in Europe, Japan](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)
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