
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, March 12, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters gave top play to reports saying that the names of Akie Abe and four politicians were deleted from documents on the sale of state-owned land to Moritomo Gakuen. The Finance Ministry is expected to present the results of its investigation into the documents to the Diet this afternoon.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan ready to finance IAEA inspections of DPRK nuclear facilities

Kyodo reported on Saturday that the GOJ is prepared to disburse some \$2.8 million to the IAEA should North Korea consent to IAEA inspections of its nuclear facilities following Kim Jong Un's alleged remarks to senior ROK officials expressing his willingness to denuclearize. By providing financial assistance, Tokyo is reportedly hoping to make sure that the international nuclear watchdog conducts inspections without fail as the first step toward achieving the denuclearization of North Korea.

- [Full text of Abe's comment on his teleconference with U.S. President Trump](#) (Sankei)
- [Ruling, opposition parties closely watch "denuclearization"](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan to offer over 300 mil. yen for North Korea nuclear inspections](#) (Kyodo News)
- [The situation on the Korean Peninsula: Worst case scenarios](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Before any talks, confirm Kim's intent to denuclearize / Trump must prepare for planned summit](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Demand steadfast denuclearization at U.S.-North Korea summit](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Complete denuclearization is non-negotiable](#) (Sankei)
- [North Korean art troupe attends NY Philharmonic's concert in Beijing](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Proposed U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Kin hope U.S.-N. Korea summit a chance for return of abductees](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Jordan agree to advance Middle East "peace corridor" project](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Sri Lanka president arrives in Japan for 6-day tour](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [TPP 11 accord may take effect this year](#) (Mainichi)
- [‘TPP 11’ emerges as bulwark against American protectionism](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov’t vows not to retaliate on U.S. tariffs](#) (The Japan News)
- [FOCUS: Trump’s steel tariffs put U.S. further away from TPP free trade deal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan gov’t, steel, aluminum industries “regret” Trump’s tariffs](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Japan, Europe should unite to prevent trade war](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

Tohoku leaders seek sustained GOJ assistance to rebuild after 3/11

The governors of Miyagi, Iwate, and Fukushima Prefectures appeared on NHK’s Nichiyo Toron Sunday talk show to discuss with Minister for Reconstruction Yoshino and a Sendai-based college professor the reconstruction of their communities devastated by the 3/11 triple disaster. The local leaders called for the central government to continue providing financial and other support to revitalize the region, underscoring that although seven years have passed, some local people are still struggling.

- [Prime minister’s schedule on March 9, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on March 10, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on March 11, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ministry altered land sale documents, removed name of Abe’s wife](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan’s Finance Ministry admits altering land sale documents](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Opposition after Aso to take responsibility for Moritomo document alteration](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Sagawa resignation won’t unravel Moritomo land sale allegations](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Moritomo Gakuen scandal](#) (Asahi)
- [Kishida opposes deletion of Paragraph 2 of Article 9 of Constitution](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Integrity of Abe administration back in focus as Sagawa resigns](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

SOCIETY

Mother and daughter try to overcome trauma of March 11

Saturday’s “NHK Special” reported on a mother and daughter in Kamaishi, Iwate, who lost three family members in the tsunami in 2011. The daughter, who was three at the time, was unable to attend school for about five years after the disaster due to the trauma she experienced. The mother still hasn’t visited the graves of her loved ones because she cannot acknowledge their deaths. The program showed how they went through counseling to overcome their trauma, and how the daughter realized that she had been concealing her feelings and avoiding crying since the disaster and that it was okay to express her feelings to others.

The reality of Tohoku reconstruction

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported that in the seven years that have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake, 32 trillion yen has been spent on the reconstruction of the disaster-hit region. The program said that while the GOJ views the reconstruction efforts in the tsunami-hit region as being in their final stage since the construction of permanent replacement housing is almost complete, it had not anticipated the current situation in which elderly people are becoming more isolated and populations are too small to sustain businesses because many families with young children are not returning to their hometowns. The program also reported on efforts by local municipalities to induce people to return.

- [Japan association allegedly ripped off pay from Vietnamese interns](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

- [Japan to join bid for Thai radar system contract](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Okinawa prefectural gov't rep has met with 688 U.S. gov't officials](#) (Okinawa Times)
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