



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, March 27, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most networks gave top play to reports on former Financial Bureau chief Sagawa's sworn testimony before the Diet this morning, saying that while Sagawa denied any involvement by Prime Minister Abe, Akie Abe, Finance Minister Aso, or Kantei officials in the doctoring of documents on the controversial sale of state-owned land to Moritomo Gakuen, he refused to explain how and why the documents were altered. TV Asahi led with a report that a train that might have been carrying North Korean leader Kim Jong Un or his sister arrived in Beijing on Monday.

## INTERNATIONAL

### GOJ collecting information on North Korean leader's possible visit to China

Concerning the arrival in Beijing on Monday of a train that appears to have been carrying North Korean leader Kim Jong Un or his sister, TV Asahi reported at noon that while no official announcement has been made about the visit yet, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters that the GOJ is collecting information. "The government is always very interested in North Korea's moves and is working to collect and analyze information," said Suga. A TV Asahi reporter said that the GOJ apparently believes that the person who visited Beijing is in fact Kim Jong Un. The network quoted a GOJ source as saying that the North Korean leader is probably visiting Beijing at this juncture "because North Korea is being cornered." The reporter also said a senior GOJ official reckons that North Korea wants to gauge to what extent it can make concessions in its nuclear and missile programs before the planned summit meetings with South Korea and the United States because it wants to maintain its regime. The reporter added that Japan is preparing to actively involve itself in the current diplomatic developments over North Korea through its summit with the U.S. next month and other activities.

- [Tight security continues in China as rumors swirl of Kim's visit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, China to agree on start of new liaison system](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan foreign minister Kono says he may attend NPT meeting](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Russia lifts Japan seafood ban adopted after Fukushima crisis](#) (Kyodo News)
- [North Korea admits another possible abduction victim "entered" the country](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## ECONOMY

- [Japan approves bills to ratify successor to TPP free trade pact](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Vietnam leader calls for U.S. to rejoin expanded TPP](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Make every effort to avert a trade war](#) (Asahi)
- [Nuclear power generation to remain "important power source" in 2030: gov't](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Commentary: Nuclear power plant construction in Britain: A bottomless swamp](#) (The Japan Times)
- [40% of Japanese firms plan to hire more graduates in FY2019, Kyodo News poll of 112 companies](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Opinion poll & results of Kyodo News survey of 112 major companies](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## EDUCATION

- [External English tests planned for univ. entrance](#) (NHK)

## SOCIETY

- [List of child porn purchasers helping Japanese police crackdown](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, U.S. remember war dead at Ioto](#) (NHK)

## POLITICS

- [Ex-Finance Ministry official denies Abe, wife ordered papers altered](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Prime minister's schedule on March 26, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe facing big hurdles in quest to push quickly with revisions](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: How can Abe administration restore public trust lost in Moritomo scandal?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Mumble time](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Tampering with Moritomo-related document](#) (Akahata)

## OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet support rate plummets by largest margin in history of second Abe cabinet as independents abandon Abe over Moritomo scandal, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Sum of cabinet approval and party support below 50 portends cabinet's demise](#) (Nikkei)

## SECURITY

- [Japan GSDF sees biggest shake-up amid N. Korea, China tensions](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: SDF needs to be restructured more flexibly](#) (Nikkei)

- [Large-scale evacuation drill scheduled for Americans in ROK](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't earmarks 10 billion yen for two missile projects in next fiscal year budget](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Family of woman slain by U.S. base civilian employee files for compensation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Facial recognition tech to make Olympic debut at 2020 Tokyo Games](#) (Kyodo News)

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- [FM Kono stresses “no problem” with the U.S. composition of the Japan-U.S. joint committee](#) (Okinawa Times, Online)
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