



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, March 28, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All broadcasters led with extensive reports on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's surprise visit to China and his first meeting with Chinese President Xi.

## INTERNATIONAL

### North Korea shows willingness to denuclearize

NHK reported that according to China's Xinhua News Agency, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un paid a four-day visit to China that concluded on March 28, during which he met with Chinese President Xi. According to the Chinese side, the North Korean leader expressed his commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and eagerness to hold summit talks with South Korea next month and the U.S. after that. The network said, however, that the North Korean announcement did not mention denuclearization.

According to the network, President Xi welcomed the positive changes seen on the Korean Peninsula since the beginning of this year and reiterated the Chinese government's position by saying: "Our goal remains achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, preserving peace and stability, and resolving issues through dialogue." Xi also reportedly said: "China will continue to play a constructive role in Korean Peninsula issues and work with other nations to ease tensions." In response, Kim reportedly said: "In accordance with the will of my grandfather, Kim Il Sung, and my father, Kim Jong Il, our position of dedicating all our efforts toward achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula remains unchanged." Kim also reportedly said: "We made a decision to shift the inter-Korean relationship to a relationship of reconciliation and cooperation. We would like to also hold dialogue and a summit with the United States." On the U.S. and South Korea, Kim reportedly said: "If they respond to our efforts, they will be able to take measures to achieve peace gradually and simultaneously, and resolve the issue of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." All

other networks carried similar reports.

- [Gist of talks between N. Korea's leader Kim, China's President Xi](#) (Kyodo News)
- [N. Korea's Kim vows denuclearization in his historic trip to China](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan repeats call for N. Korean denuclearization after Xi-Kim summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Commentary: DPRK wants China's support to ease UN sanctions](#) (Sankei)
- [Expert: Kim Jong Un seeks China's backing through surprise visit](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Expert: North Korean official's China visit a move linked to U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Amid tourism rise, Tsushima Island could play evacuation role if tensions flare with North Korea](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Panel forms "bridge-building" plan for Japan to take to NPT meeting](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

### **U.S., South Korea reach broad FTA agreement after renegotiation**

NHK reported this afternoon that a senior official of the Trump administration disclosed on Tuesday that as a result of renegotiation, the U.S. and South Korea have agreed to revise their FTA that took effect in March 2012. According to the network, the U.S. will be able to double its annual exports to South Korea of automobiles manufactured under U.S. safety standards from 25,000 to 50,000 cars. In addition, the elimination of tariffs on South Korean pickup trucks will be delayed by 20 years from 2021 to 2041. The senior USG official reportedly stressed: "This is a historic moment. President Trump is fulfilling his campaign pledge." The network claimed that the Trump administration feels that its recent announcement of steep tariffs on steel and aluminum imports was one of the reasons it was able to draw concessions from the South Korean side, adding that the administration is set to use the same strategy with other nations. The network speculated that attention will be focused on what kind of trade-related requests President Trump will have for Japan in the lead-up to the bilateral summit slated for next month.

- [Nuclear regulator OKs 30-yr plan to scrap troubled Monju reactor](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Safety costs prod utility to scrap aging reactor in western Japan](#) (Kyodo News)

## SCIENCE

### **Whaling ship departs Taichi to participate in research whaling**

NHK reported at noon that a whaling ship left Taichi, Wakayama, this morning for Ishinomaki, Miyagi, to participate in Japan's annual research whaling. The network said that Japan is planning to catch up to 170 minke whales off Hokkaido and Miyagi during the period from early April to October. The network added that international opposition to Japan's research whaling is growing, explaining that anti-whaling nations such as Australia heavily criticized Japan's research whaling at the annual IWC meeting in 2016

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on March 27, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

- [Abe administration relieved by testimony over document falsification](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Opposition steps up call for Abe wife to testify at Diet over land deal](#) (Jiji)
- [Cartoon: Akie is next](#) (Akahata)
- [Japan's gov't spokesman hints at cutting back on press conferences](#) (Jiji)
- [Cartoon: Sagawa testifies at the Diet](#) (Asahi)

#### OPINION POLLS

- [70% say that Abe will not have third term as LDP president, Shukan Gendai spot survey of 50 political reporters](#) (Shukan Gendai)

#### SECURITY

- [SDF to expand capacity building assistance to Sri Lanka, other countries](#) (Sankei)
- [Security, information systems to be integrated for Tokyo Olympics to fight cyberattacks](#) (Sankei)
- [MEXT names Kyoto University professor to head JAXA](#) (Mainichi)

#### EDUCATION

- [Low income households to get financial break on Japan's university English tests](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Concern growing over fairness of English tests selected for university entrance exams](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Place priority on reducing anxiety of people taking private-sector tests](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: System of private English tests for university entrance on rocky path](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Geographical disparity in opportunities to take external English tests](#) (Mainichi)

#### SOCIETY

- [Foreign residents in Japan hit record 2.56 m. at end of 2017](#) (Jiji Press)
  - ["Aircraft Carrier Ibuki" realistically depicts defense of remote islands](#) (Yomiuri)
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