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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

**Afternoon Alert - Monday, April 2, 2018**

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## **HEADLINES**

### **Noon news**

NHK led with a report on the Bank of Japan's latest quarterly survey of business sentiment, saying that business sentiment among large Japanese manufacturers was plus 24, down 2 points from the previous survey, marking the first decline in two years. NTV, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi gave top play to reports that Los Angeles Angels' pitcher Shohei Ohtani won his first game on Sunday. TBS led with a report that China has announced that it will invoke steep tariffs on American products as a retaliatory measure starting today.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Abe to visit Florida from April 17 for two-day summit with President Trump**

NHK reported this afternoon that Prime Minister Abe said he will visit Florida from April 17 to 20 for talks with President Trump over two days. Abe was quoted as saying at a liaison meeting of the government and ruling parties this morning: "If the situation allows, I will visit Florida from April 17 to 20 and hold talks with President Trump on items of mutual interest, including North Korea, for two days." The premier also expressed hope to directly ask the President to raise the abduction issue during his summit meeting with the North Korean leader. In addition, Abe reportedly said: "Based on past lessons, holding dialogue for the sake of dialogue is meaningless. We must maintain maximum pressure in order to make North Korea commit to abolishing its nuclear and missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner and take concrete actions toward that end."

### **Experts discuss North Korea**

On NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show, five experts exchanged views on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's surprise visit to China last week. MIT senior fellow Yukio Okamoto commented that Kim may have decided to visit Beijing to preempt the possibility of a hardline approach by the

U.S. under the new Secretary of State Pompeo and National Security Advisor Bolton. Nanzan University Professor Shunji Hiraiwa speculated that Kim visited Beijing with the expectation that China will play a greater role irrespective of the results of the proposed U.S.-DPRK summit. Professor Ichiro Korogi at Kanda University of International Studies said that Kim's visit was beneficial for both China and North Korea, as President Xi demonstrated China's influence over the DPRK both at home and abroad while North Korea gained support from Beijing ahead of the planned inter-Korean and U.S.-DPRK summits. Keio University Professor Yasushi Watanabe conjectured that the United States may grow wary of Beijing's increasing involvement in talks with Pyongyang because the DPRK may seek the removal of the U.S. nuclear umbrella and armed forces from South Korea on the pretext of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula instead of just North Korea. Waseda University Professor Lee Jong Won said that in general South Korea may view Kim's surprise visit to Beijing positively as a move to ease the tensions on the Korean Peninsula peacefully despite its concern that China's increased involvement may affect its close coordination with the United States.

- [Japan, China prepping to revive high-level economic dialogue](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's Kono hints at N. Korea nuclear activity amid easing tensions](#) (Kyodo News)
- [ROK presidential aide says DPRK could get "returns" if implements inter-Korean agreements](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan, S. Korea foreign ministers vow to keep pressure on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ex-Vice Foreign Minister: Pleading for summit with DPRK now to weaken Japan's position](#) (Sankei)
- [Ousted ex-Thai PM Yingluck in Japan to attend event](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

### **Suga says Japan to ask for exemption from U.S. tariff measures at summit**

NHK reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning that Prime Minister Abe will ask President Trump to exclude Japan from the latest tariff measures on steel and aluminum imports when they meet in April. The network quoted Suga as saying: "At the upcoming summit, the two leaders are expected to have in-depth discussions on items of mutual interest, including North Korea policy. Naturally they are expected to also discuss the importance of free trade.... We have conveyed our concerns to the U.S. about the tariff measures on steel and aluminum imports at various levels at appropriate times."

- [Japan steel industry confident, reacts calmly to U.S. import restrictions](#) (Sankei)
- [U.S. import restrictions to have minimal impact on aluminum industry](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't to set safety requirements, traffic rules for self-driving cars](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Govt eyeing virtual system with automakers](#) (The Japan News)
- [Foreigners to get aid to work as caregivers](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan's whaling fleet returns after catching 333 on Antarctic hunt devoid of protests](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan's short-handed firms turn to refugees for labor fix](#) (The Japan Times)

## **POLITICS**

- [Prime minister's schedule on March 30, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on March 31, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on April 1, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Nippon Ishin adopts 2018 political platform with emphasis on constitutional revision](#) (Yomiuri)
- [DP local leaders approve plan to form new party with Party of Hope](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP presidential hopeful Noda opens political seminar for women](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Diet must get to bottom of Moritomo document doctoring scandal](#) (The Mainichi)

## **OPINION POLLS**

- [Cabinet support rate falls further to 42% as 75% say they are "unconvinced" by Sagawa's Diet testimony, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)

## **SCIENCE**

### **"Ghost vessels" lead to various health problems**

"NHK Special" took a close look at capillaries, explaining that although it was once believed that capillaries were merely small blood vessels, they actually play an extremely important role in maintaining health. Since capillaries deliver oxygen and nutrients to the cells throughout the body, when blood stops reaching capillaries, disease and aging result. Experts call such capillaries "ghost vessels" because with no blood flowing through them they look ghostly. Experts explained that once capillaries become ghost vessels, they are difficult to regenerate and some even vanish. Ghost vessels reportedly begin to appear as people age, raising the risk of problems such as dementia, osteoporosis, excessive sensitivity to cold, and wrinkles. Overconsumption of sugar, lack of sleep and exercise, smoking, and high blood pressure can lead to poor blood circulation, eventually creating ghost vessels. An expert recommended skipping, eating in moderation, taking hot baths, and sleeping well as preventive measures.

- [Astronaut Wakata becomes JAXA vice president](#) (Jiji Press)

## **EDUCATION**

- [Guidelines for the use of private-sector English tests released](#) (Yomiuri, Evening edition)
- [More Japanese students heading to U.S. to play sports at universities](#) (Nikkei)
- [The challenges facing Japan's universities](#) (The Japan Times)

## **SOCIETY**

- [Population to drop everywhere in Japan but Tokyo by 2045](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's Supreme Court orders a child be sent home in a Hague parental abduction case. Maybe.](#) (The Japan Times)

## SECURITY

- [3.08 mil. cases of personal info leaked due to cyberattacks in 2017](#) (Kyodo News)
- [New defense era / Having long-range missiles a matter of deterrence](#) (The Japan News)
- [New defense era / Japan-U.S. joint operations increase amid regional uncertainty](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Enhance effectiveness of integrated operation with new GSDF command](#) (The Japan News)

## OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Okinawa bank foundation to offer scholarship to students looking to study overseas](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [LDP launches screening committee for Okinawa gubernatorial race](#) (Okinawa Times)

