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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, April 3, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most broadcasters gave top play to reports that Defense Minister Onodera offered an apology this morning following the discovery of activity logs detailing the operations of GSDF units in Iraq. TV Asahi led with a report that Education Minister Hayashi said there is no need to offer an apology over his ministry's inquiry with a middle school about a lecture given there by former MEXT bureaucrat Maekawa.

## INTERNATIONAL

- [PM Abe to play golf, hold intensive talks with President Trump in U.S.](#) (Jiji)
- [Japan seeking summit with DPRK out of concern that abduction issue may be neglected](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan to host G20 ministerial meetings at eight locations next year](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Russia the source of distrust](#) (Mainichi)
- [U.S. institute questions Kono's remark on possible N. Korea nuke test](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Iraqi PM to visit Japan from Wed. for talks with Abe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, UAE to advance cooperation in space exploration](#) (Kyodo News)
- [MOFA launches new office to monitor UN sanctions](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Cont'd military pressure a must until N. Korea takes real steps to dump nukes](#) (The Mainichi)

## ECONOMY

### Trump administration to ease fuel-efficiency regulations on cars

NHK reported at noon that the Environmental Protection Agency announced on Monday that it will relax the current fuel-efficiency regulations on new cars that were initiated by the Obama administration as part of anti-global warming measures, saying that the regulations were "wrong." The network said that while automakers welcome the decision, the State of California is strongly

opposed because it is committed to combating global warming. In addition, the network reported that the EPA said it would revoke the waiver that allows California to set its own emissions rules. The network said California opposes the relaxation of regulations on the grounds that it will cause air pollution and threaten the health of Americans. The network said Japanese automakers will watch how the confrontation between the Trump administration and California develops since they will be affected by the decision.

- [Japan voices wariness about U.S., China tit-for-tat tariffs](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Municipalities to compete for casinos](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [U.S. beef prices rising even after tariff reduction](#) (Nikkei)
- [Big manufacturers' sentiment marks 1st dip in 2 yrs: BOJ Tankan](#) (Kyodo News)

#### **POLITICS**

- [Prime minister's schedule on April 2, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [PM Abe aims to buoy his administration through diplomacy](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Work-style reform bills to be focus of second half of regular Diet session](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP awarded highest political funding for sixth straight year](#) (Nikkei)
- [Former DP lawmakers to form new political group, join new party with Party of Hope](#) (Yomiuri)

#### **OPINION POLLS**

- [Cabinet nonsupport continues to exceed support, as 72% say they are unconvinced by Sagawa's testimony, Kyodo News spot poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Kyodo News spot opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Highlights of the March 2018 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)
- [Impossible to tell who will win LDP presidential election, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [62% urge "caution" on Japan-DPRK talks, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)

#### **SCIENCE**

- [New chief determined to ensure JAXA continues to take on new challenges](#) (Mainichi)

#### **EDUCATION**

- [Foreign Minister Taro Kono urges his newest diplomats to hone their English](#) (The Japan Times)

#### **SECURITY**

- [U.S. to deploy CV-22 Ospreys to Yokota base ahead of schedule](#) (Kyodo News)
- [New defense era / SDF faces obstacles in evacuating Japanese nationals from S. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Tokyo police assemble cybersecurity units at new building](#) (Nikkei, Evening edition)

#### **OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS**

- [Jahana becomes vice governor of Okinawa](#) (Okinawa Times)
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