
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, April 10, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

TV Asahi led with a report that North Korea's state-run newspaper reported this morning that Kim Jong Un attended a meeting of the Workers' Party of Korea and talked about the upcoming inter-Korean summit on April 27 and expressed his intention to improve relations with South Korea. He also reportedly spoke about the prospects for dialogue with the U.S. The network said this was the first time North Korean media referred to U.S.-DPRK talks.

NHK, NTV, and TBS gave top play to reports that the Ehime Prefectural Government is currently investigating whether its officials met with PM Abe's then secretary over Kake Gakuen. Fuji TV reported that Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels was named the American League Player of the Week.

INTERNATIONAL

PM Abe, IAEA chief agree DPRK must accept inspections for denuclearization

NHK reported on its website that Prime Minister Abe and IAEA Director General Amano met at the Kantei today and agreed that North Korea must accept IAEA inspections in order to achieve denuclearization. According to the network, Abe told Amano: "In order to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, it is extremely important to verify North Korea's denuclearization. I hope to continue to work closely with you." Amano reportedly responded: "Inspections are extremely important if North Korea intends to denuclearize. Denuclearization cannot happen without inspections." The network quoted Amano as also telling reporters after the meeting: "Basically, North Korea should make a declaration and undergo verification when it moves toward denuclearization. It is not for Japan alone to decide how the verification is done. The United States and other nations will discuss this."

Foreign Minister Kono to travel to South Korea today

NHK reported on its website that Foreign Minister Kono told reporters this morning that today he will travel to South Korea for the first time since taking office and will meet with his South Korean counterpart Kang. Kono reportedly said he will confirm with Kang the commitment to maintain maximum pressure on North Korea to get it to relinquish its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, irreversible, and verifiable manner. He also reportedly said he plans to ask South Korea to raise the abduction issue during the inter-Korean summit slated for April 27. The network also quoted Kono as saying: "Citizens of not only Japan and South Korea but also other nations, including the United States, have been abducted or taken into custody by North Korea. We hope to bring up the issue and work to resolve it at every opportunity."

- [Abe to ask Trump to seek end of N. Korean missile threat to Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.S. and North Korea seek different paths to denuclearization](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Improvement in China-Japan ties apparently gaining momentum: Li](#) (Kyodo News)
- [JCP chief urges PM Abe to resolve North Korea issues through diplomatic means](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, U.S. and India team to fund Indo-Pacific infrastructure](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Devise strategy for settling N. Korea abduction issue through diplomacy](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan foreign minister asks IAEA to verify future N. Korea nuke deals](#) (Kyodo News)
- [The identity of "anti-Japan party" maneuvering secretly in Taiwan](#) (Sentaku)
- [Cartoon: Presidents Trump and Xi](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

- [Editorial: We object to the U.S. relaxation of fuel-efficiency regulations](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan pushes renewables, keeps nuclear in energy plan through 2050](#) (Kyodo News)
- [1st batch of Japan-made mass rapid transit trains arrives in Jakarta](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan opens door to power companies buying into overseas projects](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Bank of Japan governor keeps up the fight against deflation](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [BOJ's Kuroda rules out tapering, aims for inflation 'overshoot'](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't to encourage research institutes to invest in VBs](#) (Nikkei)
- [Casino operators have strong interest in Osaka](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Infographic: Trend in number of foreigners working in Japan](#) (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on April 8-9, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Audit Committee, April 9](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Document allegedly calls vet school project "premier matter"](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Indication that Cabinet Office suggested local gov't's special zone application for Kake Gakuen](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [DP, Party of Hope agree to start merger talks, aiming at formal agreement in April](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Cartoon: Moritomo scandal](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: The darkness of the GOJ](#) (Akahata)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet nonsupport exceeds support for first time in half year, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)
- [Half say summits will not lead to resolution of North Korean nuclear weapon and missile issues, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)
- [Cabinet and political party support rates, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)

SOCIETY

More Japanese doing away with traditional family graves

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" on Monday reported that more and more Japanese are doing away with their traditional family graves because they don't have any family members to tend them or because traveling long distances to tend to them has become burdensome. The program reported on a convenient new service that will remove a grave with just one phone call. The program said people are finding new ways to honor their loved ones, such as scattering their ashes on the ocean, planting trees on their behalf, or even creating virtual family graves on their smartphones.

SECURITY

- [Gov't to survey private land on remote border islands](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gov't to map out anti-terrorism guidelines for hospitals](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Sakura Spring Festival at Yokota Air Base draws families, but some voice concerns over Ospreys](#) (Mainichi)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa Governor Onaga found to have a tumor

Okinawa Times reported online on the disclosure by several sources that Okinawa Governor Onaga has been found to have a tumor in his pancreas and that he will soon receive a more in-depth examination to see whether or not it is malignant. He had a medical checkup a few days ago. According to the sources, he will probably be able to resume his official duties as early next week.

- [Height limit for FRF airspace does not apply to college near Camp Schwab](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)