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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, May 11, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports on a speech President Trump gave to his supporters in Indiana on Thursday in which he reportedly said the U.S.-DPRK summit on June 12 will be "a great success."

## INTERNATIONAL

### U.S. announces new sanctions against Iran

NHK reported at noon that the Department of Treasury announced on Thursday that it is imposing new economic sanctions on three Iranian entities and six Iranian individuals for their involvement in the funding of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, saying that these are the first sanctions to be imposed since President Trump announced the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal. The network quoted the President as saying in a speech in Indiana on Thursday: "We cannot allow them to have nuclear weapons...We have to be able to go into their military bases to see whether or not they're cheating." According to the network, the President also said he will seek a new deal beneficial to the U.S. The network said while the President is set to continue to impose maximum pressure on Iran in order to bring it to the negotiating table, Iran is likely to react sharply and tensions may rise.

### Japanese businesses concerned about U.S. withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal

NHK's "News Watch 9" reported on Thursday night on the growing apprehension within the Japanese business community about the Trump administration's decision to pull out of the Iran nuclear accord and reinstate economic sanctions, highlighting a Tokyo-based trading firm specializing in oil products whose sales dropped by almost half seven years ago due to the the Obama administration's imposition of sanctions on Tehran. An executive of the firm voiced qualms about Washington's decision potentially having adverse effects on Iranians' trust in Japan, which he

explained remains "very strong." The businessman expressed hope that the Japanese government will enhance coordination with European countries so as to persuade the U.S. to rejoin the nuclear deal. The broadcaster added that some 30 Japanese trading companies and electronics manufacturers currently have offices in Iran.

### **DOS spokesperson talks about U.S.-DPRK summit**

NHK reported this morning on its one on-one interview with DOS spokesperson Nauert, who accompanied Secretary of State Pompeo to Pyongyang. On the upcoming U.S.-DPRK summit, the network showed video of her saying: "We needed a city that has the infrastructure so that you can bring in so many journalists, government officials to pull together a meeting of this size, scope, and importance. Singapore seems to be the perfect location for that." The network said Nauert pointed out that the U.S. will continue to hold discussions with the DPRK before the summit and said that the U.S. will closely monitor whether North Korea responds to the U.S demand for denuclearization. She was also quoted as saying: "There's a lot of work left to be done. We are still clear eyed and realistic about what will take place at that meeting."

### **PM Abe comments on announcement of U.S.-DPRK summit in Singapore**

NHK reported this morning that Prime Minister Abe told reporters in Sapporo this morning that he welcomes the announcement by President Trump that the U.S.-DPRK summit will be held in Singapore on June 12 and stressed that Japan will work closely with the U.S. and other nations to make the summit a success. The premier also reportedly said: "I strongly hope that progress will be made on the nuclear, missile, and most importantly the abduction issue in the historic U.S.-DPRK summit.... I assume that further preparations will be made for the summit. We will convey our views to the U.S. and prepare for the summit together with it. I hope to work closely with President Trump through teleconferences and in other ways....Japan is committed to doing its utmost to resolve the various issues associated with North Korea. It is important for Japan to cooperate bilaterally with the U.S. and trilaterally with the U.S. and South Korea as well as to work closely with China, Russia, and the international community. Japan will play its own role."

- [Abe, Trump hold teleconference on DPRK, Japan-China-South Korea summit](#) (Sankei)
- [Chinese premier visits Toyota's EV parts factory in Hokkaido](#) (Jiji)
- [Japan hopes for progress on abduction issue in Trump-Kim summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- ["Producing results in abduction issue is a must" to Japan when holding a summit with DPRK](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Let the 3 U.S. citizens' release be guiding light for solution to abduction issue](#) (Sankei)
- [CCS Suga says denuclearization clearly indicated in Japan-China-ROK summit declaration](#) (Nikkei)
- [Premier Li meets with Diet, party leaders, calls for development of bilateral ties](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Editorial: Process for denuclearizing N. Korea must be explored by relevant nations](#) (The Japan News)
- [Second British ship arriving for surveillance of North Korean sanction evaders](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Japan's ever-evolving political landscape](#) (Mainichi)
- [Commentary: Toward a free and open Indo-Pacific](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Minimize impact of U.S. decision to withdraw from Iran nuclear deal](#) (The Japan News)

#### **ECONOMY**

- [Current account surplus up 3.4% on primary income gains](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan gov't debt hits record-high 1,087 tril. yen at end-March](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Chinese Premier Li Keqiang urges Japan to join 'One Belt, One Road' infrastructure project](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Chinese Premier Li emphasizes China-Japan cooperation to "protect free trade"](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan, China central bank chiefs agree on currency swap accord](#) (Asahi)
- [First-ever whale-meat fair held at LDP Headquarters with eye to making whale more popular](#) (Nikkei)

#### **POLITICS**

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 10, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Former Abe aide admits to meeting with Kake Gakuen officials](#) (The Japan Times)
- [PM's secretary: Abe also bears "moral responsibility" for Moritomo affair](#) (Asahi)
- [Abe sets his sights on party member votes with LDP presidential election on horizon](#) (Mainichi)
- [Party leaders' debate in Diet scheduled for May 30](#) (Yomiuri)
- [DPFP's Furumoto named chair of Lower House Special Committee on Promotion of Science, Technology, and Innovation](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Out of step, in step](#) (Asahi)

#### **OPINION POLLS**

- [Trend in average cabinet support rate, Saitama University Social Survey Research Center](#) (Saitama University Social Survey Research Center)

#### **SOCIETY**

##### **Workers of all ages susceptible to the "May blues"**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the "May blues," a feeling of drowsiness and depression that young recruits are said to experience in May after starting new jobs in April. The program said not only new employees but also veteran staff members can get the "May blues." The program reported on the importance of talking candidly with others about one's problems and taking time off in June.

#### **SECURITY**

- [Former defense minister: Disclosure of GSDF logs might affect troops' security](#) (Mainichi)

**OKINAWA  
LOCAL PRESS**

**U.S., Japan to agree on “master plan” for relocating warehouses to Camp Hansen**

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported that during a Joint Committee meeting scheduled for Friday, the USG and the GOJ are set to formulate a master plan on the details of the agreed-upon relocation of warehouses and other structures to Camp Hansen from Camp Foster and Camp Kinser. Some 100 facilities will be newly built on Camp Hansen to host the warehouse functions currently performed by the two other installations.

In a related story, Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga is likely to attend in Naha City on May 20 a ceremony marking the return of a portion of Camp Kinser. The government spokesman is also reportedly expected to meet with newly elected Nago Mayor Toguchi and other municipal leaders in northern Okinawa the day before the ceremony apparently in a bid to highlight the central government’s commitment to revitalizing the northern part of the island prefecture.

- [Onodera refutes U.S. marine commandant’s remark that no residents were in Futenma area](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
  - [Okinawa municipalities send protest letters over U.S. Air Force officer nabbed for DUI](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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