



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, May 17, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most TV networks led with reports saying that today three individuals filed lawsuits with district courts in Tokyo, Sendai, and Sapporo seeking financial compensation from the central government over forced sterilization under the now-defunct Eugenic Protection Law.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. leader committed to denuclearization despite latest posturing by Kim regime

All broadcasters reported that President Trump suggested on Wednesday that his administration will continue to demand North Korea's complete denuclearization irrespective of a DPRK warning issued on Wednesday that it may call off the planned summit with the U.S. if Washington insists on swift denuclearization without offering anything in return for steps made along the way. The President reportedly indicated that he will take a wait-and-see attitude toward what some call Pyongyang's latest attempt to seize a tactical advantage in the run-up to the June 12 summit in Singapore. The TV networks highlighted remarks made by White House Press Secretary Sanders, who reportedly said: "The President is very used to and ready for tough negotiations. If they want to meet, we'll be ready. And if they don't, that's O.K., too." The spokesperson stressed that the Trump administration will "continue with the campaign of maximum pressure" if the summit is cancelled.

- [Abe allegedly mulls sending ex-PM Mori to DPRK to set up summit with Kim Jong Un](#) (Shukan Gendai)
- [Top Chinese envoy calls for having China, Japan, ROK serve as anchor for regional stability](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opinion: Japan-China relationship is on the mend](#) (The Japan Times)
- [N. Korean defector: Kim Jong Un is "impulsive and quick to anger"](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

- [Japan plans to hit back at U.S. over import restrictions](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Japan sticks with 20%-22% goal for nuclear in the energy mix](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Britain offers 2 tril. yen loan for Hitachi's Wales nuclear project](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Nippon Steel readies for global offensive to take on Chinese rivals](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Trade strategy impasse \(Part 2\): METI's diminishing presence](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 16, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan enacts law to promote women's participation in politics](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Percentages of female candidates for each party in 2017 Lower House election](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Progress from gender-equality law depends on the will of voters](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Opposition not keen on party leaders' debate due to little time allotted to each party](#) (Asahi)
- [Rengo steps up efforts to mend ties with CDPJ](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Upper House constitution commission to convene on May 23 to elect officers](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Aso's fouls](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – The SOFA Hurdle \(Part 3\)](#) (Chugoku Shimbun, online)

SCIENCE

- [Japan approves first trials of stem cell-based heart treatment](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan keeps edge in stem-cell medicine with heart study](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan develops basic techs for next-generation semiconductors](#) (Jiji Press)

SOCIETY

Homes full of garbage reflect isolation

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" highlighted the growing demand among stressed-out people for cleaning services, explaining that these people are so mentally exhausted that they are unable to clean their homes, which eventually become filled with garbage. The network explained that stress arising from the demands of work and elderly care and from marital tensions makes these people indifferent to their living conditions even though most of them dress and behave nicely outside the home. Experts opined that allowing waste to accumulate in the home is a sign of becoming "isolated" from family and community, underscoring the importance for such people to reach out to friends, coworkers, and professional counselors if necessary to break out of their isolation.

- [TB checks eyed for visitors](#) (The Japan News)
- [Lawyers to sue nationalists over anti-Korean school campaign](#) (Kyodo News)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [As Japan's population goes down, its dependence on foreign residents goes up](#) (NHK)
 - [Library corners as incubators of ideas](#) (Nikkei)
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