
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, May 18, 2018

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INTERNATIONAL

President Trump reportedly hints at providing political safeguards to DPRK regime

All commercial networks reported at noon that President Trump told the press that he will offer North Korea's regime political safeguards. TBS quoted the President as saying: "I think we'll actually have a good relationship, assuming we have the meeting, assuming something comes of it. He'll get protections that would be very strong." NTV claimed that the President said for the first time that the U.S. will provide safeguards to North Korea if the U.S.-DPRK summit is held. TBS and Fuji TV said the President expressed the view that the North Korean regime will receive political safeguards if it agrees to denuclearize. TV Asahi said the President expressed his intention to guarantee the security of the Kim regime if an agreement is reached at the summit.

According to the networks, the President also said the "Libya model" for denuclearization is not being pursued in the case of North Korea. Noting that North Korea was alarmed when National Security Adviser Bolton mentioned the "Libya model," TBS said the President was apparently trying to bring the situation under control. The network said that although a senior North Korean official hinted at the possibility of cancelling the U.S.-DPRK summit, the President reportedly said: "We are negotiating with them now. If we don't have the summit, that will be very interesting."

First female CIA director confirmed

NHK reported on its website that the U.S. Senate has approved Gina Haspel for the post of CIA director. The network said that Haspel, who has worked for the CIA for more than 30 years, has been criticized for her involvement in the agency's use of harsh interrogation techniques. The network said Haspel pledged in a public hearing that she would never restart such interrogation programs as director, adding that she will soon take up her post as the first female director of the CIA.

- [Japan foreign minister to visit Latin America, U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Chinese envoy to Japan hopes for expansion of bilateral relationship after Li's visit](#) (Yomiuri)
- [S. Korea to set up research institute on comfort women in Aug.](#) (Jiji Press)

“Unconventional” royal marriage in the UK

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markle to be held in London on May 19, saying that the marriage is "unconventional" in that the bride is an American actress, a divorcee, and the daughter of an African-American mother. The program said such a marriage would not have been permitted by the Royal Family in the past, adding that the Royal Family has been becoming more open and transparent since the death of Princess Diana.

ECONOMY

- [USG official cites merits of American LNG to buyers](#) (Jiji)
- [Abe: "U.S.'s return to TPP a benefit"](#) (Sankei)
- [Trade strategy impasse \(Part 3\): Dilemma in rule-making](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe sees hope for Trump change of heart on TPP](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Outline of draft of new Basic Energy Plan](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: METI's new energy agenda is still powered by old thinking](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Jointly built container port opens in Vietnam's Haiphong](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Only 0.5% of Japan's catch quota for juvenile bluefin tuna remains](#) (Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 17, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Edano mulls no-confidence motion](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Work-style reform](#) (Mainichi)
- [Ruling, opposition parties apart on revision of referendum law](#) (Yomiuri)

SECURITY

- [Japan extends SDF dispatch to U.N. mission headquarters in S. Sudan](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

- [Japan on U.S. list of nations noncompliant with Hague Treaty](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Number of visitors to Japan top 10 M. at fastest pace](#) (Jiji Press)

SCIENCE

- [IBM selects Keio to host first quantum computing hub in Asia](#) (The Japan Times)

EDUCATION

- [Abe proposes including IT-related subject in university admission tests](#) (Yomiuri)
 - [70% of nat'l universities are opposed to gov't conditions for free education, Mainichi survey](#) (Mainichi)
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