
The logo for Japan Media Highlights (JMH) features the letters 'JMH' in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a black square. To the right of the square, the words 'JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS' are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked in two lines.

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, May 22, 2018

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports that Prime Minister Abe denied meeting with the director of Kake Gakuen on Feb. 25, 2015, although new documents submitted by Ehime Prefecture indicate that he did.

INTERNATIONAL

Vice President Pence issues warning to Kim Jong Un

NTV and TBS reported at noon on remarks by Vice President Pence in an interview with Fox News aired on Monday. Concerning North Korea's suggestion that it might cancel the Singapore summit, the Vice President issued a warning to Chairman Kim Jong Un by saying: "It would be a great mistake for Kim Jong Un to think he could play Donald Trump." According to TBS, while the Vice President stressed that President Trump is ready to hold talks with Kim Jong Un, he also said there is "no question" that President Trump is willing to walk away from the planned Singapore meeting. The Vice President also reportedly said that if Kim Jong Un does not agree to denuclearize, North Korea will end up like Libya.

Former senior USG official expresses concern over North Korea

TV Asahi aired an exclusive interview with former Assistant Secretary of State Russel, during which he expressed alarm over North Korea. The broadcaster aired video of him saying: "The person who unmistakably has a strategy and a road map seems to be Kim Jong Un. This was Kim Jong Un's initiative." The network reported that Russel also said North Korea's suggestion that it might cancel the U.S.-DPRK summit was meant to pressure President Trump and President Moon, who are both eager to see the summit take place. According to the network, Russel also said that President Moon may ask President Trump to relax U.S. demands on North Korea when they meet this month.

- [Source: Xi promised Kim “aid in stages” with denuclearization deal at U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [INSIGHTS into the WORLD / Japan-U.S.-Europe vs China rivalry looms](#) (The Japan News)
- [Commentary: Japan should take own measures to strengthen Japan-U.S. alliance](#) (Sankei)
- [Japanese economic minister to accompany Abe to Russia](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Singapore agree to cooperate toward U.S.-N. Korea summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan confirms N. Korea has not abandoned 2014 accord on abductions](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan agrees with Britain, Netherlands, Australia to maintain pressure on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)

FM Kono talks about next year’s G20 in Japan

NHK reported that Foreign Minister Kono told reporters after attending the G20 foreign ministerial meeting in Argentina that the G20 summit and ministerial meetings to be hosted by Japan next year should be a place for holding close discussions on resolving security, economic, and trade issues without sticking to precedents. The network said Kono announced that next year's G20 foreign ministerial meeting will be held in Nagoya on November 22 and 23. Kono reportedly said: "The G20 has focused on discussions about the economy, but there are issues that cannot be resolved through economics alone. It is important to exchange views on political and diplomatic matters as well."

ECONOMY

- [Trump’s newest export LNG gushes into Asia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Diet to start deliberation today on IR implementing legislation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Casino bill must address concerns about gambling addiction](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Gov’t to simplify incorporation procedures to start business in four days](#) (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

- [Abe denies discussing vet school plan as favoritism scandal deepens](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Rengo looking for ways to sign policy accords with CDPJ, DPFP](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opposition parties dissatisfied with CDPJ’s leadership in Diet strategy](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Ex-PM Mori warns LDP may lose majority in next Upper House election](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Abe’s low profile](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [25% say SDF is “unconstitutional” while 57% say it is “constitutional,” Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Sankei Shimbun](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)

SOCIETY

Japanese film director Koreeda wins Palme d’Or at Cannes

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on Director Hirokazu Koreeda, who won the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes International Film Festival for his film "Shoplifters." Koreeda was the first Japanese to win the prize in 21 years. The program said the film depicts a family living on a grandmother's meager pension that has its children shoplift. Koreeda appeared on the show from New York to talk about the film.

- [9% rise in overstayers detained over six months puts spotlight on 'provisional release' program](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan's refugee-screening system sets high bar](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Nonprofit encourages students to do internships at embassies](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

SECURITY

- [JCG to monitor DPRK's illegal operations in Japan's EEZ before fishing season](#) (Sankei)
- [Okinawa Gov. Onaga nominated for Nobel Peace Prize](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – The SOFA Hurdle \(Part 5\)](#) (Chugoku Shimbun, Online)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – Largest base in the Far East](#) (Chugoku Shimbun, Online)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – Carrier-based airplane noise becomes routine](#) (Chugoku Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Gist of remarks by U.S. consul general in Okinawa at symposium on May 21](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [U.S. consul general vows to promote SDF's joint use of U.S. military bases](#) (Okinawa Times)