
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, May 23, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, NTV, TBS, Fuji TV led with reports that the Finance Ministry submitted to the Diet today records of negotiations on the controversial sale of state-owned land to Moritomo Gakuen. TV Asahi led with a report that President Trump hinted at the possible postponement of the U.S.-DPRK summit in Singapore if certain conditions are not met.

INTERNATIONAL

North Korea allows South Korean journalists to cover nuclear test site dismantling

NHK reported at noon that although North Korea had previously refused to let eight South Korean journalists enter the country to observe the dismantling of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site, it decided this morning to grant them entry. The network said the South Korean journalists will fly to North Korea on a South Korean government plane.

Leaders of Japan, Canada agree on importance of unified message from G7 leaders

NHK reported on its website that Prime Minister Abe held a teleconference with Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau this morning ahead of the G7 Summit on June 8 and 9 in Canada, saying that the two leaders agreed on the importance for the G7 leaders to send a strong and unified message ahead of the U.S.-DPRK summit in Singapore on June 12. The network said the two leaders also exchanged views on the North Korean situation and international trade, including the TPP. They also reportedly confirmed cooperation in resolving the abduction issue.

- [Japan, Russia to launch sea urchin, strawberry farming projects in Northern Territories](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Ex-Japanese envoy to U.S. expects Singapore summit to lead to open Japan-DPRK dialogue](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe, Trudeau confirm cooperation for success of G7 summit](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Japan urges more of Latin America to join TPP](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Economic Minister Motegi's noncommittal tactics for negotiations with USTR Lighthizer](#) (FACTA)
- [INTERVIEW: Kansai biz chief vows full casino effort](#) (Jiji Press)
- [LDP committee proposes achieving primary balance surplus by FY2025](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Turning Japan's cultural barriers into a startup gold mine](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Uber taps Awaji Island for first taxi-hailing service in Japan](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: New basic energy plan must overcome many obstacles to stable energy supply](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan to mull expanding bluefin catch quota](#) (Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 22, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe denies 2015 meeting with Kotaro Kake as opposition pressure mounts over cronyism claims](#) (The Japan Times)
- [CCS Suga wields increasing influence on LDP presidential election](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Tadashi Maeda tapped as next JBIC governor](#) (Asahi)
- [LDP's Nikai on Abe's support ratings, LDP presidential race, China, ROK ties](#) (Shukan Gendai)
- [Putin wants to partner with Japan: Ex-PM Mori](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Petrified Abe](#) (Asahi)

SCIENCE

Synthetic biology factories develop valuable new substances

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on synthetic biology factories where valuable substances and materials are created from plants and microorganisms. For example, ingredients that prevent pollen allergies are created from rice plants and drugs to cure gum disease are created from strawberries using genetic modification. The program said scientists around the world are competing to develop new drugs, vaccines, and other substances and materials. The program also reported that Japan is a front runner in the study of creating anti-cancer drugs and other substances from the silk produced by silkworms.

- [Kyoto University to start providing Embryonic Stem cells for clinical studies](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SOCIETY

- [Japan social welfare spending to rise 60% by 2040](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan social security costs seen reaching 190 T. yen in FY 2040](#) (The Japan News)
- [Police launch expert panel to discuss rules for autonomous vehicles](#) (The Japan Times)

SECURITY

- [US deploys missile destroyer fitted with latest technology to Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – Airplane noise at record levels](#) (Chugoku Shimbun)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – Suspension of FCLP training on Ioto Island](#) (Chugoku Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Okinawa high school to sign partnership agreement with U.S. college](#) (Okinawa Times)

