
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, May 25, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports on President Trump's announcement of his decision to cancel the U.S.-DPRK summit slated for June 12 in Singapore.

INTERNATIONAL

Senior USG official says summit cancelled because DPRK repeatedly broke promises

NHK reported at noon that a senior Trump administration official explained that President Trump cancelled the Singapore summit slated for June 12 because the North Korean side repeatedly broke its promises, including not appearing in a preparatory meeting in Singapore last week and refusing to invite an international expert to observe the dismantlement of its nuclear test site on May 24 despite its earlier explanation to the U.S. and South Korea that it would do so. The network said that the President made the decision to cancel the summit after discussing the situation with Vice President Pence on Thursday morning. Meanwhile, the network said the President also told reporters that there is still a possibility that the summit will be held, adding that the Trump administration is closely watching to see if North Korea softens its stance in order to determine whether to hold the summit or step up its pressure on the North.

An NHK reporter said the senior USG official expressed frustration that North Korea has become insincere, adding that the Trump administration's distrust of North Korea has apparently been increasing day by day. The senior official reportedly said North Korea needs to do exactly the opposite of what it has been doing in order for there to be a summit, adding that the Trump administration intends to make North Korea compromise on denuclearization by putting pressure on it with the sudden cancellation of the summit. He added that the U.S. move is also a part of a strategy to seize the initiative by calling off the summit first. He said, however, that the Trump

administration may decide to further increase pressure on the North and raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula depending on the moves of North Korea, adding that attention will be focused on how Kim Jong Un responds.

[Suga expresses understanding for President Trump's decision to call off summit](#)

All networks reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga expressed understanding for President Trump's decision to cancel his planned Singapore summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, quoting him as saying: "What is important is not the U.S.-DPRK summit itself but making sure that the summit becomes an opportunity to make progress in the nuclear and missile programs and most importantly the abduction issue."

A TV Asahi reporter said that within the GOJ there have been voices of doubt about whether North Korea has really agreed to complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization and views that an agreement between the U.S. and North Korea concluded as a result of rushing to hold a summit and produce results would be detrimental to Japan. He added that a senior GOJ official responded calmly and said that if the nuclear issue is not resolved, the sanctions and pressure on the North will simply continue. The network said the GOJ is set to continue to work closely with the U.S. and South Korea and collect information on North Korea's moves based on the notion that the possibility of a U.S.-DPRK summit has not been completely ruled out.

[FM Kono comments on cancellation of U.S.-DPRK summit](#)

Concerning President Trump's decision to cancel the Singapore summit, NHK reported this morning that Foreign Minister Kono told reporters in Mexico: "We were paying attention to how North Korea would commit to denuclearization at the U.S.-DPRK summit. But I guess it was determined that it would not lead to such a thing in view of recent circumstances." Kono added: "It is important for the summit to become an opportunity to make progress in the nuclear, missile, and abduction issues. We want the summit to be held under circumstances in which North Korea can commit to denuclearization. Japan will continue to play a role and work closely with the U.S."

- [Abe supports Trump's decision to cancel U.S.-N. Korea summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to remain vigilant after U.S. cancels summit with N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan shows "understanding" of cancelation of U.S.-N. Korea summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: We don't believe either side wanted to cancel Singapore summit](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Door to dialogue must not be shut](#) (Asahi)
- [FOCUS: Talks, not war, likely option after cancellation of Trump-Kim summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abductees' families still hopeful after canceled U.S.-N Korea summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe to vow cooperation with Putin toward signing peace treaty](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Putin](#) (Mainichi)
- [China moving slowly into Hokkaido](#) (The Japan Times)
- [China detains 21 Japanese in May: source](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Japan's net overseas investment down in 2017, still world's largest](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Toyota opposes U.S. move to raise auto import tariffs](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan agonizes over how to deal with potential U.S. auto tariffs](#) (Mainichi)
- [Trump's trade war reaches the heart of Asian exports: Cars](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan agonizes over U.S. hard line on TPP even after Lower House passage of related legislation](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, Mexico vow to cooperate for TPP's early entry into force](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Russia's LNG firm looking for Japanese investment by appointing ex-Russian envoy to Japan as advisor](#) (Sankei)

AMBASSADOR

- [New Nashville consul general looking forward to deepening U.S. ties with Kanagawa](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 24, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cabinet Office and Cabinet Secretariat to be streamlined](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Amendments to Referendum Law may be enacted in current Diet session](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Party leaders' debate set for May 30](#) (Mainichi)
- [Rengo gives green light to "split" support in Upper House proportional representation](#) (Mainichi)
- [Ex-PM Koizumi, his Jr. slam Abe](#) (Sankei)
- [Halt in sliding cabinet support ratings no cause for optimism](#) (Sande Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Moritomo scandal](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Time to bring end to Diet turmoil caused by Kake, Moritomo scandals](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Lies, cover-ups over Moritomo, SDF log scandals a huge crime by Abe gov't](#) (The Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [Kyoto University CiRA scientists create artificial cells to battle cancer](#) (Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University Website)

SOCIETY

Former Nihon University football players reveal their experiences

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the Nihon University football team, saying that although one of its players said he tackled the opposing team's quarterback in a dangerous manner because his coaches told him to "crush" the quarterback, the university said he was not instructed to commit an illegal tackle. The program said it discovered a structural problem in the team by interviewing several former members, who said that the head coach had absolute authority and not only the players but also the assistant coaches had to show him absolute obedience. An expert pointed out that Japan needs to establish an organization such as the National Collegiate Athletic Association in the U.S. in order to enhance the transparency of college sports teams and prevent similar problems.

SECURITY

- [LDP proposes to increase Defense budget to “2% of GDP”](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ginowan Mayor calls on U.S. to return MCAS Futenma](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – Building dialogue with neighbor for “equal relationship”](#) (Chugoku Shimbun)
- [FEATURE: Japanese airports short of safety inspectors ahead of 2020 Olympics](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP draws up draft proposal calling for national defense program review](#) (Mainichi)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Ginowan mayor calls for U.S. to reduce military aircraft noise](#) (Okinawa Times)
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