


JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Monday, June 4, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and NTV gave top play to reports that the Finance Ministry is planning to suspend former Finance Bureau chief Sagawa for three months for instructing ministry officials to tamper with documents related to Moritomo Gakuen. TBS and TV Asahi led with reports that a man indicted for murdering a 9-year-old Vietnamese girl in Chiba last year pleaded not guilty at his first hearing on Monday. Fuji TV gave top play to a report on the suspicious death of a well-known real estate mogul in Wakayama.

INTERNATIONAL

Suga says basic policy on North Korea being upheld

NHK reported at noon that in relation to remarks by President Trump on Sunday that he does not want to use the term "maximum pressure" anymore after receiving a letter from Kim Jong Un delivered by Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning: "President Trump said he does not want to use the term 'maximum pressure' anymore, but we are still imposing very powerful sanctions. The President also said he will not lift the sanctions until North Korea takes action, and I think our basic policy is being upheld." In addition, Suga reportedly said: "Japan welcomes the United States' efforts to hold a historic U.S.-DPRK summit. Our position of upholding the policies formulated by the United States and Japan and to cooperate in urging North Korea to take concrete actions toward resolving the issues remains unchanged."

- [N. Korean leader Kim tells Pompeo aware of abduction issue with Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Discrepancy in ROK, DPRK English translation of Panmunjom Declaration betrays DPRK intent](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan wary of aid for N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)

- [Japan to urge U.S. to maintain pressure on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [FOCUS: Japan forced to reconsider “pressure” policy toward N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Expert: Trump shifting to more realistic approach to U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Will Washington ease pressure on North Korea to realize summit?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Make the U.S.-DPRK summit a turning point for DPRK’s complete denuclearization](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Reconfirm “principle of denuclearization”](#) (Sankei)
- [NATO vows to support U.S.-N. Korea talks toward denuclearization](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

Japan to urge USG to abide by WTO rules

NHK reported this afternoon that in relation to Canada's criticism of the U.S. decision to raise tariffs in a statement released after the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor's meeting, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga reportedly told reporters this morning: "Massive trade restrictions by the U.S. government for security reasons would be extremely regrettable as they could cause confusion in the global market and affect the cooperative economic relations between the U.S. and Japan and the multilateral trade system, which is based on WTO rules." In addition, Suga reportedly said: "If circumstances allow, Prime Minister Abe will visit the U.S. for a U.S.-Japan summit and also attend the G7 summit on June 8 in Canada. He will continue to tenaciously lobby the U.S. while working closely with relevant nations in Europe and with Canada based on our position that any trade measures should be consistent with the WTO agreement."

- [Japan mulling WTO challenge to U.S. steel tariff: Aso](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: U.S. should revoke steep tariffs on steel and aluminum products](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe presses for fairness in casino locations](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japanese companies to ramp up capital spending, Nikkei survey finds](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

Party policy chiefs discuss Diet deliberations, prospects for U.S.-DPRK summit

On NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show, policy chiefs of the ruling and opposition parties exchanged views about issues being discussed in the Diet, including Moritomo Gakuen, work-style reform, and a bill on the implementation of integrated resorts with casino facilities. In addition, the panelists also expressed their views on the U.S.-DPRK summit planned for June 12. LDP Policy Affairs Research Council Deputy Chairman Tamura and Komeito Policy chief Ishida speculated that Prime Minister Abe will reiterate Japan's position of attaching importance to the resolution of the abduction issue at his planned talks with President Trump on June 7. Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan Policy Council Chairman Nagatsuma expressed concern that President Trump appears to be easing America's pressure on the DPRK.

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 1, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 2, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on June 3, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

Public approval for Abe cabinet drops to 39%

TBS reported at noon on the results of its opinion survey conducted over the weekend, showing that public approval for the Abe cabinet dropped to 39.0%, down 1.6 points from last month, marking the lowest figure since the launch of the second Abe cabinet. The nonsupport rate rose 1.4 points to 59.1%. Concerning the Kake Gakuen scandal, 76% of respondents said they are not satisfied with the explanations provided by Prime Minister Abe and Kake Gakuen, while 13% said they are. On the Moritomo Gakuen scandal and the sexual harassment allegation against a former top bureaucrat of the Finance Ministry, 54% said Finance Minister Aso should resign, while 34% said he should not.

- [Trend in average cabinet support rate, Saitama University Social Survey Research Center](#) (Saitama University Social Survey Research Center)
- [Highlights of the May 2018 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador participates in sports festival in Tokyo

NTV and Fuji TV reported on Saturday that Ambassador Hagerty and Tokyo Governor Koike participated in a sports festival at an elementary school in Tokyo earlier in the day as part of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's "Global Friendship Project" designed to encourage local students to increase ties with foreign countries ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The network showed the Ambassador and the governor taking part in a game together with the students.

- [U.S. Ambassador Hagerty joins sports festival](#) (Yomiuri)

SCIENCE

Blue Planet – Part 2: Life in shallow waters

Sunday's "NHK Special" aired the second part of a new series on marine life, focusing on life in shallow waters. The program reported on coral reefs in the tropical zone, where 25% of all marine creatures live.

SOCIETY

“American Day” held in Misawa

NHK Aomori reported that "American Day," an annual event to deepen exchanges between Japan and the U.S., was held in Misawa, Aomori, on Sunday with the cooperation of an international exchange organization and the U.S. military. The network said that a parade was held on the main road in front of Misawa AB, and the base was opened to the public for the first time ever for this annual event. The network quoted Margot Carrington, the minister-counselor for public affairs at the

U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, as saying: "I was especially happy to be able to come because Misawa is very well-known for the close ties between the base and the local community."

More than 1 million people “missing” from labor market in Japan

Saturday's "NHK Special" reported on the rapid increase in the number of people in their 40s and 50s who are unable to work. Since they are no longer seeking employment, they are not counted as unemployed and have dropped out of the labor market. The program said such people are known as "missing " workers and the number of them in their 40s and 50s in Japan has reached 1.03 million. (There also about 720,000 people in their 40s and 50s who are unemployed in Japan.) The program said many of the missing workers quit their jobs to take care of elderly parents, adding that they have no choice but to depend on their parents' pensions. The program said even after their parents die, they face extreme difficulty finding work. The program also said non-regular, middle-aged workers tend to become "missing workers" because they eventually choose to quit non-regular jobs that offer low wages and poor working conditions, or because they fall ill or need to take care of their elderly parents. The program also reported on efforts by local municipalities and communities to help such people.

- [FEATURE: Surveys find young generation in Japan positive about job change](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Main points of proposed revisions to Livelihood Protection Law, other laws](#) (Mainichi)

SECURITY

- [Gist of Japan-U.S.-ROK defense ministerial joint statement, June 3](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Main points of speeches by DM Onodera, Sec. Mattis at Shangri-la Dialogue, June 2](#) (Yomiuri, Evening edition)
- [U.S. and South Korea nudge Japan to soften rhetoric as Kim summit nears](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Pacific deal focuses on S. China Sea status](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan Coast Guard reinforces Sea of Japan fleet to ward off North Korean poachers](#) (The Japan Times)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Journalist claims hazardous substances spilled at Kadena 95 times in 2016-2017](#) (Okinawa Times)
 - [Virtually a zero quota for bluefin tuna catch for Hokkaido, Kagoshima](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [33 Okinawa mayors wavering over referendum: survey](#) (Okinawa Times)
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