
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, June 8, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks led with reports on the U.S.-Japan summit in Washington. NHK took up President Trump's remarks that he will raise the abduction issue at the upcoming U.S.-DPRK summit. NTV and Fuji TV highlighted Prime Minister Abe's remarks expressing eagerness to hold a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in order to swiftly resolve the abduction issue, while TBS focused on President Trump's remarks that he may reach an agreement with Kim Jong Un to officially end the Korean War. TV Asahi led with a report on a meeting between the Singaporean and North Korean foreign ministers in Pyongyang on Thursday in preparation for the U.S.-DPRK summit.

INTERNATIONAL

Secretary Pompeo says President Trump “will not stand for a bad deal”

Nikkei reported online on a press conference on Thursday by Secretary of State Pompeo, during which he stressed that in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, President Trump will not compromise on the issue of denuclearization. “You can be sure that President Trump will not stand for a bad deal,” said the Secretary. “The United States has been clear, time and time again, that complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is the only outcome that we will find acceptable.” The Secretary expressed confidence that the President is fully prepared for the historic sit-down with the DPRK leader by saying: “We have been providing the President all the information that he needs. I am very confident that the President will be fully prepared when he meets with his North Korean counterpart.” The Secretary went on to say: “President Trump is hopeful, but he’s also going into the summit with his eyes wide open.”

The daily added that after accompanying the President for the Singapore summit, the Secretary will travel to South Korea and China on June 13-14 and that in Seoul he will hold a trilateral session with

his South Korean and Japanese counterparts to share the results of the Trump-Kim meeting.

Suga comments on possibility of Japan-DPRK summit

Jiji Press reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga spoke to reporters today about Prime Minister Abe's expression of eagerness to hold a Japan-DPRK summit. Suga said he hopes such a summit "would be realized in a way that would lead to the resolution of the abduction issue." He also reportedly stressed: "Without a comprehensive resolution of the abduction and nuclear and missile issues, there will be no normalization of diplomatic relations or economic cooperation." With regard to coordination for realizing a Japan-DPRK summit, Suga reportedly said: "We are communicating via various channels, including the Japanese Embassy in Beijing."

- [Gist of summit talks between Abe, Trump in Washington](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Trump to push N. Korea's Kim to resolve Japanese abduction issue](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Pompeo to brief Japan, S. Korea, China on Trump-Kim summit outcome](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan expands loans to global infrastructure projects](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [National Security Advisor Yachi to be sent to Singapore](#) (Asahi)
- [Expert previews U.S.-DPRK summit, possible post-summit shift in security framework](#) (Mainichi)
- [FM Kono meets Sec. Pompeo three times in a month in bid to build ties](#) (Asahi)
- [Former diplomat on Japan's role, relations with North Korea after U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Myanmar's insurance sector set for help from Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Role of major powers, neighbors important for N. Korea's denuclearization](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japanese elected to U.N. panel tackling discrimination against women](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

Aso complains about lack of preparations for new trade talks

Jiji Press reported on remarks made by Finance Minister Aso to reporters today on the agreement reached at the U.S.-Japan summit that the new "free, fair, and reciprocal" (FFR) trade talks between Economic Revitalization Minister Motegi and USTR Lighthizer will begin in July. "The USTR office is short-staffed," said Aso. "Discussion of details takes time." In addition, Aso reportedly pointed out that although the two nations have been conducting coordination for the past few months on the details of documents on U.S. requests for reducing its trade deficit with Japan, nothing has changed.

U.S., Japanese leaders discuss bilateral trade

Asahi, Nikkei, and Mainichi reported online very briefly on President Trump's remarks on trade made during his post-summit press availability with Prime Minister Abe. Asahi highlighted his remark that the bilateral trade imbalance is "something that we have to" improve. It also highlighted a separate remark: "The United States seeks a bilateral deal with Japan that is based on the principle of fairness and reciprocity. We're working hard to reduce our trade imbalance, which is very

substantial, remove barriers to U.S. exports, and to achieve a fair and mutually beneficial economic partnership.” According to Nikkei, PM Abe explained to the President the contributions that Japanese companies have made to increase jobs in America. The two leaders reportedly agreed to convene in July the first session of the new framework called the “free, fair, and reciprocal” trade initiative.

Meanwhile, TV-Asahi’s morning news and entertainment program took up the U.S.-Japan summit, with Kyodo News Senior Writer Ota zeroing in on the President’s reference during the post-summit press event to Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, where he said PM Abe had told him that Japanese auto plants will be opened. Ota asserted that in talking to the press on the summit with Abe, the President appeared eager to remind voters in these states, which the journalist said are critical for a Republican victory in the November midterms, that he is strongly committed to creating jobs in their backyard.

- [Japan auto group “gravely concerned” over Trump’s push for new tariffs](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan needs to diversify resource suppliers: White Paper](#) (Jiji Press)
- [U.S. to probe Toyota, others over alleged patent infringement](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Key issues in IR bills not to be deliberated in Diet, 331 issues left to gov’t ordinances](#) (Asahi)
- [Mega earthquake could cause 1,410 tril. yen damage to Japan: report](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Business leader: Japan should stand firm on principles on DPRK, trade issues at U.S. summit](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador says President expressed clear support for resolving abduction issue

NHK reported online that Ambassador Hagerty, who attended the U.S.-Japan summit on Thursday, said in an interview with the network that President Trump expressed clear support for the defense of Japan and resolving the abduction issue. The network quoted the Ambassador as saying: "President Trump understands how important the abduction issue is for Prime Minister Abe and the people of Japan. They exchanged views on the issue at the summit." In addition, the Ambassador reportedly said: "President Trump clearly stated that the security of Japan is the security of the United States. He expressed clear U.S. support for the defense of Japan and resolving the abduction issue to Prime Minister Abe."

On the U.S.-DPRK summit slated for next week, the Ambassador reportedly said: "Both President Trump and Prime Minister Abe understand that the summit is the start of the process toward denuclearization and that there is still a lot of work to do." On the other hand, the Ambassador reportedly offered an optimistic view on the outcome of the summit by saying: "We will see many concrete achievements. The President is a man of action." Concerning the economic and trade

relationship between the U.S. and Japan, the Ambassador reportedly said: "Our alliance and diplomatic relationship are the best in the world, and I hope to bring the economic and trade relationship to that same level." The network added that the Ambassador expressed eagerness to build a close bilateral economic relationship by attracting more investment from Japan.

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 6, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP factions actively maneuvering for presidential election](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kunimitsu joins Kishida faction](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Komeito official says special committee for Kake scandal not necessary](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Industrial policy is the wrong lens for govt to examine broadcasting](#) (The Japan News)

SECURITY

- [Tokyo to make military base plan 'inevitable' in Okinawa](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Panel draws up draft cybersecurity strategy for Tokyo Olympics](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: LDP's call for larger defense budget at risk of transcending "exclusively defense posture"](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

SOCIETY

Accidents involving elderly drivers on the rise

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the increasing number of traffic accidents involving elderly drivers, including an incident in which a car driven by 90-year-old woman plowed into a group of pedestrians, killing one, in Yokohama last month. The program said the woman had passed the mandatory test for elderly drivers and renewed her driver's license just this March. According to the program, 13% of fatal traffic accidents in 2017 involved drivers aged 75 or older, and the percentage is increasing. The program said since many elderly people use cars to go for medical treatment or grocery shopping, they will need to be provided with sufficient support after surrendering their licenses.

- [Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko attend Honolulu event dedicated to Japanese immigrants](#) (The Japan Times)