



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, June 12, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters led with extensive reports on the U.S.-DPRK summit that began at about 10 a.m. (Japan time) in Singapore.

INTERNATIONAL

President Trump, Chairman Kim hold historic summit in Singapore

All networks gave extensive live coverage to the U.S.-DPRK summit in Singapore, showing President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un shaking hands at Capella Hotel and participating in an expanded meeting with senior officials. NHK said that during the expanded meeting, President Trump reportedly told Kim: "We will resolve major issues that have not been resolved in the past." Kim reportedly said in response: "I am determined to start a huge project together with the President."

An NHK reporter said President Trump looked more serious than ever, adding that while he has been saying that he will know within the first minute whether Kim is serious or not, it appears that he has acknowledged Kim as a negotiating partner since he appeared to take a positive attitude toward future meetings with Kim after their one-on-one meeting. The reporter said, however, that the U.S. and North Korea apparently remain apart over the definition of complete denuclearization, the timeline for it, and the verification process. He added that while the President has been positive about declaring the end of the Korean War, which would lead to a security guarantee for the North Korean regime, in exchange for complete denuclearization, President Trump is facing a moment of truth in that he must decide whether to make concessions to be able to reach a concrete agreement on denuclearization.

GOJ officials comment on U.S.-DPRK summit

NHK reported that Prime Minister Abe commented on the U.S.-DPRK summit at a joint press conference with visiting Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir this morning. "A historic U.S.-DPRK summit is being held in Singapore as we speak," said PM Abe. "I hope that the summit will bring progress toward resolving the issue of nuclear and missile programs, and most importantly, the abduction issue. North Korea has abundant resources and labor and can carve out a bright future if it chooses the right path. I will continue to work closely with Prime Minister Mahathir to convey a strong message to North Korea."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga is said to have told reporters this morning: "I strongly hope that today's summit will bring progress on the issue of nuclear and missile programs, and most importantly, the abduction issue, and be a historic one that takes a big step forward toward peace and stability in Northeast Asia. Japan will fully cooperate to that end."

Foreign Minister Kono reportedly said this morning: "The focus will be on whether North Korea will make a clear commitment to the complete, verifiable, and irreversible elimination of all of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, and ballistic missiles of all ranges. President Trump is supposed to raise the abduction issue, but ultimately this is an issue that needs to be discussed between Japan and North Korea."

Defense Minister Onodera said: "Based on North Korea's past actions, even if certain promises are made at the U.S.-DPRK summit, we must not let our guard down until we can confirm concrete actions. North Korea has not promised anything yet and has not taken any concrete actions. We will continue to stay vigilant."

Abduction Issue Minister Kato said: "The families of the abductees held a press conference yesterday and expressed their high expectations as well as concerns about the summit. They also said this will be their last chance. I strongly hope that the U.S.-DPRK summit will end in success and bring progress on the abduction issue."

- [Kono willing to hold dialogue with DPRK, if CVID is achieved](#) (Sankei)
- [Dismantling North Korea's nuclear weapons only the beginning, adviser says](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Diet group expresses support to make Japan-DPRK summit happen](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: "True worth of alliance" to be put to the test at U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Dialogue must be continued to mend G-7 divisions, restore internal unity](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: G7 must not lose its raison d'être](#) (Sankei)
- [In his own words: Mahathir Mohamad speaks to the Nikkei Asian Review](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Hiroshima mayor calls for nuclear abolition in U.S.](#) (Asahi)
- [Abe, Mahathir agree to cooperate in handling N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)

AMBASSADOR

- [Next steps for strengthening the U.S.-Japan partnership](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

- [Japan to fully support startups](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Abe pledges \\$50bn for infrastructure in Indo-Pacific](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Tokyo urges power companies to reduce plutonium](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Keidanren chief: Japan, U.S. to hold "tough negotiations" over trade](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan-India JV wins contract for Bangladesh urban railway project](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 9–11, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [If Niigata gubernatorial race was a litmus test, Abe and Nikai passed](#) (The Japan Times)
- [MOFA names Miyamoto as new director of Russian Division](#) (Yomiuri)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet support and nonsupport remains unchanged at 38% and 44%, respectively, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)
- [16% in favor and 38% opposed to casino bill, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)
- [Cabinet and political party support rates, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)

SCIENCE

- [Japan launches H-2A rocket carrying intelligence-gathering satellite](#) (Kyodo News)

EDUCATION

- [National university association recommends at least 20% of overall English scores come from private English tests](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

Companies competing to hire new recruits

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that amid the extreme labor shortage, Japanese companies are competing to hire new recruits. Unlike in the past, when students sent applications to companies, companies are now reaching out to students. The program also reported on companies' efforts to prevent new recruits from quitting, adding that young Japanese people prioritize work-life balance over high salaries or challenging work.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- [Japan ramps up Twitter diplomacy at G7 summit](#) (Nikkei)

SECURITY

- [SDF officers allegedly leak information on illegal ROK-DPRK ship-to-ship transfer of goods](#) (Sentaku)

**OKINAWA
LOCAL PRESS**

Onaga remains noncommittal on gubernatorial bid

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Okinawa Governor Onaga on Monday told a group of prefectural assembly members who support him that he will fulfill his duties as governor. However, Onaga did not mention whether he will seek a second term in the next gubernatorial election. The paper also wrote that concerning the FRF construction at Henoko, the governor stated that he will cancel the permit for landfill work without hesitation if laws are broken.

