

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, June 21, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report that classes resumed today at the school in Takatsuki, Osaka, attended by a 9-year-old girl who was killed when a block-wall fell on her in the recent earthquake. TV Asahi led with a report saying that President Trump indicated that the remains of 200 American soldiers who died in North Korea have been sent back to the U.S. NTV and Fuji TV gave top play to reports that a man was found dead and two people were found injured at an apartment in Yokohama early this morning. TBS led with a report on the arrest of two post office workers for allowing a direct mail agent to wine and dine them in exchange for illegally discounting delivery charges.

ECONOMY

U.S. agrees to exempt some Japanese steel products from high tariffs

NHK and NTV reported at noon that the U.S. Department of Commerce announced on Wednesday that it has approved a request by seven U.S. firms to exempt 42 steel products imported from Japan and other nations from the list of steel imports to be subject to high tariffs. NHK said, however, that since there are over 20,000 similar requests, processing them is likely to take time. According to the network, the GOJ is trying to confirm the extent to which the impact on trade will be reduced by the latest measure and is planning to continue to call on the U.S. to exempt more Japanese steel products. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga reportedly told the press this morning: "We are aware that Japanese companies are included in the list of products to be exempted from high tariffs. Imports of steel and aluminum products from Japan do not have any adverse impact on U.S. security, and high-quality Japanese products are contributing greatly to U.S. industry and employment. We will continue to strongly call on the U.S. to exempt Japanese products from additional tariff measures."

- [U.S. exempts steel products of Japan, 4 others from import duties](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan carmakers' U.S. workforce has tripled since 1990](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan refrains from joining growing international encirclement of U.S. on trade policies](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Startup Japan: Buyouts overtake IPOs as preferred exit: American-style M&A brings young tech companies to patrons like Fanuc](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [SoftBank vows to bolster start-up investment at shareholders' meeting](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Corporate Japan regaining interest in Chinese business expansion](#) (Asahi)
- [Companies fight hard for new university graduates amid seller's market, Asahi Shimbun survey of 100 leading companies](#) (Asahi)
- [Recruiting new university graduates, Asahi Shimbun survey of 100 leading companies](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun survey of 100 leading companies](#) (Asahi)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Abe plans tour of Europe, Middle East in mid-July: sources](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.S. hits UNHRC as "hypocritical"](#) (Sankei)
- [Expert views U.S.-DPRK summit, says U.S. Forces Korea reduction not to tip military balance](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: U.S. should fully discuss with allies for DPRK's denuclearization](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: North Korea must deliver on its promise](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [FM Kono agrees with Beninese counterpart to cooperate for TICAD](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Japan-DPRK summit](#) (Asahi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 20, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Diet session extended to pass key bills, allow Abe to score achievements for LDP presidential race](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Supra-partisan parliamentary union for Lower House reform to be formed by Koizumi, others](#) (Mainichi)
- [Minimum voting age for constitutional referendums lowered to 18](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: Kotaro Kake](#) (Akahata)

OPINION POLLS

- [More men than women "approve" of U.S.-DPRK summit, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Cabinet support rate rises across the board after U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Sankei)
- [S. Koreans more optimistic over N. Korea than Japanese, Genron survey](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

Earthquakes in major cities pose unique risks

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the powerful earthquake that hit the Osaka region on Monday, which claimed the lives of five people. The program said many municipal functions were paralyzed in Osaka as transportation services and lifelines were disrupted. According to the program,

people were trapped inside more than 160 elevators that stopped operating due to the earthquake. The program also reported on a girl who was killed in the quake after a concrete-block wall fell on her, saying that there are many similar walls across Japan.

- [New Panama Papers hint at abuse of leaked Japanese passport info](#) (Kyodo News)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [Young female assembly members strive to change male-dominated political culture](#) (Nikkei)
- [Musicians criticized for crossing the line between patriotism and nationalism](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

U.S., Japan finalizing plan to offer condolence payment to family of murder victim

TBS reported at noon that the governments of the U.S. and Japan are making final arrangements to offer a condolence payment to the bereaved family of a woman in Okinawa who was murdered by a former U.S. base worker two years ago. The Naha District Court ordered the defendant in January to pay compensation to the bereaved family. The network said while the family asked the USG to pay compensation on behalf of the defendant based on the SOFA, the USG has been hesitant since the defendant was not directly hired by the government. The network added, however, that the two governments agreed on the importance of supporting the bereaved family and began making final arrangements to offer condolence money commensurate with the compensation. The payment will be made to the family once the amount has been decided.

- [Japan, U.S. to make condolence payment to family of slain Okinawa woman: sources](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan to cancel missile evacuation drills following Trump-Kim summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [MOD to extend ASDF Tsuiki Base runway by 300 meters](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japanese airlines to introduce screening on carry-on powder items for U.S.-bound flights](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Anti-FRF rally to be held in Okinawa in mid-August

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged a report saying that in Naha on Aug. 11 a large rally will be held in opposition to the landfill work slated to begin off Camp Schwab on Aug. 17. The work will consist of pouring earth and sand into adjacent waters for the construction of the Futenma replacement facility. The organizers are reportedly aiming to mobilize some 30,000 people for the event and will ask Governor Onaga to attend. The protest rally is intended to back the governor's plan to withdraw the landfill permit in order to derail the relocation initiative.

- [Ginowan mayor willing to run for Okinawa governor](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [U.S. military aircraft uses Navy ramp at Kadena again in violation of agreement](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)

- [Infographic: Political party support rates since December 2014](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Rengo's Okinawa chapter to pitch in for local poll on Henoko](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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