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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, June 25, 2018

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#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

NHK led with a forecast for extreme heat across Japan today. NTV gave top play to a report that about 500 people are still living in shelters after a powerful earthquake hit the Osaka region one week ago. TBS, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi led with reports on the Japan-Senegal match in the FIFA World Cup, which ended in a 2-2 draw.

#### ECONOMY

##### RCEP working-level talks begin in Tokyo

NHK reported at noon that working-level talks of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) began this morning in Tokyo. The network said representatives from 16 nations, including Japan, China, India, and ASEAN nations, are expected to discuss how to proceed with talks on the 16 sectors for which the nations have yet to reach an agreement, including trade in goods, intellectual property, and electronic commerce. The network added that a RCEP foreign ministers' meeting will be held in Tokyo on July 1. Noting that a trade war between the U.S. and China as well as other nations is becoming a real possibility as a result of the Trump administration's protectionist policies, the network said attention will be focused on to what extent Japan, as a co-host, will be able to move forward the talks in order to promote free trade.

- [Bank of Japan eyes lowering FY 2018 inflation forecast](#) (Kyodo News)

- [6 crypto exchanges ordered to fix lax oversight](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Tokai nuclear plant passes key test, resumption still in the cards](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## INTERNATIONAL

- [Source: China urged Kim Jong Un not to declare end of Korean War at U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan may send experts to DPRK](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: China, N. Korea show off close ties to check U.S. over denuclearization](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan's Iwasawa elected Int'l Court of Justice judge](#) (Kyodo News)

## SCIENCE

### **Suga says Japan to take lead in marine plastic pollution issue**

NHK reported online that in relation to an agreement between the environmental ministers of Japan, China, and South Korea to cooperate in resolving the issue of marine plastic pollution, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning that Japan will make efforts to lead the world in addressing the issue of marine plastic pollution as it will host the G20 summit next year. He reportedly said: "At the last G7 summit, Prime Minister Abe said nations around the world, including developing nations, should address the issue of marine pollution, since it is not something that can be resolved by the efforts of one nation, the G7, or developed nations alone." Suga added: "In order to thoroughly implement the principle of 'reduce, reuse, and recycle' for plastic waste, we plan to draw up a strategy for the recycling of plastic resources and lead the world in addressing the issue of marine pollution in the lead up to the G20 summit to be held in Japan next year."

- [Japan, China, S.Korea to address ocean pollution](#) (NHK)

## SOCIETY

- [About 70% of workplaces treat foreign technical interns poorly](#) (Mainichi, Evening edition)
- [JCP organ Akahata to launch online version on July 2](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan dancer snags silver medal at int'l ballet competition in U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)

## POLITICS

## **Ruling, opposition lawmakers discuss issues to be deliberated in Diet**

On NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show, senior Upper House lawmakers from the ruling and opposition parties discussed the issues slated for deliberation during the current ordinary Diet session that has been extended until July 22. The opposition panelists expressed objections to the legislation on work-style reform and the bill on the implementation of integrated resorts with casinos. The participants also discussed the results of the U.S.-DPRK summit in Singapore. All the panelists, including those from the opposition camp, welcomed that the historic summit produced positive results toward the denuclearization of North Korea. However, some of the opposition discussants expressed dissatisfaction by saying that Japan has little presence in the ongoing international efforts to denuclearize the DPRK.

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 22, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on June 23, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on June 24, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Survey: Abe has the support of majority of LDP Diet members in presidential election](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [UH Budget Committee to hold intensive discussions with Abe's attendance on June 25](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Criminal complaint eyed for former finance official](#) (The Japan News)
- [Aso poised to tap Okamoto as top Finance Ministry bureaucrat](#) (Mainichi)
- ["Kantei bureaucrats" broadening influence in Kasumigaseki, Nagatacho](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [Toshihide Endo to be promoted to FSA commissioner](#) (Mainichi)

### **OPINION POLLS**

- [Abe's approval rating climbs back above 50%, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Opinion poll & results from Nikkei Digital](#) (Nikkei)
- [60%-plus expect no resolution of N. Korean nuclear, abduction issues, Mainichi poll](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)

### **SECURITY**

- [Protest held in Okinawa against landfill for U.S. base transfer](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Editorial: Govt must seek to win over residents of Okinawa to carry out Henoko landfill](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gov't pushing for Aegis Ashore deployment despite local opposition, change in DPRK situation](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Significance of having land-based Aegis system should be patiently stressed](#) (The Japan News)
- [DM Onodera visits Kume Island, calling for stronger surveillance](#) (Asahi)
- [GSDF conducts first exercise on new role under peace and security legislation in Mongolia](#) (Asahi)
- [JCG plans to deploy patrol vessels to Ogasawara Islands](#) (Sankei)
- [Relocation of carrier-borne aircraft dramatically increases noise at MCAS Iwakuni](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

<b>OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS</b>
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- [Seven tons of waste collected from returned land at Northern Training Area](#) (Okinawa Times)
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