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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, June 28, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK led with a report on heavy rain in Gifu Prefecture. NTV and TV Asahi gave top play to previews of tonight's Japan-Poland match at the FIFA World Cup. Fuji TV led with reports on the World Cup matches on Wednesday. TBS led with updates on the arrest of a former SDF member on charges of killing a police officer and security guard in Toyama.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Secretary Pompeo comments on North Korea's denuclearization

NHK and TV-Asahi highlighted remarks made by Secretary of State Pompeo to Congress on Wednesday, during which he voiced hope that North Korea will take steps toward denuclearization without delay. The Secretary said: "The North Koreans understand the scope of the request that we're making with respect to denuclearization." While mentioning the Trump administration's decision to halt joint exercises with South Korea, the top U.S. diplomat said: "We are following through with the summit commitment. It is our expectation that the North Koreans will begin to do that relatively quickly as well." The Secretary reportedly suggested that if the ongoing denuclearization talks fail, there will be no way to achieve a peaceful solution to the nuclear standoff. He expressed concern about China's apparent moves to ease pressure on the Kim regime by saying: "We have observed China not enforcing control over their cross-border areas as vigorously as they were six or 12 months ago."

- [Sanctions on Iran create diplomatic headache, rather than economic catastrophe, for oil-dependent Japan](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Japan should engage in energy procurement negotiations without harming national interests](#) (Sankei)
- [Uzbek envoy eager to deepen relationship with Japan](#) (The Japan Times)

- [Cartoon: Erdoğan pins Turkey](#) (Asahi)
- [Custody rulings to be easier to enforce under advised changes](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## ECONOMY

- [Toyota warns against U.S. move to curb auto imports](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: Casino bill](#) (Akahata)
- [Japan to cooperate for Thailand joining TPP free trade talks](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Asia's first patent arbitration hub to open in Tokyo](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 27, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe says question time has outlived its usefulness](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Opposition complains of too little question time in party leaders' debate](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Panel led by Koizumi submits proposals for Diet reform](#) (Yomiuri)
- [DPFP to hold presidential election in early September](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP maintains delicate relationship with labor group Rengo](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe dines with LDP's unaffiliated young lawmakers](#) (Mainichi)
- [Former Japanese envoy to U.S. tapped as new JIIA president](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Abe's priorities](#) (Akahata)

## OPINION POLLS

- [Strength and fragility of Abe cabinet: Part 1 – Traditional method for estimating administration's stability less reliable as fewer pollees say they "don't know" if they back cabinet](#) (Nikkei)
- [Factors driving cabinet support and nonsupport](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cabinet support rate findings differ depending on phrasing of question](#) (Nikkei)

## SOCIETY

### Shohei Ohtani's elbow injury

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani, who was placed on the disabled list after he injured a ligament in his right elbow. The program said Ohtani has been treated with platelet-rich plasma injections and will be examined on June 28 to decide whether or not he needs to undergo surgery.

## SECURITY

### Changes in Iwakuni

NHK carried this morning a five-minute report on the city of Iwakuni, which hosts MCAS Iwakuni. The network said that as part of the U.S. force realignment, 50 fighters have been transferred from NAF Atsugi, making MCAS Iwakuni the largest U.S. air station in East Asia. The network said about 3,000 military personnel and their families have also moved to Iwakuni, and now there are more than 10,000 U.S. service members and their families living in the city. The network said although local restaurants, shops, and companies welcome the economic benefits of the move, local residents are suffering from increased noise pollution. According to the network, incidents of noise at 70 db levels that lasted more than five seconds were confirmed more than 1,400 times in May alone. The

network reported on the results of its opinion poll conducted in Iwakuni from May 18 to 20, which found that 63% of respondents feel that noise pollution has worsened. The network interviewed local residents near MCAS Iwakuni. One said she can no longer hear her television, and another said that although he has been supportive of the U.S. base for the security of Japan, he may come to oppose the base if the noise worsens.

- [Seizure of candidate U.S. training site owner's assets ordered](#) (Jiji Press)

<b>OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS</b>
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### **Okinawa eager to determine cause of “stray bullet” incident**

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times carried follow-up stories on the discovery of what appeared to be a stray bullet in a farm shed near Camp Schwab a week ago, noting that although the U.S. military has refrained from using one of the shooting ranges at the base since the incident, it has yet to acknowledge that the object in question was a bullet that was fired from a U.S. military gun. Consequently, the municipal assembly of Nago probably will not demand the suspension of live ammunition firing drills at all practice ranges in Okinawa in a resolution on the incident to be adopted next week. The motion will instead simply call for the U.S. military and the Okinawa Defense Bureau to quickly determine the cause of the incident.

Okinawa Times voiced concern that the Japanese police investigation may run into difficulties because the SOFA may stand in the way as the U.S. military will have primary jurisdiction if the incident is indeed found to have occurred during training, which is 'official duty.' Pointing out that similar stray bullet incidents have occurred in the past around the same military base, the daily attributed the cause of such mishaps to the relatively small size of “Range 10,” whose use has been suspended following the incident. According to Ryukyu Shimpo, a senior prefectural government official phoned the U.S. military yesterday and asked for firing practice to be halted at all ranges on Camp Schwab until the cause of the incident is identified.

- [Instances of aircraft noise increase fourfold in Takae over three years](#) (Okinawa Times)