
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, June 29, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, TBS, and TV Asahi led with reports on the record rainfall in the Kyushu region today. NTV gave top play to a report that the Japan Meteorological Agency announced the end of the rainy season today in the Kanto-Koshin region, which includes Tokyo, saying this is the first time for the rainy season to end in the region in June. Fuji TV reported on yesterday's game between Japan and Poland at the FIFA World Cup.

INTERNATIONAL

Mattis, Onodera agree suspension of U.S.-ROK drills aimed at supporting diplomatic efforts

NHK reported this morning that visiting Secretary of Defense Mattis and Defense Minister Onodera met earlier in the day at the MOD in Tokyo, saying that this was the first time for them to meet since the U.S.-DPRK summit was held in Singapore. The network said the two defense chiefs agreed that the suspension of U.S.-ROK joint military exercises is aimed at supporting diplomatic efforts and confirmed that U.S.-Japan and U.S.-Japan-ROK joint military drills will continue since they are important for regional stability.

In addition, the two ministers reportedly agreed that the U.S. and Japan will work closely with the international community to make North Korea abolish all of its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner. On the suspension of the U.S.-ROK joint military drills scheduled for August, Secretary Mattis reportedly explained that it is meant to give diplomats a strong negotiating position. The Secretary also reportedly said the current scale of U.S. Forces Korea will be maintained. During the joint press conference, Onodera reportedly said that the U.S. and Japan agree on the importance of USFK and that Secretary Mattis told him that USFK will be firmly maintained in the future. The network showed the Secretary saying at the press conference: "We also recognize the importance of the Japanese abductee issue.... The humanitarian

issue is always present in our deliberations." TBS, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi carried similar stories,

Secretary Pompeo making plans to visit Japan early next month

Fuji TV reported at noon that it learned that Secretary of State Pompeo is making arrangements to visit Japan for the first time since assuming his post after he visits North Korea early next month. The network said the Secretary is making plans to meet with Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kono. According to the network, PM Abe is hoping to receive a briefing from him on the process of North Korea's denuclearization and to ask him about North Korea's intentions concerning the abduction issue.

In a related story, Friday evening's Yomiuri took up a teleconference on Thursday between Secretary Pompeo and his Chinese counterpart Wang, during which the top U.S. diplomat stressed the importance of fully enforcing UN Security Council sanctions resolutions on North Korea. The Secretary reportedly cited instances in which Chinese vessels have allegedly been involved in illicit transfers of sanctioned items, such as petroleum, with DPRK ships. The paper said that Secretary Pompeo in effect urged China not to relax its trade pressure on the Kim regime.

U.S. objects to draft UN statement calling for relaxing sanctions on DPRK

Friday evening's Yomiuri wrote that although in the UN Security Council China and Russia jointly drafted a press statement calling for easing sanctions on North Korea, it was not issued due to U.S. opposition. According to the daily, the draft was circulated to the 15 Security Council members for review on Thursday, but the U.S. objected to its release on the grounds that relaxation of sanctions is premature.

DOS report expresses approval of Japan's efforts to address human trafficking

Nikkei's website highlighted Thursday's release of the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report, underscoring that Japan was upgraded to Tier 1 because in the past year it delivered key achievements to fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking. The report cited as one of these achievements the establishment of a new inter-agency task force to combat sex trafficking involving high school girls, commonly known in Japan as "JK business."

Yomiuri carried a similar report speculating that Japan's accession to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and an accompanying protocol a year ago probably prompted the USG to upgrade Japan to Tier 1. An unnamed senior Justice Ministry official commented on the latest U.S. evaluation by saying: "Japan, by complying with the minimum level of international rules, was appraised as an advanced nation. We would like to eradicate human trafficking by promoting international cooperation."

Japan protests China's operation of drilling platform in East China Sea

Nikkei reported online on the disclosure by Foreign Minister Kono this morning that the GOJ has filed a “stern protest” with the Chinese government following the recent finding that a Chinese drilling vessel was operating along the median line between the two nations in the East China Sea earlier this month. Kono said: “This is not conducive to building friendly ties.... It is truly regrettable that China continues to take actions aimed at unilateral development.” A total of 16 drilling platforms have reportedly been installed in the area.

- [There may be no Abe-Trump meeting on sidelines of NATO summit](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan, U.S. agree to cooperate over N. Korea, bolster deterrence](#) (Kyodo News)
- [China sets up new deep sea drilling rig near median line with Japan in East China Sea](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan utilities team up to build power grids in Asia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [CDPJ lawmaker questions Japan’s paying cost of IAEA inspection of DPRK nuclear facilities](#) (Asahi)
- [China protests to Japanese media over report on Taiwan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.N. chief eyes Nagasaki visit to mark 73rd anniv. of atomic bombing](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

CPTPP legislation clears Diet

Nikkei reported online that the House of Councillors enacted on Friday a package of legislation for acceding to the CPTPP, noting that the GOJ plans to notify New Zealand, the official depository country, of the completion of domestic procedures and to urge other members to complete their procedures quickly so as to effectuate the regional free trade pact by the end of this year. Pointing out that in approving the legislation on Thursday, an Upper House committee adopted a resolution calling for the GOJ to “dismiss categorically” any U.S. demands for trade liberalization that exceed the terms set forth in the CPTPP, the daily projected that Tokyo will enter talks with Washington on a “free, fair, and reciprocal” trade deal with firm determination not to give in to U.S. pressure.

Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Motegi reportedly commented on the enactment by telling the press: “The TPP 11 is meant to establish new rules for the 21st century that are free and fair amid rising protectionism around the world. It is an extremely notable accomplishment for the future of Japan and the Asia-Pacific region..... Japan will continue to play a leading role to boost momentum for early effectuation.”

- [Japan eager to conclude RCEP talks](#) (Mainichi)
- [METI to finance organizations that help start-ups](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan parliament enacts bill to complete TPP domestic arrangements](#) (Kyodo News)
- [JBIC to set 1.6 trillion yen credit line for Japan firms for overseas buyouts](#) (Mainichi)
- [Orix set to catch 5G wave with US acquisition](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [‘Trade war’ overtakes China as worry for Japan CEOs](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Infographics from Nikkei survey of 100 major companies](#) (Nikkei)
- [Diet enacts labor reform bill amid concerns over long working hours](#) (Kyodo News)
- [SoftBank appears to have boosted U.S. investment by \\$22 bil.: Trump](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 28, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Rift between CDPJ, DPFP in Upper House on handling workstyle reform bills](#) (Yomiuri)
- [IR bills next in extended Diet session](#) (Sankei)
- [Supra-partisan parliamentary union for Lower House reform launched](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Political foes Koizumi, Ozawa unite against nuclear energy](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Diet question time must address policy from broad perspective](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: The mikes to fall silent](#) (Asahi)

SOCIETY

Baseball manga "Dokaben" ends after 46 years

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on Shinji Mizushima's baseball manga "Dokaben," which ended its 46-year run in the weekly comic magazine "Shonen Jump" on Thursday. The program said the series inspired many young Japanese to play baseball. The program also reported on other sports-related manga, such as "Captain Tsubasa" by Yoichi Takahashi, which depicts a boy who loves soccer, and "Slam Dunk" by Masahiko Inoue, which is about a high school basketball team. The program said both of these manga have been translated into many languages, adding that Polish striker Lewandowski was influenced by "Captain Tsubasa."

- [U.S. upgrades Japan, demotes Myanmar over human trafficking situation](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

- [U.S. gov't to pay compensation to family of slain Okinawan woman](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to construct unmanned undersea vessel to find mines](#) (The Japan News)
- [Signature gathering for Okinawa referendum on Henoko facing difficulty](#) (Sankei)
- [Mayor of municipality in Yamaguchi opposes Aegis Ashore deployment](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – Be considerate to area residents by disclosing information](#) (Chugoku Shimbun)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – Gov't must dispel local concerns about FCLP](#) (Chugoku Shimbun)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – Gov't needs to grasp aircraft noise burden](#) (Chugoku Shimbun)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – U.S. Forces the cause of confusing information](#) (Chugoku Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa police confirm object found in shed was a bullet

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo took up yesterday's Okinawa prefectural police announcement that the bullet-like object discovered in a shed near Camp Schwab on June 21 was confirmed to be a bullet fired from a gun. The police have already asked the U.S. military to provide data on similar bullets in order to identify the type of gun involved. Okinawa Times took issue with the police taking a week to conclude the object in question was a bullet.

- [Guam governor expresses understanding for relocation of U.S. Marines from Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Hiroshi Kawamura posted to Okinawa as 13th Ambassador in charge of Okinawa](#) (Okinawa Times)
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