
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, July 11, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports on the aftermath of the record rainfall in western Japan and the ongoing search for the missing people. According to NHK, 162 people have died and 56 remain missing.

ECONOMY

Trump administration to impose additional tariffs on 6,031 Chinese products

NHK reported that the USTR announced on Tuesday that it began the process of imposing 10% tariffs on an additional 6,031 Chinese products, worth about \$200 billion, in addition to the tariff measures it imposed on 818 Chinese imports last week. The network said if the latest additional tariffs are formally imposed, almost half of Chinese imports will be subject to additional tariffs, adding that the conflict between the U.S. and China is bound to intensify. The network said Chinese products that are subject to the latest additional tariffs include not only high-tech products but also food, clothing, and consumer goods such as refrigerators. USTR Lighthizer reportedly said in a statement that China has retaliated against the U.S. without legal basis and that "unfortunately, China has not changed its behavior – behavior that puts the future of the U.S. economy at risk."

- [Trade white paper carefully sidesteps Japan-U.S. trade friction](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan frets over protectionist moves](#) (The Japan News)
- [“Japan needs to harness China’s dynamism”: white paper](#) (Asahi)
- [Firms gearing up for start of casinos](#) (The Japan News)
- [METI to back partnerships between corporations and AI startups](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan taps private sector for safer, cheaper reactors](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Dark clouds hang over commercialization of floating wind farm off coast of Fukushima](#) (Asahi)
- [Mitsubishi Aircraft president concerned about Boeing’s acquisition of rival company](#) (Mainichi)
- [How the world will look at mid-century](#) (The Japan Times)

OPINION POLLS

- [NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)

INTERNATIONAL

Children who were forced to become IS soldiers

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on children who were forced to become IS soldiers, saying that while they are beginning to be released and to return home as the Islamic extremist group is on the verge of collapse, many of them are suffering from the trauma of having been under the control of the terrorist organization and exposed to extreme violence. The program said there are about 3,000 children who became IS soldiers. Noting that the extremist group set up a department of education to turn children into future soldiers, the program said some of the children who returned home remain brainwashed and hope to return to the group. The program reported on efforts in Iraq to reeducate such children in an effort to reintegrate them into society.

- [Editorial: Return to "maximum pressure" policy toward North Korea](#) (Sankei)
- [Interview: Former MOFA official stress strategic approach to Korean Peninsula issues](#) (Mainichi)
- [87 nations to attend this year's Hiroshima A-bomb memorial ceremony](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to relax visa requirements for Saudi nationals](#) (Asahi)
- [Ambassador to Belgium Hayashi appointed to also serve as ambassador to NATO](#) (Asahi)

POLITICS

- [MOFA taps "low-key director" who endured Makiko Tanaka's verbal onslaught as contact for negotiations with DPRK](#) (Shukan Gendai)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 10, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP presidential race candidates eager to get support from popular Shinjiro Koizumi](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opposition criticizes ruling parties' deliberation of casino resort bill amid large-scale disaster](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Inada tapped as Japan's top prosecutor](#) (Sankei)

SOCIETY

- [Women's university in Japan officially announces new policy to start accepting transgender students from 2020](#) (The Japan Times)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Foreign Minister Kono hopes to expand visit to U.S. program for Okinawa students

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Foreign Minister Kono said at a meeting of the Lower House Special Committee on Okinawa and Northern Territories on Monday that his ministry is hoping to upgrade and expand the "Think of Okinawa's Future in the United States" (TOFU) program, under which high

school and college students from Okinawa visit the United States to exchange views with USG and other officials. Kono made the remarks in response to a question from Lower House member Akamine of the Japanese Communist Party. Akamine argued that the program is designed to inculcate into students the significance of the U.S.-Japan alliance rather than provide them with the opportunity to learn English.

