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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, July 18, 2018

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#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

All networks gave extensive coverage to the heat wave across Japan, saying that temperatures have reached dangerous levels.

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### President Trump says “no time limit” for denuclearization talks with North Korea

NHK reported this afternoon that President Trump said during a meeting with members of Congress on Tuesday that negotiations with North Korea on denuclearization are going well and that there is no time limit for their conclusion. The president reportedly stressed that North Korea's military provocations have subsided. The network showed the President saying: "There have been no rockets going up for the period of nine months. I think the relationship is very good so we'll see how that goes. We have no time limit."

Noting that no concrete road map or time limit was included in the joint statement released after the Singapore summit, the network said some question whether the negotiations will smoothly move forward. The network also said the North Korean foreign ministry's criticism of the U.S. after the meeting between Secretary Pompeo and Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol showed that there is a wide gap between the U.S. and DPRK positions. The network

claimed that the President's latest remarks are aimed at lowering expectations at home and abroad in view of the possibility that the denuclearization talks could be prolonged.

- [Gov't responsible for reducing plutonium stockpile](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Promote use of plutonium; govt, utilities must provide explanations](#) (The Japan News)

## ECONOMY

### **Meeting of chief TPP negotiators begins in Kanagawa**

NHK reported this morning on its website that a two-day meeting of the chief negotiators of the TPP 11 nations began in Hakone, Kanagawa, this morning, saying that Japan's chief negotiator Umemoto, who chairs the meeting, urged all the member nations to swiftly complete domestic procedures in order for the TPP agreement to take effect next year. The network said if four more nations complete their domestic procedures, the condition for effectuation of the agreement will be established.

The network added that in addition to the signing of the Japan-EU EPA on Tuesday, the GOJ is hoping to accelerate momentum toward the early effectuation of the TPP and reinforce cooperation with nations that value free trade before bilateral trade talks with the U.S. begin.

### **Kono comments on extension of U.S.-Japan nuke cooperation pact**

Yomiuri took up press remarks on Tuesday by Foreign Minister Kono regarding the automatic extension of the U.S.-Japan agreement for cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. "The pact forms the foundation of the nation's atomic industry," he said. "Japan will uphold it in order to preserve the nuclear nonproliferation regime." As for U.S. concern about Japan's possession of an excessive amount of plutonium, Kono said: "It is important to strive to reduce it."

- [Gist of joint news conference by PM Abe, EU chiefs after EPA signing, July 17](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan and EU form world's largest free-trade bloc](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Five things to know about Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan-EU EPA: Mega-FTA covering 600 million people](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japanese dairy farmers cautious about cheese imports from EU](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan-EU EPA seen to have limited impact on auto exports](#) (Mainichi)

- [Japan business leaders welcome signing of free trade deal with EU](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, EU agree on personal data transfer](#) (Mainichi)
- [EPA with EU, CPTPP to serve as “trump cards” for Abenomics](#) (Yomiuri)
- [After EPA with EU, Kantei’s competence to be tested in U.S. trade talks](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan, Thailand hold high-level economic meeting](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan OKs reuse of nuclear fuel from scrapped reactors for 1st time](#) (Kyodo News)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on July 17, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Internal Affairs Minister Noda puts off decision about LDP presidential election](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opposition submits censure motion on MLIT minister to obstruct vote on casino resort bill](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Partying while storm clouds gathered](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## SOCIETY

### Youth and their views about sex

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that a growing number of young Japanese are beginning to talk about sex. The program said it used a web-based survey called "Generation What?" targeting about 1 million people aged 18 to 34 around the world. The program said the survey found that many young Japanese feel insecure about sex, partly because they have not received proper sex education at school or there is a perception in society that sex is bad or talking about sex is taboo. The program stressed the importance of providing proper sex education to children, introducing examples in northern Europe, including a Norwegian public broadcaster that features "normal sex" and Swedish-government-run youth clinics where young people can feel free to ask questions about sex.

- [Japanese high court orders mother to return son to father in U.S.](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Is Japan a land of contradictions or opportunities for immigration?](#) (The Japan Times)

## SECURITY

- [High cost may disrupt plans for new fighter jet](#) (The Japan News)

## OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

### **U.S. military aircraft allowed to use Navy ramp at Kadena**

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that they have learned from a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) of the Federal Aviation Administration dated June 22 that U.S. military aircraft are allowed to use the Navy ramp at Kadena AB if they have prior approval from the 18th Operations Group. The papers wrote that the NOTAM said that it is necessary for all aircraft to have prior approval to perform maintenance, run engines, tow, or taxi at the ramp.

Okinawa Times wrote that the Ministry of Defense indicated that operations at the ramp that cause noise run counter to the noise reduction initiatives agreed upon in the 1996 SACO Final Report.

- [Prefectural referendum on Futenma relocation might be held after November gubernatorial election](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)
  - [Jon Mitchell releases book accusing U.S. military of environmental pollution](#) (Okinawa Times)
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