
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, July 20, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi gave top play to the heat wave in Japan. TBS led with a report that the Japan Meteorological Agency announced this morning that the rainy season has officially ended in the Tohoku region. NTV gave top play to a report that a body encased in concrete was found in an apartment in Ibaraki.

ECONOMY

Cabinet ministers respond to USG hearing on raising auto import tariffs

NHK reported online that members of the Abe cabinet responded to the public hearing held by the U.S. government on the possibility of raising tariffs on auto imports to the United States. Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Seko reportedly said: "The government explained at the hearing that Japanese automakers and auto parts manufacturers as well as dealers are making great contributions to the U.S. economy." Concerning the fact that General Motors and other members of the U.S. auto industry also expressed opposition to higher auto import tariffs at the hearing, Seko reportedly said: "I hope the Trump administration listens to such voices." Economic Revitalization Minister Motegi reportedly

said: "I understand that many automakers and dealers expressed caution [at the hearing]. I think it is also well known within the U.S. that the current situation is different from the 80s and 90s when there was trade friction between the U.S. and Japan." He reportedly added: "I hope that the U.S. government thoroughly listens to these voices and considers the way forward."

- [Japan, EU, Canada oppose proposed U.S. duties on imported cars](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to persuade U.S. to return to TPP, forgo auto import restrictions at FFR talks](#) (Sankei)
- [Britain sets up task force, plans to hold hearings in preparation for joining TPP](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Positions of countries/regions interested in TPP-11](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [U.S. tariffs will hit Toyota, Subaru, and Mazda hard](#) (Asahi)
- [LDP TPP headquarters warns against negotiating FTA with U.S. in trade talks](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Japan, EU should use EPA to be standard-bearers for free trade](#) (The Japan News)
- [Inpex Corporation plans to forgo bidding for Azadegan oil field project](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Asahi Kasei to buy U.S. auto interior maker for \\$1.06 billion](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ex-MOF official: G20 should focus on correcting unfair trade](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan's 5-year worker visa extended to manufacturing](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan extends tuna fishing quotas to larger bluefin](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

INTERNATIONAL

National intelligence director says denuclearization in short time difficult

NHK reported online that Director of National Intelligence Coats said in a speech in Colorado on Thursday that it would be difficult to complete North Korea's denuclearization within a year because it is a "much more complicated process than most people think." Noting that national security adviser Bolton said earlier this month that the majority of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, could be eliminated within a year with North Korea's full cooperation, the network said Coats pointed out: "It's technically possible but probably not going to happen." He reportedly added: "I would not be surprised if North Korea tried to hide something from us or deceive us."

Former residents of Northern Territories to visit families' graves by air on July 22-23

NHK reported online that Foreign Minister Kono announced this morning that former residents of the Northern Territories will be allowed to visit their families' graves by air on July 22 and 23. The network said former residents first flew to the Northern Territories for grave visits last September following an agreement made at a bilateral summit last April. According to MOFA, about 70 former residents will visit their families' graves this year. They are expected to leave Hokkaido on July 22 and spend the night on Kunashiri Island or Etorofu Island.

- [Japan names new ambassadors to Israel, 5 other countries](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Koreas agree to cooperate in recovery of remains from Japan](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 19, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan faces \\$2bn price tag for flood rebuilding](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Opposition says LDP prioritized 'partisan interests' with increase of Upper House seats](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Gov't unofficially decides to tap Okamoto as new top finance official](#) (Mainichi)
- [Kishida questioning Kantei's strong leadership, seeking to increase party's influence](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: "Zero" movements](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

Revival of professional wrestling in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the recent resurgence in popularity of professional wrestling in Japan. While pro-wrestling fans used to be mostly men, there are now also many women and children who enjoy watching the sport. The program said that a popular wrestler named Hiroshi Tanahashi has resonated with the young generation because he gives his all in every bout and never gives up, adding that the boom was also triggered by the current CEO of New Japan Pro-wrestling, who has been striving to raise the profile of Japanese pro-wrestlers at home and abroad.

- [U.S. Marines from Iwakuni volunteer for cleanup in flood disaster areas](#) (Sankei)

SECURITY

- [Defense white paper: “DPRK’s nuclear threat remains in place”](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Six-nation drills on foiling sea transport of weapons of mass destruction to be held July 24-26](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Carrying knives onto trains to be banned under new security steps](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

[U.S. military says it can use Kadena Navy ramp when operationally necessary](#)

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the U.S. military reportedly told the paper on Thursday that it is clear from the U.S.-Japan agreement that U.S. forces can use the Navy ramp at Kadena AB when operationally necessary. The paper claimed that the Okinawa defense bureau and the U.S. military have different views on the conditions for using the ramp. The defense bureau takes the position that the ramp, which is adjacent to a residential area, can only be used for operations that do not generate noise, but the U.S. military believes that the running of engines and taxiing is permitted on the ramp if prior approval is obtained from the 18th Operations Group. The Okinawa defense bureau reportedly told the paper that it will continue to call on the U.S. side to conduct operations that are in line with the noise reduction initiatives agreed upon in the 1996 SACO Final Report.

- [Ginowan Mayor reports on U.S. trip](#) (Okinawa Times)
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