
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, July 25, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks continued to lead with coverage of the extreme heat in Japan.

ECONOMY

Japanese, German foreign ministers confirm cooperation for early effectuation of EPA

NHK reported online that Foreign Minister Kono met with his German counterpart Maas, saying that the two ministers confirmed close cooperation toward the early effectuation of the EPA between Japan and the EU that was signed last week. According to the network, Kono and Maas agreed on the importance of maintaining a rules-based international order including free trade. The network added that the two ministers also agreed to urge all nations to implement the UNSC resolutions in order to realize the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea. Kono reportedly said at a joint press conference: "It is becoming more important than ever for Japan and Germany to work together closely given that the free and open international order based on rules is facing serious challenges." Maas reportedly stressed: "We will clearly convey an anti-protectionist message through the EPA and other initiatives."

- [Japan, U.S. to push back 1st round of trade talks to Aug.](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Iron and Steel Federation chief worries U.S.-China trade friction](#) (Asahi)
- [Shin-Etsu to build \\$1.4bn PVC plant in US](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Main points of interim report of METI panel on auto strategy in a new era](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan aims to make all passenger cars electric by 2050: panel report](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Yokohama begins soliciting IR ideas from public](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Increase momentum for cooperation in sustaining global economic growth](#) (The Japan News)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Japan agrees to accept 10,000 Vietnamese caregivers](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Rosneft's Sakhalin lawsuit exposes risks of Russia deals](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [FEATURE: Oregon-based group works to heal wounds of WWII with flag returns](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 24, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kishida skips LDP presidential race to leave option of succeeding Abe open](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Trend in LDP Diet members' support in the LDP presidential race](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Suga hails Kono, Koizumi as future candidates for LDP president](#) (Mainichi)
- [Senior defense official to be named assistant deputy chief cabinet secretary](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't announces new administrative vice ministers](#) (Asahi, Evening edition)
- [PM Abe ex-aide to retire as vice min. after suspected role in scandal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe asks Cabinet to speed up work on program to accept more foreign workers](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

Sumo wrestler Mitakeumi's road to success

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" profiled sumo wrestler Mitakeumi, who won his first title in the Nagoya grand tournament this summer just three years and four months after his first bout.

The program has been following Mitakeumi for the last three years, showing how he overcame injuries and developed skills and mental strength.

- [Percentage of foreigners in Japan remains low](#) (Nikkei)

SECURITY

- [Gov't mulls moving security duties for Maritime, Air SDF facilities to Ground SDF](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan crafts new cybersecurity strategy for 2020 Tokyo Olympics](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

[Okinawa vice governor stresses need for SOFA revision at meeting with German official](#)

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the German consul general in Osaka, Werner Köhler, paid a courtesy call on Okinawa Vice Governor Jahana on Tuesday. According to the paper, the vice governor pointed out what Okinawa Prefecture perceives as differences in conditions for hosting U.S. troops between Japan and Germany by saying: "I've heard that German law was applied when a U.S. military aircraft crashed in Germany and that the U.S. side covered the costs associated with the incident. Okinawa is looking to revise the SOFA with the United States so that domestic law is applied to investigations into U.S.-military-related incidents as it is in Germany."

- [Onaga to miss National Governors' Association meeting for health reasons](#) (Okinawa Times)
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