
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, July 26, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks led with reports that the six remaining Aum Shinrikyo cult members on death row were executed today. TBS gave top play to a report that MEXT Director-General for International Affairs Kawabata was arrested today on bribery charges.

INTERNATIONAL

Secretary Pompeo says North Korea continues to produce fissile materials

NHK reported online this morning that Secretary Pompeo testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday. Although the Secretary reportedly welcomed the recent moves by North Korea to dismantle some of the facilities at its missile test site, when asked by a senator whether North Korea is continuing to produce nuclear materials, he reportedly responded: "Yes, that's correct ... Yes, they continue to produce fissile material." The network said although many senators voiced doubt about whether North Korea will denuclearize, the Secretary reportedly responded that North Korea understands the meaning of denuclearization agreed upon at the summit and stressed that the U.S. is aiming to realize full denuclearization during the President's current term.

- [Japan to consider new document to mark improving ties with S. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [MOFA launches experts' panel on NGOs undertaking ODA projects](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Changing Chinese people's views of Japan](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

Japanese railway car manufacturer to close factory in U.S.

Asahi reported online that Nippon Sharyo, the nation's top railway car manufacturer, has decided to

close its production line in Illinois in late August primarily because it has not been able to produce 130 high-speed train cars that it had planned to deliver to railway operators in California and three other states. The firm reportedly had no choice but to close its U.S. plant due in part to difficulties in training local workers and the strict rule for all train car components to be produced at home that was imposed by the U.S. government following the economic turmoil caused by the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008.

- [Major Japanese companies set for R&D spending binge](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan says no to high-emission coal power plants](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan cryptocurrency industry moves to cap margin trading](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's "sharing economy" estimated at 500 bil. yen](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 25, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP Takeshita faction leaning toward supporting Abe in presidential race](#) (Asahi)
- [EDITORIAL: Kishida decision not to run illustrates grim state of politics](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Ozawa up to his old tricks as ouster of LDP back to the fore](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Gov't personnel appointments on a "well done" basis](#) (Asahi)
- [Separate agency eyed to handle increase in foreign workers](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [The ambition of "Don Juan" bureaucrat never fades](#) (Sentaku)
- [Cartoon: Kishida won't take the plunge](#) (Sankei)

OPINION POLLS

- [Does Abe really have a solid position going into the LDP presidential race?](#) (Asahi)
- [Abe continues to be favored by LDP supporters for next party president, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Those in teens and 20s think highly of Abe administration, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)

SOCIETY

Use of social media causes loneliness among young Japanese

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that a growing number of people, especially young ones, are feeling "lonely" even though they are "connected" with others through social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. The program said many of them feel lonely and suffer from low self-esteem because they see their friends enjoying active social lives on social media. One popular Instagrammer said that young people today are so used to communicating through social media that when they fail to make friends on social media they lose the courage to try to make friends in real life, which they think is much more difficult.

- [Ruling party lawmaker says LGBT couples lack "productivity"](#) (Kyodo News)
- [EDITORIAL: Sugita's idiocy on LGBT rejected by society but not the LDP](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Bigoted lawmaker Sugita not worthy to represent the people](#) (The Mainichi)

- [Police white paper predicts cybercrimes, special fraud “will become more serious”](#) (Nikkei, Evening edition)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [Buzzwords offer glimpse into shifting attitudes toward love](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan’s newest entrepreneurs driven by social consciousness](#) (Others, Business Insider Japan)

SECURITY

GOJ hosts multinational exercise to intercept weapons of mass destruction at sea

TBS and TV Asahi reported at noon that the GOJ hosted a multinational joint exercise with the U.S., South Korea, Australia, and other nations to inspect containers at Yokosuka Port in Kanagawa this morning as part of efforts to intercept weapons of mass destruction at sea. According to TV Asahi, the joint exercises were held based on the scenario of customs officials and police officers inspecting containers on foreign ships carrying substances to produce sarin gas. The network said about 50 members of the SDF, Japan Coast Guard, National Police Agency, and Japan Customs participated in the training from the Japanese side.

- [Local reps protest against Ospreys, call for no deployment to Misawa](#) (Too Nippo)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa chief to announce rescindment of landfill permit tomorrow

Okinawa Times led with the disclosure by several informed sources that Governor Onaga is expected to hold a press conference on Friday to announce his plan to withdraw the landfill permit for FRF construction off Camp Schwab. As a first administrative step toward rescindment, the prefectural government is likely to schedule a hearing to allow the Naha Defense Bureau make its own case. The bureau reportedly dismissed “administrative instructions” yesterday given by the prefectural government last week to halt the FRF construction operation immediately by arguing that there is no need to do so. The governor is reportedly aiming to finalize administrative procedures for the rescindment of the landfill permit issued by his predecessor by Aug. 17 when the bureau is set to begin pouring sand and earth into waters off the U.S. base.

In a related story, Ryukyu Shimpo projected that the planned landfill work off Camp Schwab may not be able to start on Aug. 17 as planned due to foul weather. According to the article, preparations for the landfill work at the construction site have been repeatedly disrupted lately because there have been four typhoons in the vicinity this month alone.

