
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, July 31, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report on the hot weather in Japan, while NTV gave top coverage to an update on Typhoon Jongdari. TBS and Fuji-TV led with reports on a joint press conference by filmmaker Takashi Yamazaki, creative director Hiroshi Sasaki, and Nomura Mansai, an actor of kyogen Japanese traditional theater, who will oversee the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo in 2020. TV Asahi gave top coverage to a report on the Japan Boxing Federation's alleged misuse of subsidies. All broadcasters mentioned a Washington Post report saying that U.S. intelligence agencies have obtained evidence showing that North Korea is developing new intercontinental ballistic missiles on the outskirts of Pyongyang

INTERNATIONAL

Japan, Australia to support U.S. fund for Indo-Pacific development

Nikkei reported online that Japan and Australia plan to support a fund launched by the United States for infrastructure development in the Indo-Pacific region. Australian Foreign Minister Bishop disclosed on Tuesday that the U.S., Japan, and Australia have agreed to invest in infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific "in recognition that more support is needed to enhance peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region." While speculating that this trilateral partnership is intended to counter China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative, the

daily projected that the three nations' foreign ministers will request support for their infrastructure development initiative when they attend the ASEAN-related conferences that will begin in Singapore tomorrow.

Fresh evidence indicates North Korea working on new missiles

NHK took up a Washington Post article claiming that according to newly obtained evidence, including satellite photos taken in recent weeks, work appears to be underway on at least one and possibly two ICBMs at a research facility on the outskirts of Pyongyang. The U.S. outlet said North Korea may be building new missiles at the factory that produced the country's first ICBM capable of reaching the U.S.

The TV network highlighted press remarks this morning by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, who commented on the U.S. report by saying: "We are collecting and analyzing information related to North Korea's military activities with great interest. We do not comment on specific developments due to their sensitive nature.... We will maintain close coordination with the U.S. and other countries to encourage the DPRK to take concrete steps toward denuclearization."

Secretary Pompeo says DPRK would reap economic benefits from denuclearization

Nikkei reported online on a CNBC interview with Secretary of State Pompeo on Monday, during which he reportedly disclosed that the U.S. has told Chairman Kim that denuclearization is critical for revitalizing North Korea's moribund economy. The Secretary was quoted as saying: "We've talked to him about how it is that you grow an economy, that you grow an economy with a private rules-based system, and foreign direct investment is the quickest way to fuel economic improvement for your own people." The Secretary stressed that the U.S. is convinced that the DPRK leader shares this understanding. The top U.S. diplomat reportedly added that not only American companies, but also Japanese, South Korean, and Chinese enterprises would be willing to make robust investments in a nuclear-free North Korea.

Japan, Russia to hold 2+2 talks today

NHK reported on a Russia-Japan foreign and defense ministerial meeting to be convened in Moscow today, noting that Foreign Minister Kono and Defense Minister Onodera are set to ask their Russian counterparts for cooperation in maintaining strong sanctions against North Korea until complete denuclearization is achieved. The network said that the participants are expected to discuss Japan's plan to deploy Aegis Ashore batteries and that the

Japanese side is set to explain they are purely defensive systems intended to protect the Japanese nation. Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov reportedly voiced concern about U.S. missile defense systems during a speech in Moscow on Monday, saying the rapid reconciliation between Washington and Pyongyang undermines the Trump administration's rationale for enhancing missile defense. The network projected that the Russian officials will probably voice opposition to Japan's Aegis Ashore platforms for the same reason.

- [Japan, U.S. differ on how to recover remains of Pacific War dead](#) (Sankei)
- [LDP Diet chief to visit Russia, Scandinavia](#) (Nikkei)
- [U.S. heralds 'new era' in Indo-Pacific with counter-China investment](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Expert calls for international collaboration to block DPRK's smuggling](#) (Yomiuri)

ECONOMY

New round of U.S.-Japan trade talks to begin on Aug. 9

NHK claimed that final arrangements are underway between the U.S. and Japan to convene the first session of the "free, fair, and reciprocal" (FFR) trade talks in Washington on Aug. 9, noting that the GOJ is bracing for the possibility of the Trump administration increasing the pressure on Tokyo to further open its auto and agricultural markets. While projecting that Tokyo is set to stress its position of pursuing multilateral trade frameworks, the broadcaster said it is uncertain whether Japan will be able to head off possible renewed calls from the U.S. for a bilateral free trade agreement.

Japan, EU, Canada, Mexico to discuss U.S. auto trade today

NHK reported online that senior officials from Japan, the EU, Canada, and Mexico are expected to assemble in Geneva today to discuss possible coordinated responses to the Trump administration's reported proposal to impose additional tariffs on foreign auto imports. They will probably exchange opinions on the countermeasures they could take based on WTO rules in the event that Washington decides to go ahead and impose additional tariffs. In preparation for the "free, fair, and reciprocal" (FFR) trade talks with the United States scheduled for August, Japanese officials are reportedly eager to receive a briefing from EU officials on the results of the U.S.-EU summit held in Washington last week.

- [Japan and Russia plan LNG hub in Far East](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't to support regional efforts to lure foreign capital](#) (Nikkei)

- [High-level Japan-U.S. trade talks to be launched on Aug. 9: source](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 30, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

Difficulty in uncovering truth behind bullying-related suicides

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" took up the issue of suicide as a result of school bullying, focusing on cases in which the parents of children who left suicide notes saying they had been bullied at school have reacted strongly to the investigation results issued by independent panels tasked by local education boards with determining what happened to the victims. Guest commentators speculated that in many cases the panel members were not able to establish a relationship of trust with the victims' families perhaps because they tried to be "neutral" in investigating the circumstances surrounding the suicide.

- [Key statistics that measure total population](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

- [U.S. serviceman's wife charged in hit-and-run](#) (NHK)
- [Japan buys defense equipment at price set by U.S.](#) (Asahi)
- [Governors' association requests SOFA require crime prevention](#) (Asahi)

OKINAWA

LOCAL PRESS

- [Okinawa middle school exchanges with Americans](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [U.S. Consulate General in Okinawa receives bomb threat](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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