



Afternoon Alert - Monday, August 6, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports on record rainfall in Yamagata Prefecture.

INTERNATIONAL

Experts discuss North Korea

In NHK's Sunday talk show "Nichiyo Toron," Canon Institute for Global Studies Research Fellow Kunihiko Miyake, Keio University Associate Professor Atsuhito Isozaki, Ryukoku University Professor Ri Sang Chol, and Hosei University Professor Satoru Mori discussed the situation in North Korea 50 days after the Singapore summit. On North Korea's denuclearization process, Miyake said if North Korea really intends to denuclearize, it will use this as a trump card and first draw out as many benefits from the U.S. as it can. Ri said North Korea has no intention to stop developing nuclear weapons. Isozaki and Ri said that the North Korean leader was most likely behind the DPRK's recent call for a declaration of the end of the Korean War. Miyake said such a declaration should not be made lightly since it could greatly change the *raison d'etre* for and the presence of the U.S. forces in Korea. Miyake, Ri, and Mori all stressed the importance of maintaining strong pressure on North Korea. Miyake added that U.S.-China relations hold the key to resolving issues related to North Korea.

- [Gist of meeting between Sec. Pompeo, FM Kono on Aug. 4](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Secretary of State Pompeo attaches importance to Asia](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe arranging September talks with Xi, will skip Yasukuni: sources](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan asks U.S. for relief from Iran oil sanctions](#) (The Japan News)
- [Shinjiro Koizumi to visit India](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

- [Trade War – Part 1: Japan can't make concessions in agriculture](#) (Nikkei)
- [In talks with U.S., Japan can't make concessions that run counter to national interests: Motegi](#) (Nikkei)
- [Divided Bank of Japan sends muddled messages: Newly cautious Gov. Kuroda at odds with policy doves](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

AMBASSADOR

- [U.S. Ambassador Hagerty participates in Nippon Scout Jamboree, says Suzu is "beautiful"](#) (Hokkoku Shimbun)

SCIENCE

- [Japan, Australia vow to try to avoid conflict over whaling](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

- [100 years of Koshien: Annual event has provided a century of thrills](#) (The Japan Times)
- ['Handkerchief Prince' a quintessential Koshien tale](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Revisiting classic Koshien contests](#) (The Japan Times)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on August 3, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on August 4, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on August 5, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [The LDP's leadership vote is weeks away, but the race could already be over](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Cartoon: LDP presidential election](#) (Asahi)

- [LDP Koizumi remains silent](#) (Yomiuri)

OPINION POLLS

TBS poll: Disapproval exceeds approval for Abe cabinet

TBS reported at noon on the results of its opinion survey conducted over the weekend, which found that the disapproval rate for the Abe cabinet has exceeded the approval rate for five consecutive months. According to the network, public support for the Abe cabinet rose 0.7 points from last month to 43.8%, while nonsupport dropped 1.8 points to 54.0%. Concerning LDP lawmaker Sugita's remarks that LGBT individuals are "unproductive," 83% of respondents said it is problematic, while 12% felt otherwise. In addition, 63% said they are not satisfied with LDP Secretary General Nikai's wait-and-see attitude toward the problem. When asked who among Shinzo Abe, Shigeru Ishiba, Taro Kono, and Seiko Noda is most suitable as the next LDP president, 36% chose Ishiba, while 31% favored Abe.

SECURITY

- [GSDf participates in U.S. Marine drills in Okinawa NTA](#) (Akahata)
- [Russia may be deploying fighter planes to Etorofu Island](#) (Mainichi)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Defense Ministry asks Okinawa to postpone hearing on landfill permit withdrawal

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on Saturday that on Friday the Okinawa Defense Bureau requested the Okinawa prefectural government to postpone until Sept. 3 or later a hearing tentatively scheduled for Aug. 9 concerning Governor Onaga's intention to rescind the landfill permit for the FRF construction off Camp Schwab on the grounds that a "considerable amount of time" will be needed to prepare documentation to refute the governor's decision. The papers speculated that by requesting a postponement, the central government is attempting to move ahead with the landfill work, set to begin on Aug. 17 at the earliest, in order to sabotage the Okinawa leader's efforts to derail the present Futenma relocation initiative.



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