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Afternoon Alert - Thursday, August 16, 2018

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#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

NHK and all commercial networks led with reports on the heavy rain in northeastern Japan

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### **U.S. sanctions companies in China, Singapore, Russia for illicit trade with DPRK**

NHK reported that the Department of the Treasury announced on Wednesday that it has added three companies based in China, Singapore, and Russia to its list of entities subject to sanctions for their involvement in illicit shipments to North Korea in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. According to the announcement, the firms based in China and Singapore have illicitly exported alcohol and cigarettes to the DPRK, while the Russian company has provided port services for North Korean vessels carrying refined oil products at least six times. The network quoted Treasury Secretary Mnuchin as saying in a statement that the department will continue to designate companies and vessels that facilitate illicit shipments and provide revenue streams to the DPRK.

- [Moon pushes inter-Korean railway ahead of Pyongyang visit](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [ROK's Moon floats "East Asian railroad community" idea to engage Japan,](#)

[U.S.](#) (Mainichi)

- [China tells fishermen not to approach disputed Senkaku islands](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan PM Abe makes ritual donation to Yasukuni Shrine on WWII anniv.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Venezuela slams Japan foreign minister's remarks as interference](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Nemuro mayor to join Northern Territories field study team](#) (Mainichi)
- [PM Abe visits 68 countries](#) (Nikkei)
- [Myanmar taps Japan connections to overcome Rohingya crisis](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## **U.S. Olympic gold medalist inspires Tokyo students**

NTV's morning show "Sukkiri!" aired a five-minute story about a swimming clinic held in Tokyo on Tuesday where U.S. Olympic gold medalist Katie Ledecky provided swimming tips to about 100 elementary, middle, and high school students. The network said the event was part of a campaign being conducted by U.S. Embassy Tokyo to help deepen students' understanding of the United States ahead of the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics. The network also said the students were very excited and inspired by the opportunity to learn directly from one of the world's top swimmers, quoting the students as saying her advice was extremely useful and encouraging. Asked about her goals as a swimmer, Ledecky said: "Swim fast, Have fun!"

### **ECONOMY**

- [Japan's exports to U.S. drop for second straight month](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan extends technical aid to improve India's railway safety](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Corporate Japan rakes in record quarterly profit: Led by manufacturers, one in four companies posted all-time highs](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan falls into red in goods trade in July on costlier oil](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Women make up less than 5% of managers at 40% of companies, Kyodo News survey of 113 major companies](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

### **SCIENCE**

- [LDP eager to attract particle accelerator project to Japan](#) (Jiji Press)

### **SOCIETY**

- [25% of local gov'ts hosting Olympic venues looking to get tough on passive smoking: poll](#) (The Mainichi)

### **POLITICS**

- [Prime minister's schedule on August 15, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP's Ishiba explains how his position on revising Article 9 differs from PM Abe's](#) (Chuokoron)
- [Cartoon: Swimming against the current of the times](#) (Akahata)

### **OPINION POLLS**

- [Newspapers cleverly manipulate their opinion polls](#) (THEMIS)

### **SECURITY**

- [Okinawa mulls delaying permit revoke in reaction to gov't landfill postponement](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP aims for "winning streak" in Okinawa elections dominated by Futenma relocation plan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: The contradiction](#) (Akahata)

### **OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS**

## Okinawa Prefecture launches essay contest for American students

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote from Washington that the Okinawa Prefectural Government on Tuesday launched an essay contest inviting American college students to express their views about Okinawa. The essays should focus on issues related to Okinawa, such as U.S. military bases and the U.S.-Japan alliance, or on Okinawa's politics, economy, history, culture, etc. The contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students at universities or colleges in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, or Hawaii. The paper wrote that the contest is aimed at increasing the young generation's understanding of Okinawa and promoting exchanges between students in Okinawa and the United States.

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