

U.S. President's visit

Trump talks likely to focus on trade, security

U.S. President Donald Trump is in Japan on his first official visit since his January inauguration.

Joined by his wife Melania on a three-day trip that began Sunday, he will make a state call on Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and hold a summit meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Trump, along with Abe, is also scheduled to meet with family members of people abducted by North Korea.

After Japan, Trump plans to visit South Korea, China and Vietnam, where the U.S. president will wrap up his Asia trip by attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference in Da Nang.

The two leaders are likely to discuss North



U.S. President Donald Trump leaves the East Room of the White House after speaking on the opioid crisis on Oct. 26. AP

Korea's recent military activity, including several missile launches in the past few months and the nation's nuclear development.

The U.N. Security Council in September

adopted the toughest-ever sanctions on North Korea, including capping oil exports to North Korea and banning its textile exports. The two are likely to reaffirm the importance for them and other countries to implement the sanctions. China's cooperation is particularly important, as the country is North Korea's largest trading partner.

The two leaders are also likely to talk about a bilateral free trade agreement.

During an Oct. 16 meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso in Washington, Vice President Mike Pence expressed the United States' strong interest in commencing bilateral free trade agreement talks.

The most recent bilateral meeting of Trump and Abe was on Sept. 21, when

they attended the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

In the meeting, Trump noted that great progress was made between Japan and the U.S. on both the North Korea issue and in

the field of trade, expressing the view that the Japan-U.S. relationship has never been closer.

Abe expressed his gratitude for Trump's mention of Megumi Yokota, one of the

people abducted by North Korea, in his remarks to the U.N. General Assembly, indicating it was an extremely encouraging message for Yokota's parents and the families of other abduction victims.



Trump addresses the U.N. General Assembly's annual general debate on Sept. 19, in which he mentioned Megumi Yokota, a Japanese national abducted by North Korea. U.N. PHOTO



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