



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, August 24, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most broadcasters gave top play to reports that North Korea launched a ballistic missile early this morning from a submarine off its eastern coast toward the Sea of Japan, saying that the missile flew about 500 km and landed inside Japan's air-defense identification zone. NTV said that according to a South Korean military source, the first stage of the missile's flight showed that North Korea has substantially improved its technology. Fuji TV led with a report that the official Olympic flag arrived in Tokyo this morning.

## INTERNATIONAL

### PM Abe calls North Korea's missile launch "unacceptable, reckless act"

NTV reported that PM Abe told reporters this morning that North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile from a submarine is "a grave threat against Japan's security" and "an unacceptable, reckless act that undermines regional peace and stability." The premier also reportedly told reporters that the missile launch is a clear violation of UNSC resolutions and that Japan lodged a strong protest with North Korea. PM Abe also stressed that the GOJ will work closely with the international community and respond firmly.

The network also quoted visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang as telling reporters after his meeting with LDP Secretary General Nikai this morning: "We do not want the situation to become complicated or tense. China's position remains unchanged. We are opposed to North Korea's nuclear and missile development process." According to the network, Wang pointed out during his

meeting with Nikai that the joint military exercise between the U.S. and South Korea provoked North Korea.

### **Foreign ministers of Japan, ROK, China urge DPRK to exercise restraint**

NHK reported this afternoon that FM Kishida announced a joint statement together with his Chinese and South Korean counterparts after the trilateral talks in Tokyo and said the ministers confirmed that Japan, South Korea, and China will lead efforts by the UNSC and the international community to strongly urge North Korea to refrain from taking provocative actions and abide by UNSC resolutions. The network said the three ministers also agreed during the talks to cooperate toward holding a trilateral summit by the end of this year in Japan.

### **Retired U.S. admiral expresses concern about possible conflict in East China Sea**

TV Asahi reported at noon that visiting retired U.S. Navy Adm. Greenert said in an interview that the possibility of a conflict in the East China Sea is higher than in the South China Sea because the issue of the East China Sea can be easily affected by emotions and nationalism. He also reportedly pointed out that Japan and China lack the means to resolve their history issues in a peaceful manner. The network said the USG is very concerned by the number of Chinese vessels entering Japanese waters near the Senkakus.

- [Editorial: Broaden the security cooperation network centered around the Japan-U.S. alliance](#) (Nikkei)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on Chinese ships' intrusion into the Senkakus area](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Super Mario at Rio](#) (Sankei)

## **SECURITY**

### **DM Inada says SDF to hold exercise for rescue of foreign troops starting Aug. 25**

NTV reported at noon that Defense Minister Inada announced this morning that the SDF will hold an exercise for the rescue of foreign troops and defense of SDF camps overseas in cooperation with foreign troops starting on Aug. 25 based on the new security legislation that took effect in March. The network said the exercise, the first of its kind, will be carried out by SDF troops to be deployed to a PKO mission in South Sudan in November. Asked whether the SDF troops will be ordered to actually perform the new mission, Inada said that she will carefully examine the possibility. NHK, TBS, and TV Asahi carried similar stories.

### **Onaga to reject transplant of coral reefs to block FRF construction**

This morning's Okinawa Times front-paged the disclosure by an unnamed Okinawa prefectural government official that Governor Onaga may choose not to authorize the central government's plan

to transplant coral reefs from waters to be reclaimed for FRF construction to other locations in a bid to derail the Futenma relocation initiative. The transplant is necessary to protect the coral reefs. The Okinawa leader is exploring this option in case he loses an ongoing lawsuit with the Abe administration over the legality of his rescindment of the landfill permit. With the goal of derailing the FRF project, the governor may also look into the possibility of not renewing the existing permit for demolishing rock reefs along the shore of the Henoko district, which will expire in March next year.

- [Terrorism intelligence-gathering staff to be doubled](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan's coast guard requests 60 billion yen budget](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't to establish training institute for cyber-defense](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on August 22-23](#) (Nikkei)
- [Renho discusses Emperor's abdication, other issues at FCCJ](#) (Asahi)
- [Osaka Ishin to be renamed Nippon Ishin no Kai](#) (The Japan News)
- [Observations on political maneuvering behind cabinet reshuffle](#) (Sande Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Koike and Mori](#) (Asahi)

## ECONOMY

- [MAFF to get 573.9 billion yen from second FY16 supplementary budget](#) (Sankei)
- [Health ministry prepares guidelines for prescription of new drugs](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gov't subsidies for businesses that employ seniors](#) (Mainichi)
- [Minimum hourly wage to top 700 yen in all 47 prefectures](#) (Nikkei)
- [Mitsubishi Aircraft scrambles to reduce weight of U.S. bound MRJs](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't to begin training of "postdocs" to prepare them for business](#) (Sankei)

## SCIENCE

- [Sea Shepherd agrees not to attack Japan ships](#) (The Japan News)

- [New Kounotori spacecraft to handle multiple tasks](#) (Yomiuri)

## TV PROGRAMS

### Minamata Disease

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on Tuesday evening on Minamata Disease, a neurological syndrome caused by severe mercury poisoning due to the release of the toxic chemical into industrial wastewater from a Chisso Corporation chemical factory. The program said NHK obtained notes taken by the former vice president of Chisso Corporation, which revealed that politicians and bureaucrats at the time tried to help save the corporation and minimize the amount of compensation to the victims by sharply raising the criteria for recognizing victims of the disease.

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