



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, September 7, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports on Typhoon Namtheun, which is expected to approach the Tokai and Kanto regions on Thursday.

INTERNATIONAL

Suga welcomes UNSC press statement against DPRK

NHK reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga welcomed during a press conference this morning the UN Security Council press statement condemning North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches and expressed the view that the international community needs to take additional steps. He was quoted as saying: "We will continue to work closely with the U.S. and South Korea and strongly urge North Korea to refrain from provocations and completely abide by the UNSC resolutions."

NHK also reported that according to several diplomatic sources, the Department of State is making arrangements to send Special Representative for North Korea policy Sung Kim to Japan and South Korea next week. The network said Sung is expected to meet with MOFA Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau chief Kanasugi in Japan and South Korean special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs Hwang Joon-Kook in South Korea, adding that he is expected to reaffirm trilateral cooperation and discuss ways to prevent further provocations by North Korea.

President Obama may forgo declaring policy of no first use of nuclear weapons

TBS reported at noon that The New York Times carried an article on Tuesday saying that President Obama is likely to forgo declaring a policy of no first use of nuclear weapons based on the view of several of his senior aides that doing so could undermine relationships with such allies as Japan and South Korea and embolden Russia and China. While noting that the President has been examining the possibility of announcing such a policy in order to leave a “political legacy,” the network said not only Japan and South Korea but also Defense Secretary Carter and Secretary of State Kerry have expressed concern about the idea. The network also quoted DOS Deputy Spokesman Toner as saying on Tuesday: “President Obama met with President Park today and indicated again that the U.S. will continue to embrace the concept of ‘extended deterrence’ in East Asia.” NHK carried a similar story.

Kim Jong Un desperate to cement grip on power by continuing provocations

NHK “News Watch 9” on Tuesday evening highlighted North Korea’ launch on Monday of three medium-range missiles into Japan’s EEZ west of Hokkaido, pointing out that the Kim regime has test-fired a total of 21 ballistic missiles this year, including SLBMs. Speculating that Kim Jong Un, who is in his early 30s, is perhaps not yet fully confident of his grip on power and worried about his health problems associated with obesity, an NHK reporter explained that the young leader probably views missile and nuclear development as a relatively easy tool to boost his prestige at home and abroad to a level equivalent to that of his late grandfather Kim Il Sung and father Kim Jong Il.

As for North Korea’s missile technology, a retired MSDF general said the latest Rodong launch showed rapid improvement in the ability to guide projectiles to a predetermined location. Given that most of the 21 DPRK missiles were fired from mobile platforms that are difficult to track, he noted that the SDF will need to be on high alert around the clock in case of a surprise attack. The retired general underscored the need for Japan to increase its missile defense cooperation with the U.S. and South Korea because the SDF alone is incapable of heading off all of the DPRK’s missile provocations.

- **CCS Suga, FM Kishida eager to launch maritime, air liaison mechanism with China** (Mainichi)
- **Editorial: Japan, China must chart solid path in bilateral ties after G20** (Nikkei)
- **Putin refers to resolving territorial dispute through compromise** (Sankei)
- **Editorial: Principle of returning four islands must be upheld in negotiations with Russia** (Sankei)
- **ASEAN eyes new path as divisions hamper decisions** (Nikkei Asian Review)
- **Japanese Embassy in Seoul suffers discrimination** (Sankei)

- [Editorial: No more time to put off Japan-China crisis management system](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: China being tested over whether it will actually live up to G-20 accords](#) (The Japan News)

SECURITY

- [Provocative trio of N. Korean missiles raises gov't concerns](#) (The Japan News)
- [DPRK issues warning against China's betrayal](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan to grant patrol boats to Malaysia to counter China](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Increasing Chinese intrusions in Senkaku vicinity exceed Coast Guard's capacity](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan faces difficulties enhancing missile defense](#) (Sankei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on September 6](#) (Nikkei)
- [Survey: Renho ahead of Maehara, Tamaki in DP presidential race](#) (Asahi)
- [Kishida indicates desire to be premier](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Hosoda mulls term limit on LDP presidency](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan gov't mulls special legislation over emperor's abdication](#) (Kyodo)

ECONOMY

- [ANA seeks using part of Haneda domestic facility for int'l flights](#) (Kyodo News)
- [JCFC steel in troubled French reactor also used in 13 Japanese nuclear power plants](#) (The Japan Times)

SCIENCE

- [Gov't to set up "future investment council" to promote use of AI](#) (Asahi)
- [NEC, University of Tokyo partner on AI development](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

- [DM Inada wins award for promoting LGBT policies](#) (Asahi)

OPINION POLLS

- [32% say Renho is most appropriate for DP presidency, Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [84% say they “support” Emperor Akihito’s abdication, Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)
- [Voters prioritizing Constitution opted for DP in July election, UTokyo-Asahi survey](#) (Asahi)
- [Renho leads DP presidential race followed by Maehara and Tamaki, Kyodo poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

TV PROGRAMS

“Super copies” produced in China

NHK’s “Close-up Gendai Plus” on Tuesday reported on “super copies,” saying that an increasing number of fake products that are almost identical to the original products are being created in China. The program said not only do the copies look authentic, but their quality and performance is no longer inferior to the original products. Although the Chinese government has launched measures to eradicate counterfeit products in China to help foster emerging Chinese brands, the number of “super copies” of Chinese-brand products is on the rise.

