



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, December 8, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report that the Upper House Diet affairs chiefs of the LDP and the Democratic Party agreed not to put the integrated resort bill to a vote today and to hold hearings with unsworn witnesses on Dec. 12. NTV led with a report that Tokyo Governor Koike has effectively given up on using Yokohama Arena as a venue for volleyball events at the Tokyo Olympics. Other top news included reports on the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack.

## INTERNATIONAL

### PACOM chief says alliance will remain solid

NHK reported online this morning on its one-on-one interview with PACOM Commander Harris, who expressed the view that the U.S.-Japan alliance will remain strong under the Trump administration. According to the network, he told the network on Wednesday in Hawaii that he believes that "the alliance will continue to be solid" even under the new President. Adm. Harris also reportedly said: "We were once bitter enemies in the ashes of war, but we became the closest friends. Our alliance is a role model for nations that share the same values, ideals, and threats." The PACOM chief also reportedly expressed hope to further deepen cooperation between the SDF and the U.S. military and have them jointly play a leading role in the Asia-Pacific region. On the security situation in the region, he reportedly expressed strong alarm over North Korea's nuclear missile development by saying: "North Korea is the most imminent threat I address everyday as commander. We have a leader who seeks to miniaturize nuclear weapons and deliver them to the U.S. mainland."

## **Pearl Harbor statement by Trump differs greatly from President Obama's**

Mainichi's website compared a [message](#) on the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor by President-elect Trump to a [statement](#) released by President Obama, noting that while the departing leader focused on reconciliation between former adversaries, his successor underscored that "there can be no substitute for victory in the pursuit of peace." The President-elect said the shared sacrifice of those killed and injured in the attack "reminds us of the great costs paid by those who came before us to secure the liberties we enjoy, and inspires us to rise to meet the new challenges."

- [Japan, Russia mull statement on joint projects on disputed isles](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe's Pearl Harbor speech focus of keen speculation](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Abe's Pearl Harbor trip a chance for new Japan-U.S. relations](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Abe's Pearl Harbor visit should be a final stage for Japan-U.S. reconciliation](#) (The Japan News)
- [Will Trump's election roil international politics?](#) (Nikkei)
- [Seko calls for swift development of plan for economic cooperation with Russia](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan missed the boat on the return of two islands, university prof](#) (Asahi)
- [Behind-the-scenes reason for Russia to welcome China's provocations over Senkaku](#) (THEMIS)
- [First Japan-Russia Biz Meet in 4 Years Set for Dec. 16](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Chongryon chief says Korea University students are Kim Jong Un's "fighters"](#) (Sankei)
- [Foreign Minister Kishida requests South Sudan to follow through on peace agreement](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan, China discuss maritime and aerial communication mechanism](#) (Mainichi)

## **SECURITY**

### **Search for FA-18 pilot continues**

Several networks reported at noon on an FA-18 fighter that crashed off the coast of Kochi on Wednesday evening, saying that the pilot bailed out but remains missing. The network said that

although 17 hours have elapsed since the crash, MOD and the Japan Coast Guard are still searching for the pilot.

- [Top court rejects SDF flight suspension at Atsugi base](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Kansai University to ban research on military technology](#) (Mainichi)

## POLITICS

### **LDP gives up on passing casino bill this week**

Several papers reported online that the ruling LDP agreed this morning with the largest opposition Democratic Party to convene a hearing with opinion leaders and experts on the casino legislation at the Upper House Cabinet Committee on Dec. 12. As a result, the controversial bill will probably be enacted on Dec. 14, the last day of the extended Diet session.

- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec. 7](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Root out problems related to casinos through deliberations in upper house](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Casino bill](#) (Asahi)
- [Gist of party leaders' debate, Dec. 7](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Former negotiator says TPP ratification sets precedent for disregarding Diet resolutions](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Will former "Kochi-kai" factions reunite?](#) (Yomiuri)

## ECONOMY

### **Overall cost of scrapping Fukushima nuclear plant to reach 21.7 trillion yen**

NTV reported at noon that it learned that the overall cost of scrapping the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant is likely to reach 21.7 trillion yen, far exceeding the original estimate. The network said according to the GOJ's calculations, the cost of decommissioning the reactors will be 8 trillion yen instead of the 2 trillion yen initially estimated by TEPCO, and the amount of compensation will reach 7.9 trillion yen instead of the original 5.4 trillion yen. The cost of decontamination is expected to reach 4.2 trillion yen instead of 2.5 trillion yen, and the cost for temporary storage facilities will be 1.6 trillion yen instead of 1.1 trillion yen. The network said this is likely to cause controversy as much of the cost will be covered by taxpayers' money.

- [Panel agrees on annual drug price revisions, scope unspecified by MHLW](#) (Nikkei)
- [Annual revision of drug prices raises concerns about future of drug R&D](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan lifts Tepco's credit line to 14 trillion yen](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Mitsubishi Heavy, Japan Nuclear Fuel to invest in French firm Areva](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't to expand vocational training with an eye on IT sector](#) (Nikkei)

## EDUCATION

- [Japanese students' rank falls in reading, rises in science](#) (The Japan News)

## TV PROGRAMS

### **Embattled President Park**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Wednesday reported on South Korean President Park, who is likely to face impeachment soon. The program looked into why President Park, who had been known as a "clean" president, became involved in such a major scandal. Park reportedly only communicated directly with a small number of close aides and carried out closed-door politics due to her distrustful nature probably stemming from her unhappy background. She was unable to sever ties with powerful industrial conglomerates and failed to live up to the expectations of her father's supporters.