



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, March 8, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters led with reports that a 40-second video clip showing a man who claims to be Kim Han Sol, Kim Jong Nam's son, was posted on YouTube. The man said in the video that his father was killed "a few days ago."

INTERNATIONAL

FM Kishida hopes to confirm close cooperation with Secretary Tillerson

NHK reported this afternoon that Foreign Minister Kishida said during a Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee meeting today that he hopes to confirm close cooperation with the U.S. at the upcoming foreign ministerial meeting with Secretary Tillerson. Kishida was quoted as saying: "I would like to discuss North Korea with Secretary of State Tillerson and confirm close bilateral cooperation. Regardless of how the U.S. responds to North Korea, it is important for us to maintain close cooperation and communication and coordinate policies." The network also quoted Kishida as saying that the abduction issue remains a top priority for Japan, and that he would like to share Japan's views on the issue with the Secretary.

UNSC issues press statement condemning North Korea's missile launch

NHK reported at noon that the UN Security Council released a press statement on Tuesday strongly condemning North Korea's ballistic missile launch on Monday. The UNSC expressed strong concern in the statement and said that the missile launch destabilizes the region. It also urged North Korea to relinquish its nuclear and missile programs by saying that the UNSC "stresses the importance of North Korea taking a sincere attitude toward denuclearization and working to relax

tension on the Korean Peninsula." The network said a statement is usually released after the UNSC holds an emergency meeting, quoting a diplomatic source at the UN as saying: "It was important for the UNSC to send out a unified message on the serious situation in which missiles landed inside Japan's EEZ."

Chargé d’Affaires Hyland pledges continued support for Fukushima

Fukushima Minpo, Fukushima Minyu, and Kahoku Shimpō reported on a meeting held between Chargé d’Affaires Hyland and Fukushima Governor Uchibori at the prefectural office on Monday. The Chargé visited the governor as part of his tour this week of areas devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. The papers quoted the Chargé as telling the governor that the United States will continue to strengthen its bonds with Fukushima and support the people there.

- [Tillerson to focus on North Korea during 3-nation trip from March 15](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Floating debris spotted near Japan’s EEZ after North Korea’s missile launch](#) (Akahata)
- [Gov’t aims to strengthen missile defense following N. Korean launch](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Trilateral deterrence must be boosted against North Korea’s greater threat](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: N. Korean missile launch places Pyongyang in predicament](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on President Trump’s policy speech to Congress](#) (Sankei)
- [“Seiron” column: Decipher the Trump administration’s thinking](#) (Sankei)
- [GOJ to propose joint studies at first meeting on joint economic activities with Russia](#) (Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on March 7](#) (Nikkei)
- [Both chambers of Diet condemn North Korea’s missile launch](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [Opposition demands Kagoike, 5 others appear before Diet over Moritomo scandal](#) (The Mainichi)

- [Editorial: Akie Abe bound to explain her activities done in a public capacity](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Political world's "rule" indicates optimum situation for holding general election](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan ranks 163rd in proportion of women in nat'l parliaments in 2016](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cabinet OKs bill to toughen penalty for rape in sweeping revision](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [METI's four errors in industrial policy](#) (Nikkei Business)
- [Tepco, 2 other utilities team on nuclear safety](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Town mayor gives nod to restart Genkai nuclear plant in Saga Pref.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Asylum seekers lured into working on nuclear cleanup with false promise of visa extension](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan's parcel shippers forced to revise unprofitable strategy](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Fujitsu to start instant translation service in 19 languages this month](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Women's labor force participation rate, by age group](#) (Mainichi)

SECURITY

Okinawan people express concern over possible North Korean attack on U.S. bases

Okinawa Times wrote that in response to North Korea's statement that its ballistic missile launch on Monday was targeted at U.S. forces in Japan, residents around U.S. bases on Okinawa and base opponents expressed concern that Okinawa could become a target of North Korean missiles. A resident in Ginowan, which hosts MCAS Futenma, said: "I feel scared. I hope that the base will be removed for the sake of the young generation. But I feel frustrated by the slow progress in Futenma relocation." An activist in Kadena said: "North Korea's act has reminded us that the U.S. bases pose a risk to local citizens. Kadena could become the first target due to its strategic importance." A demonstrator at the Camp Schwab gate commented: "A new base at Henoko could become a target

of a North Korean attack. I'm concerned that Okinawa will be forced to sacrifice itself for the defense of Japan again as it was sacrificed in the Battle of Okinawa.

Okinawa papers dissatisfied with court ruling against Okinawa's disclosure of accord with U.S.

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo ran extensive front- and inside-page reports on the ruling on Tuesday by the Naha District Court to nullify the Okinawa Prefectural Government's decision to disclose documents concerning a 1990 agreement with the U.S. and Japanese governments on the use of prefectural Route 70 leading to the Northern Training Area (NTA) without their consent. Arguing that the court failed to present specific evidence to support its judgment that the disclosure would undermine Japan's national interest, Okinawa Times wrote that the court stood in the way of the people's right to know. Ryukyu Shimpo quoted an opponent to the helipad construction at the NTA as expressing his dissatisfaction with the court ruling, which gave priority to the agreement with the U.S. over domestic rules on road usage. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga welcomed the decision on Tuesday, but Governor Onaga expressed displeasure.

The Internet's dark side

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on ransomware, malicious software that is specifically designed to take control of a computer system or data and hold it hostage so the attackers can demand payment from their victims. The program said an increasing number of people are falling victim to ransomware in Japan, adding that information on how to build such malware is available on the "dark web."

- [Authorities recognize Zama firefighter's psychological problems as work-related](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Tokyo police to launch center to counter cyberattacks in April](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

Former directors of adoption agency arrested

All networks reported at noon that two men were arrested this morning on charges of violating the Child Welfare Law, saying that they allegedly received money in exchange for mediating between pregnant women who wanted to give up their babies for adoption and couples who wished to adopt children. According to the reports, the men were the former directors of an adoption agency based in Chiba and received more than two million yen from a couple for promising to move their names to the top of the list of people waiting to adopt children. The agency suspended its operations last November after it was ordered to do so by Chiba Prefecture. The networks said this is the first time for adoption agency personnel to be arrested in Japan.

- [Japanese internet media outlets take measures to block "fake news"](#) (Asahi)

