



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, May 11, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks gave top play to reports that Tokyo Governor Koike met with Prime Minister Abe today to discuss expenses for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. Koike reportedly said that Tokyo will cover expenses for all the temporary facilities to be built outside Tokyo. NTV led with a follow-up report on an incident in which a medical student stabbed a doctor at the Tokyo Medical and Dental University on Tuesday.

INTERNATIONAL

FM Kishida to call on new ROK president to increase pressure on DPRK

NHK reported that Foreign Minister Kishida said during a meeting of the Upper House committee on foreign affairs and defense today that he will call on South Korean President Moon to increase pressure on North Korea. According to the network, Kishida stressed the importance of security cooperation between Japan and South Korea as well as Japan, the U.S., and South Korea, and said: "Holding dialogue for the sake of dialogue is meaningless. In order to have a meaningful dialogue, it is important that the North Korean side demonstrate its sincere will and concrete actions toward denuclearization." In addition, Kishida reportedly said he will call on South Korea's new president to increase pressure on North Korea by saying: "It is important for the international community to unite and apply pressure on North Korea, and relevant nations are working closely under various frameworks, including the UN. We need to continue to encourage the new South Korean administration to understand the efforts being made by the international community and cooperate on the North Korea issue."

- [Abe, Moon affirm close coordination on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan seeking to arrange summit with Moon through trilateral summit with China, G20](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe seeks early talks with South Korea's newly elected president](#) (The Japan News)
- [Moon's inauguration sparks fear, hope in Japan's political arena](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan business chiefs call on Moon gov't for steps over N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Opinion: Stalemate expected in effort to remove comfort woman statue](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion: South Korea's conciliatory approach to Pyongyang poses a threat](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion: It is wrong to label new ROK president as "anti-Japan"](#) (Mainichi)
- [Will the Moon administration walk in step with Japan and the U.S. on DPRK policy?](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Will Moon, as president of S. Korea, stick to 'pro-North, anti-Japan' stance?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: After Moon's election, Japan, S. Korea should focus on stabilizing region](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Moon and Kim Jong Un](#) (Asahi)
- [New Zealand PM English to visit Japan for talks with Abe next week](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan makes sales pitch to win Malaysia-Singapore rail project](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe to visit Malta to mourn Imperial Japanese Navy sailors](#) (Yomiuri)

SECURITY

DPRK uses hackers to finance WMD programs

NHK's "New Watch 9" reported that despite strict financial sanctions, North Korea has been able to promote nuclear and missile development programs by training young computer experts to become skilled hackers capable of stealing money online from bank accounts overseas. The network took up

an incident in which a DPRK hacker group called Lazarus installed computer malware to steal some \$81 million from the central bank of Bangladesh. A U.S. computer security network specialist said hundreds of banks in more than 30 nations have been targeted by Lazarus. A separate American security analyst warned that the Kim regime may use advanced hacking techniques not only to finance its weapons of mass destruction programs but also to launch cyberattacks on urban infrastructure such as financial, water and electricity distribution networks abroad.

Nighttime parachute training at Kadena provokes strong reaction

Today's Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo gave prominent front- and inside-page coverage to a parachute drop drill that took place at Kadena AB on Wednesday evening, noting that the "extremely dangerous" operation ignored the strong request for cancellation by the local governments. About 15 service members parachuted from an USAF MC-130 special mission airplane one after another during the 30-minute session that began at around 7:30 p.m. Local government officials were upset because the U.S. military only provided notification of the training a few hours before it took place. Pointing out that similar training took place at the same facility in late April for the first time in six years, the papers noted that the U.S. military has ignored the 1996 SACO accord that designated Ie Jima Auxiliary Airfield as the location for parachute drop practice. The articles also reported on the anger and safety concerns voiced by residents in the vicinity.

- [**Komeito team to submit recommendations on Okinawa base issues**](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [**Okinawa mulls relocating school to area vacated by base**](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [**Japan bolsters defense-technology cooperation with Europe**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- [**Prime minister's schedule on May 10**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**LDP may create new body for discussing top law revisions**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Compatibility of constitutional provision on SDF with Article 9 at issue**](#) (Yomiuri)
- [**Ruling block postpones lower house Constitution commission meeting again**](#) (Yomiuri)
- [**LDP's Aso and Santo factions to merge**](#) (Mainichi)
- [**Senior LDP official hints at cabinet reshuffle in August or September**](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Editorial: Abe's arrogance on display in his constitutional revision push](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: PM Abe says read the Yomiuri](#) (Asahi)

OPINION POLLS

- [Opinion poll & results from Nikkei Digital](#) (Nikkei Online)

ECONOMY

- [Japan gov't debt swells to record 1,071 tril. yen as of March 31](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Tepco seeks nuclear tie-ups in fresh business plan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SCIENCE

- [New chemical compound suppresses skin cancer growth](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [Negative attitudes towards tuition-free education due to concerns over funding](#) (Yomiuri)

SOCIETY

Grave-related problems on the rise

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on the "shukatsu" trend, which literally means "preparing for the end" and includes preparing one's funeral services and burial site. The program said there have been a growing number of grave-related problems recently, such as people not getting buried in the graves they prepared because no one knew about them or they had no family left. An increasing number of companies selling graves have also gone bankrupt, and graves that people have already paid for never get erected. The program said some local municipalities have begun new services for local residents to ensure that they end up in their resting place of choice.

- [Learning support service shows sign of penetration: Survey](#) (Asahi)
- [Female researchers have 20-50% less chance of becoming professors in Japan](#) (Asahi)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [Anti-discrimination law begins to help people with disabilities](#) (Asahi)
 - [Seats at Todai are won in the classrooms of two private cram schools](#)
 - [Sexual abuse survivor stands up for change](#) (NHK)
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