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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, May 12, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

TV Asahi and Fuji TV led with a report on President Trump's interview with NBC, during which he defended his decision to fire FBI Director Comey by saying that he was a "showboat" and a "grandstander." NHK and NTV gave top play to the forecast for heavy rain in the Kansai and Kanto regions today and tomorrow. TBS gave top play to a report that Diet deliberations on the anti-conspiracy bill resumed today.

## AMBASSADOR

### Congressional hearing for Ambassador-nominee Hagerty to be held next week

NHK reported at noon that a Senate hearing on Ambassador-nominee Hagerty will be held on May 18, saying that it will be the first opportunity for Hagerty to speak in public about U.S. policy toward Japan. Noting that the Trump administration is eager to pursue a bilateral FTA with Japan and increase pressure on North Korea, the network said attention will be focused on what kind of views Hagerty will present at the hearing next week. The network added that once Hagerty is approved by the Senate, he will take up his post in Japan.

## SECURITY

### Inada says Kadena parachute drill "extremely regrettable"

Asahi reported online on press remarks on Friday morning by Defense Minister Inada, who commented on the nighttime parachute drop training conducted at Kadena AB on Wednesday by

saying: "It is extremely regrettable that it was carried out under a situation in which the U.S. and Japan didn't share the same perception." While referring to the 1996 SACO accord that stipulated such training would only be undertaken at Kadena "under exceptional circumstances," Inada said she doesn't think these were exceptional circumstances. The minister stressed that the GOJ will ask the U.S. military to conduct such drills on Iejima Auxiliary Airfield in line with the SACO agreement. Jiji and NHK ran similar stories, with the former saying that the Defense Ministry filed a protest with the U.S. military.

Meanwhile, this morning's Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on the reaction to the parachute drop practice on Wednesday, highlighting a USAF website that said in part that the land and water drop zones at the installation "are suited for multi-pass jump operations that maximize proficiency and limited resources." According to the papers, local government officials are worried that the description signals the intention to continue what they believe are "extremely dangerous" drills at the facility even though the U.S. military agreed in the 1996 SACO pact that such training will be performed at Iejima. The Kadena municipal assembly adopted a motion yesterday calling for an across-the-board ban on parachute drop training at the U.S. base.

### **Defense chief urges South Korea to maintain GSOMIA**

Nikkei reported online on press remarks on Friday morning by Defense Minister Inada, who asked the new ROK government to continue upholding the bilateral GSOMIA by saying: "It has made it possible to exchange defense intelligence effectively. Given the situation in North Korea, it is important to continue to speedily exchange information with the new South Korean government."

- [Gov't, industry work to protect key infrastructure from cyberattacks](#) (Kyodo News)
- [MOD's top 10 clientele; popular amakudari destinations of high-ranking SDF personnel](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [Interview with Shigeru Ishiba on Chinese and North Korean threats](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- [Gist of Japan, ROK leaders' teleconference, May 11](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Discrepancies found in Japan, ROK governments' briefings on leaders' first teleconference](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Moon](#) (Mainichi)
- [GPIF holds shares in U.S. cluster bomb maker](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

- [LDP heavyweight to attend forum in China with PM Abe letter to Xi](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Chinese Coast Guard ships active again near Senkakus](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Ex-Financial Services Agency official Kono gets OECD's No. 2 post](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: How can the ADB meet Asia's growing infrastructure demand?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Firing of FBI Director](#) (Asahi)
- [Japanese TV crew deported from Indonesia for immigration violation](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

### [Lighthizer confirmed as USTR](#)

NHK reported this morning that the U.S. Senate approved former Deputy USTR Robert Lighthizer as the new USTR on Thursday. The network said the confirmation came nearly four months after the Trump administration was launched. The network said Lighthizer has described Japan as a "primary target" in the agriculture sector and indicated that the U.S. will push Japan to further open up its market, including lowering tariffs on farm products, adding that he may also demand that Japan enter bilateral trade talks with the U.S.

- [Editorial: Japan's fish-centered cuisine at a turning point](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan to approve casino sites as early as 2020](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Four core facilities besides casinos to be required at integrated resorts](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Labor ministry names and shames businesses that exploit workers despite warnings](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Tokai No. 2 nuclear power plant aims for extended license](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## POLITICS

### [Abe "politicizing" Tokyo Olympics to advance signature policies](#)

TV-Asahi "Hodo Station" took up Tokyo Governor Koike's announcement yesterday during her meeting with Prime Minister Abe that the metropolitan government will pay the entire 50 billion yen

cost of building temporary sports facilities outside of Tokyo to be used for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Although Koike had reportedly decided that Tokyo would shoulder the costs regardless of what the premier said, it was framed by the Kantei as the popular governor succumbing to the strong leadership of the prime minister. Abe had reportedly promised the governors of Chiba, Kanagawa, and Saitama prefectures only a few days before that he would take the initiative to settle the dispute between Tokyo and the three prefectures on who will foot the bill for the temporary facilities. Koike was displeased with the Kantei's media spin staged by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, who is said to be anxious to undermine Koike's popularity ahead of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election in July in which many LDP candidates will probably wage an uphill battle against their rivals to be fielded by the political group headed by the popular Tokyo leader.

Former Kyodo News Managing Editor Goto said the prime minister and the Kantei are apparently capitalizing on the Tokyo Olympics to reinforce the premier's political foundation to promote his domestic signature policies, such as the anti-conspiracy legislation and constitutional revision. Abe has stressed that the Olympics cannot be hosted safely without enacting the controversial bill. He also stated recently that he would like to alter the nation's supreme law in 2020 to coincide with the Tokyo Olympics. The journalist noted that the Olympic Charter "opposes any political abuse of sports."

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 11](#) (Nikkei)
- [Komeito in a fix in light of Abe's constitutional revision plan for Article 9](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP factions, Komeito, Ishin react to Abe's constitutional revision plan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Anti-Abenomics study group to be formed in the LDP](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP's Tanigaki group effectively split; several members to form new group](#) (Yomiuri)

## OPINION POLLS

- [54% of Okinawans say it is "discrimination" that U.S. military bases are concentrated in their prefecture, Asahi Shimbun-Okinawa Times-QAB joint opinion poll of Okinawa residents](#) (Asahi)
- [81% say "a variety of disparities exist between Okinawa and mainland Japan," Asahi Shimbun-Okinawa Times-QAB joint opinion poll of Okinawa residents](#) (Asahi)

- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun-Okinawa Times-QAB joint opinion poll of Okinawa residents](#) (Asahi)
- [Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll on the Constitution](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun poll on the Constitution of Japan](#) (Asahi)

## SCIENCE

- [National Cancer Center announces clinical tests on using Opdivo to treat childhood cancer](#) (Mainichi)
- [Fujifilm, Olympus to use AI for cancer detection](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## SOCIETY

### “Fast and easy” cooking gaining popularity

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported that with the rapid rise in the number of double-income households, people are increasingly choosing faster and easier ways of cooking at home. According to a survey, the average number of minutes housewives spend on cooking per day in Japan is about 137, as opposed to 73 minutes in England and 72 minutes in the Netherlands. Although many people in Japan still think meals eaten at home should be made from scratch, the perception of the young generation is changing. The program reported on various food delivery services and 1-minute cooking video apps that are gaining popularity mainly among young women who work outside the home.

- [Female leaders gather in Tokyo to discuss women’s empowerment](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Over 20 detained foreigners on hunger strike in Tokyo](#) (Jiji)
- [Japan volunteer group stands up to “SOGI harassment”](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [Diet members’ group calls for legislation to prohibit racial discrimination](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

