
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, May 15, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report that Hitachi announced today that its internal email system was experiencing problems following the massive cyberattack that took place around the world. All commercial networks led with reports that North Korea's state media announced this morning that North Korea successfully test-launched a new type of intermediate-range ballistic missile on Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL

Suga comments on North Korea's missile launch

NHK and most commercial networks reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga commented on the latest test-launch of a missile by the DPRK, quoting him as saying: "There is a possibility that it was a new type of ballistic missile.... We will continue to collect and analyze information on the DPRK's movements, maintain a high-level surveillance system, and stay on high alert."

In a related story, the network said Defense Minister Inada held a teleconference with her South Korean counterpart today, during which the two agreed that their nations will work closely together and maintain trilateral cooperation with the U.S.

New ROK leader's teleconferences with Trump, Abe were "tense," "acrimonious"

Sunday's Tokyo Shimbun front-paged a report from Seoul on South Korean President Moon's teleconferences with President Trump, Prime Minister Abe, and Chinese President Xi last week. The paper noted that according to an unnamed ROK government official, there was a "tense moment" in

the conversation between the U.S. leader and Moon although the source did not specify what triggered the tension. The article guessed that the two officials might have disagreed on Moon's conciliatory approach toward North Korea. The same source disclosed that "acrimonious sentiment" emerged between Moon and Abe perhaps over the comfort women issue. In contrast, the new Korean leader had an "amicable conversation" with his Chinese counterpart, with the daily conjecturing that President Xi was pleased with Moon's remarks that he "fully understands Chinese interests and concern" about the U.S. military's installation of a THAAD platform in South Korea.

- [Lighthizer approved as U.S. trade rep](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gist of comments by PM Abe, CCS Suga, MOD Inada on DPRK's missile launch, May 14](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Nikai talks to Abe about how to deal with DPRK](#) (Sankei)
- [Missile strains international effort to corral Pyongyang](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Nikai coordinating meeting with Xi](#) (The Japan News)
- [Tokyo sends big delegation to China's Silk Road forum](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Nikai expresses expectations for "One Belt, One Road" initiative at Chinese forum](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Key members of Japan's delegation to China's "One Belt, One Road" international forum](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's participation in China-led AIB being floated within gov't](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan-Russia group may start research on disputed isles on May 30](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan urges IMF to up watch on China](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Moon must not discard Japan-ROK deal on issue of comfort women](#) (The Japan News)

SECURITY

[JR East says one of its computers affected by global cyberattack](#)

NHK reported this afternoon that JR East announced that a computer at one of its offices in the Kanto region was infected by a virus on May 12 following the global "ransomware" cyberattack. The network said the computer was not connected to the internal network and suffered no major damage,

adding that JR East is investigating the cause since the virus was the same as the one used in the worldwide cyberattack. The network said MLIT also reported there was a case in which a computer was affected by the virus.

[Poll reveals yawning gap between Okinawa, nation in perception of U.S. bases](#)

NHK reported on the results of its opinion survey conducted from April 21 to 23 to coincide with the 45th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa, which found that perceptions of the U.S. bases differed greatly between the people in Okinawa and those in other prefectures. When asked whether they think the Okinawan economy is incapable of functioning without the U.S. bases, 60% of respondents from Okinawa said they don't think so and 31% said they do. Among respondents from other prefectures, 58% said they don't think the Okinawan economy is incapable of functioning without the U.S. bases, while 32% felt otherwise.

[Okinawa vice governor lodges protest with U.S. over parachute training at Kadena](#)

Saturday's Okinawa Times and Ryukyu wrote that Okinawa Vice Governor Tomikawa paid visits to Consul General Ehrendreich and Kadena AB 18th Wing Vice Commander Amrhein on Friday to protest against the U.S. military's parachute drop training at Kadena on May 10. Tomikawa told reporters after the meeting with the Kadena commander that the training was discussed at the U.S.-Japan Joint Committee. However, Col. Amrhein reportedly added that the U.S. military does not intend to conduct such training at Kadena on a regular basis.

[Suga positive about continued economic support for Okinawa, but negative about early closure of Futenma](#)

Sunday's Okinawa Times front-paged its one-on-one interview with Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, during which he stated that the GOJ plans to continue providing Okinawa with substantial economic support, including high-level subsidies and preferential taxation, based on the Special Measures Law for the Promotion and Development of Okinawa even after the fifth 10-year development program ends in fiscal 2022. However, Suga also stated that it would be difficult to grant Okinawa's wish to end operations at MCAS Futenma by February 2019, because the situation surrounding Futenma relocation has changed as a result of Governor Onaga revoking his predecessor's permission for landfill work in 2013.

- **[Hitachi among companies affected by global ransomware cyberattack](#)** (Kyodo News)
- **[Hitachi comes under cyberattack, in-house system no longer functioning](#)** (NHK Online)
- **[Commentary: DPRK takes another step toward operational ICBM](#)** (Yomiuri)
- **[Land-based Aegis antimissile system under consideration](#)** (The Japan News)

- [Japan favors Aegis Ashore over THAAD to boost missile defense](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [S.E. Asian nations to use Japan boats in drills](#) (The Japan News)
- [Okinawa gov. frustrated with U.S. bases on 45th reversion anniversary](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.S. carrier Ronald Reagan returns to Yokosuka base after sea trials](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Parachute training rapidly increasing at Yokota Base](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [U.S. base worker in drunk driving accident](#) (NHK Online)

POLITICS

[Abe's idea of legitimizing SDF in Constitution not as controversial as critics claim](#)

Monday's Mainichi published a column by senior writer Yamada, who analyzed the stir caused by Prime Minister Abe's proposal on making the SDF's existence explicit in the Constitution by adding a new clause to Article 9. The writer explained that by proposing that the first and second paragraphs of Article 9 be left as is, the premier made it clear that he subscribes to the government's conventional position that the SDF is constitutional as long as it maintains an "exclusively defense-oriented" posture. The journalist said the prime minister's proposal is compatible with Komeito's insistence that instead of revising the Constitution, new articles be added to update the nation's supreme law. According to government officials who are familiar with legal issues, the following sentence would probably be used to realize Abe's idea: "The provision of the preceding paragraph does not preclude the establishment of the SDF." Yamada said it is not clear whether the premier's "somewhat pacifist" proposal will be supported by LDP lawmakers, who endorsed in 2012 a draft constitution stipulating the establishment of a "national defense army."

[Ruling, opposition lawmakers discuss North Korea, constitutional revision, anti-conspiracy bill](#)

NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show aired a discussion by secretaries general and other senior lawmakers from the ruling and opposition parties. All the participants strongly condemned North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile at around 5:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. However, Democratic Party Deputy Secretary General Fukuyama criticized Prime Minister Abe for "responding too slowly" to the threat posed by the DPRK by pointing out that the premier arrived at the Kantei an hour after the missile launch. Japanese Communist Party Secretariat head Koike stressed that North Korean issues should be resolved through dialogue with Pyongyang. Concerning Prime Minister Abe's idea of revising the Constitution to make the SDF's existence explicit in the language of the

Constitution while retaining Article 9 and putting the revisions into effect in 2020, Fukuyama, Koike, and some other opposition panelists expressed strong opposition. However, Nippon Ishin Secretary General Baba and Party for Japanese Kokoro Secretary General Nakano expressed support. The opposition panelists were similarly divided over the so-called anti-conspiracy bill.

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 14](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on May 13](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on May 12](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP gears up on top law revisions](#) (The Japan News)
- [LDP members aiming for constitutional revision torn between PM Abe, opposition](#) (Mainichi)
- [Interview with Nippon Ishin chief on PM Abe's constitutional revision plan](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Abe wrong to hastily seek revision of Constitution's war-renouncing Article 9](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Abe and constitutional revision](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Agreement to modify 'anti-conspiracy bill' far from sufficient](#) (The Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [Japan, N.Z. agree to aim for progress on TPP by Nov.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to push for 'TPP 11' by year-end](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [TPP signatories to unite to swiftly implement pact](#) (The Japan News)
- [Analysis: Developments in "TPP 11" likely to affect Japan-U.S. trade talks](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Komatsu bolstering US operations under pressure from Trump](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [5 of 7 Japan automakers foresee profit drops for FY 2017](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan aims to double its space market to \\$21bn by 2030s](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Japan's fisheries still swimming upstream](#) (The Japan Times)

SCIENCE

- [In a world first, Japanese team creates eggs and sperm of endangered species from iPS cells](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: The need to protect coral reefs](#) (The Japan Times)

EDUCATION

- [Japanese students steer clear of U.S., Europe for fear of terrorism, anti-immigration policies](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [U.S. business schools losing edge to Asia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Government to limit number of university students in Tokyo](#) (Asahi)

OPINION POLLS

Poll: Majority support making existence of SDF explicit in Constitution

Fuji TV reported at noon on the results of its opinion survey conducted over the weekend, which found that 55.4% of respondents support Prime Minister Abe's proposal to make the existence of the SDF explicit in the Constitution while maintaining Article 9, and 36.0% expressed opposition to the idea. Respondents were equally divided over Abe's announcement that he plans to aim for having the constitutional revision take effect in 2020, at 46.9% each. On the bill to penalize preparation to commit acts of terrorism and other crimes, 37.8% expressed opposition and 51.8% expressed approval. When asked whether they feel uneasy about possibly becoming the subject of surveillance or investigation, 56.4% said they do and 40.8% said they don't. Support for the Abe cabinet was 56.1%, down 3.2 points from last month, while nonsupport was 34.7%, up 4.3 points.

- [53% in favor of Abe's call to add SDF to Article 9, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [60% say no need to renegotiate comfort women pact, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP leaders welcome the Yomiuri poll finding that over half support adding SDF to Article 9](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)

SOCIETY

- [Classes on diverse sexuality have positive impact](#) (Asahi)

Orda cave

Saturday's "NHK Special" reported on Orda Cave, a huge underwater gypsum cave found underneath the western Ural Mountains in Russia. The program aired video of what divers call "the most beautiful cave in the world" captured using a 4K camera. The video showed beautiful, clear water and magnificent gypsum crystal.

Last pact between sushi and tempura maestros

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on the legendary sushi master chef Jiro Ono, 91, and tempura master chef Tetsuya Sootome, 70. The two maestros have been rivals and friends for years, going to each other's restaurants and learning from each other's creations, techniques, and ideas. When Ono began to suffer from heart disease, the two made a pact to continue working until the age of 100. The program reported on how the two maestros strive to continue to improve their skills while battling against aging.

