



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, May 17, 2017

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact [TokyoMATT@state.gov](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All networks led with reports on a press conference by Kei Komuro, with whom Princess Mako is expected to be engaged soon.

## INTERNATIONAL

### PACOM commander calls for stronger sanctions against DPRK

NHK reported on its website that visiting PACOM Commander Harris delivered a speech in Tokyo today, during which he commented on North Korea's launch of a new type of intermediate-range ballistic missile on Sunday. He reportedly said: "This provocation once again demonstrated that the Kim Jong Un regime is threatening peace and stability." He also said: "If nuclear warheads and ballistic missile technologies fall into the hands of an erratic leader, it would invite a catastrophe." The network said Admiral Harris also expressed the view that the North Korea threat will also affect Russia and China, and stressed that each nation must strengthen its pressure on North Korea to make the reclusive state relinquish its nuclear and missile programs.

### Special Advisor Kawai meets with Senator Cotton

NHK reported on its website that Prime Minister Abe's Special Advisor Katsuyuki Kawai, who is currently visiting Washington, met on Tuesday with Republican Senator Cotton, who chairs a subcommittee under the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Kawai reportedly said that now is the time to increase pressure on North Korea, and welcomed President Trump's policy of demonstrating with words and actions that all options are on the table. Kawai also reportedly stressed the importance for the U.S. and Japan to work together to urge China to play a role in

increasing pressure on the North. According to the network, Senator Cotton agreed and said he would convey the message to the President. In addition, the senator praised Ambassador-nominee Hagerty by saying that he is a very talented man who has succeeded in business and politics. He reportedly said that Hagerty's nomination will be approved soon after the public hearing planned for May 18.

### **South Korean President Moon's envoy arrives in Haneda**

NHK reported at noon that South Korean President Moon's special envoy to Japan Moon Hee-sang arrived at Haneda Airport this morning. The network said Moon is expected to meet with Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida during his visit, adding that attention will be focused on what kind of message from President Moon he will deliver to the Japanese side, including the ROK's policy toward North Korea.

- **Taiwan changes name of semi-official body overseeing ties with Japan** (Kyodo News)
- **Abe advocates "Japan First" policy in addition to international cooperation** (Mainichi)
- **Japan to give heavy equipment used in S. Sudan to U.N.** (Kyodo News)
- **METI to support exports of high-efficiency thermal power expertise to SE Asia** (Nikkei Evening edition)
- **Editorial: Ascertaining North Korea's missile capabilities an urgent task** (The Mainichi)
- **Japan launches exports of nursing care services to China** (Nikkei Asian Review)
- **Editorial: Will 'One Belt, One Road' initiative enable China to build new world order?** (The Japan News)
- **Cartoon: Xi and Nikai** (Sankei)
- **Cartoon: Abe and Xi** (Asahi)
- **Opinion: Japan should guard against intelligence leaks** (Nikkei)

## **SECURITY**

### **GOJ says halting Futenma operations by 2019 requires Okinawa's cooperation**

NHK reported this afternoon that a working-level meeting between the GOJ and the Okinawa government on reducing the base-hosting burden on Okinawa was held at the Kantei today. It was the first such meeting in about nine months. While Vice Governor Tomikawa reportedly called for a

concrete timetable for suspending the operation of the Futenma base by early 2019, the GOJ side said Okinawa's cooperation is a prerequisite for realizing the plan. The network said Prime Minister Abe said during a Lower House Budget Committee meeting in February that suspending Futenma operations by 2019 has become difficult under Okinawa Governor Onaga because he has not been cooperating with the relocation plan. The network also said the GOJ explained to the Okinawa side that it has been conducting a survey of takeoffs and landings of all aircraft at Futenma Air Station since April.

- [Editorial: Take self-protective measures against cyberattacks](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Take thorough safety measures against cyberattacks](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gov't selects 10- and 14 year-olds for its cybedefense training program](#) (Sankei)
- [Okinawa's child poverty rate twice national figure](#) (Mainichi)
- [Okinawa governor's second son to run in Naha assembly election](#) (Asahi)
- [Roppongi's Hardy Barracks, a little-known U.S. base in the middle of Tokyo](#) (The Japan Times)

## **ECONOMY**

### **Takahama nuclear reactor to resume operation today**

NHK reported this afternoon that KEPCO will resume the operation of Reactor No. 4 of the Takahama Nuclear Power Plant in Fukui Prefecture at around 5 p.m. today if no problems are found in the inspection of 32 control rods. The network said the reactor will reach a state of criticality at around 6 a.m. on Thursday, adding that it will begin generating and transmitting power as early as May 22 and start service in mid-June. The network said a total of four reactors - two at Sendai nuclear plant in Kagoshima, one at Ikata nuclear plant in Ehime, and one at Takahama - will be in operation as a result. KEPCO is also planning to restart Reactor No. 3 at Takahama early next month.

### **U.S. to impose punitive tariffs on Japanese steel imports**

Nikkei reported online that the Commerce Department announced its final decision on Tuesday that steel concrete reinforcing bar products from Japan have been imported at unfairly low prices, saying that countervailing duties as high as about 210% will be imposed pending official approval by the U.S. International Trade Commission. In announcing the department's finding on the dumping investigation, Secretary Ross said in a released statement: "The United States can no longer sit back and watch as its essential industries like steel are destroyed by foreign companies unfairly selling their products in U.S. markets."

- ['TPP 11' to Washington: We'll keep your seat warm](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [N.Z. PM English hails Japan's role in TPP before meeting Abe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Australia proposes shorter monopoly period for biologics medicines in TPP](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [U.S. Gaming Association chief speaks about cooperation with Japanese companies on casinos](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Takahama N-reactor to restart on Wed.](#) (The Japan News)
- [Kuroda says 'quite sure' BOJ can smoothly withdraw stimulus](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't to support plant registrations overseas for intellectual property](#) (Yomiuri)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 16](#) (Nikkei)
- [MEXT documents indicate PM Abe involved with private school's vet faculty plan](#) (Asahi)
- [Gov't says cabinet can also submit constitutional revision motions to Diet](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Govt adopts lower house electoral reform bill](#) (The Japan News)
- [Shady politicians may use "Nagashima Party" as a refuge for political money](#) (Sentaku)
- [Vice foreign minister said to be asking PM Abe to keep him in his job](#) (Sentaku)
- [Column: The LDP's post-Abe generation](#) (Nikkei)
- [American expert on Japan forges ties with Nagatacho via Columbia University](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

## SCIENCE

### Telomeres – The key to longevity

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on telomeres, which hold the key to longevity and youth. Telomeres, which work as caps at the end of each strand of DNA to protect chromosomes, are

connected to people's health spans - the number of years people remain healthy, active, and disease-free. The shortening of telomeres due to cell division contributes to aging. The program aired an interview with Professor Elizabeth Blackburn, a Nobel laureate, who recently published a book titled "The Telomere Effect." The program said emotional stress contributes to the shortening of telomeres, which can cause cancer or dementia. Professor Blackburn discovered that an enzyme called telomerase can slow, prevent, and partially reverse the shortening of telomeres. The program said daily meditation, moderate exercise, a healthy diet of fish and vegetables, sleeping more than seven hours a night, and maintaining good relationships with family and friends are effective in preventing the shortening of telomeres.

- [Japan's scientific prowess in danger of decline](#) (Yomiuri)
- [JAXA develops technology for early detection of clear air turbulence](#) (Mainichi)

## SOCIETY

- [Foreign detainees on hunger strike at Nagoya immigration facility](#) (Kyodo News)

## OPINION POLLS

- [55% in favor of adding SDF to Article 9, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [81.9% oppose renegotiation of Japan-South Korea agreement, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Sankei Shimbun](#) (Sankei)

