



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, May 23, 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 an explosion at a concert hall in Manchester, England, where Ariana Grande was performing, which killed at least 19 people and injured about 50. The networks said the police are treating the explosion as an act of terrorism. According to NTV, NBC reported that it was a suicide bombing and the suspect has been identified.

## INTERNATIONAL

### GOJ officials comment on incident in Manchester

On the apparent terrorist bombing in Manchester, England, on Monday, NHK quoted PM Abe as saying this morning: "Many people were killed or injured. I express my sincere condolences to those who died and extend my sympathy to those who were injured. Terrorism must never be allowed, for whatever reason it is committed. We must eradicate acts of terror. We will work closely with the international community to eradicate terrorism that harms innocent people." Meanwhile, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga commented: "I am greatly shocked by the incident which resulted in many deaths and injuries....We can never tolerate such heinous act of terrorism, and we resolutely condemn them. Japan expresses its strong solidarity with the people of the United Kingdom."

### Kishida considering strengthening controls on DPRK-bound cargo

NHK reported that Foreign Minister Kishida told reporters today that to ensure the effectiveness of the UNSC resolutions and fully implement Japan's unilateral sanctions against North Korea, he is considering imposing measures to further strengthen regulations on DPRK-bound cargo. Kishida also reportedly welcomed the press statement issued by the UN Security Council, saying: "It

demonstrates the unified position of the international community that North Korea's nuclear and missile development are not acceptable." Kishida also reportedly said: "At this point, we are thinking of ensuring the effectiveness of the UNSC resolutions and fully implementing our unilateral sanctions. With this in mind, we are considering introducing the 'catch all' control provision to the current cargo inspection law."

### **UNSC issues press statement on North Korea**

TBS, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi reported at noon that on Monday the UN Security Council issued a press statement strongly condemning North Korea's ballistic missile launch and urging the nation to conduct no further nuclear tests or missile launches. TBS said the statement also warned that the Security Council will "continue to monitor the situation and take further significant measures, including sanctions." In addition, the council urged other UN member states to implement the sanctions against North Korea by saying that the UN Security Council members promised to implement the sanctions against North Korea fully and comprehensively.

### **TV program speculates DPRK will shortly test nuke or missile**

TV-Asahi's noontime infotainment program highlighted Sunday's launch of a "North Star 2" medium range ballistic missile by North Korea, speculating that the Kim regime may conduct another missile test or possibly a nuclear test in several days to shift global attention from the G7 summit that starts in Italy on Thursday. The show took up four successful missile tests this year, explaining that they were apparently timed to major international diplomatic events, such as the summit between Prime Minister Abe and President Trump, the U.S.-China summit, the "One-Belt, One-Road" economic conference in Beijing, and President Trump's first overseas tour to the Middle East, respectively. One panelist projected that as Pyongyang appears to be eager to "steal the limelight," it may undertake another provocation shortly to remind the G7 members of its continued defiance of their repeated calls for restraint.

- **Editorial: Japan should take lead in TPP 11** (Sankei)
- **Editorial: 11 TPP nations should compromise to bring trade pact into force early** (The Japan News)
- **Editorial: Japan needs to champion TPP to boost free trade in the region** (The Asahi Shimbun)
- **16 Asia-Pacific nations agree to conclude free trade talks soon** (Kyodo News)
- **China says 6 Japanese men detained for "illegal activities"** (Kyodo News)
- **JGC to export medical infrastructure expertise to Russia** (Nikkei)

- [Japan, South Korea expanding business partnerships outside their domestic markets](#) (Yomiuri)

## SECURITY

- [Japan, U.S., S. Korea top brass affirm cooperation on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan conducts 1st cross-gov't tabletop exercise for N. Korea missile](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Italy sign accord on defense equipment, technology transfer](#) (Kyodo News)
- [JCG conducts comprehensive exercises for first time in five years](#) (Sankei)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 22](#) (Nikkei)
- [JCP obtains new documents related to Kake scandal](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe avoids mentioning Kake Educational Institution scandal](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Transparent probe needed into vet school approval involving PM Abe](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Scandals haunting Abe](#) (Akahata)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Renho](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP studying ways to change Article 9; Komeito taking wait-and-see stance](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe meets with Komeito chief to talk about constitutional revision](#) (Mainichi)
- [Interview with LDP Vice President Komura on revision of Article 9 of Constitution](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Abe needs to act wisely in bid to revise Constitution](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Civic group files complaint against MOF officials over Moritomo scandal](#) (Mainichi)
- [The art, and fallout, of the Japanese political gaffe](#) (The Japan Times)

- [Vice minister of justice Kurokawa, “the Kantei’s agent”](#) (FACTA)

## OPINION POLLS

- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [57% say Japan-South Korea relations will “remain unchanged,” Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)

## ECONOMY

- [Gov’t looking to simplify business startup application procedures by harnessing cloud services](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov’t to improve GDP statistics by 2030](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan’s agriculture more corporate, attracting younger farmers: gov’t](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Nuclear taxes get new lease on life after Fukushima](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## SCIENCE

- [Japan businesses seek single exchange for internet of things data](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Medical-use ES cells to be created for 1st time in Japan](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Research team discovers cell that makes cancer worse](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)

## SOCIETY

### **Growing number of businesses to help the socially withdrawn swindle families’ money**

NHK’s “Close-up Gendai +” reported on the increase in scams involving businesses that support socially withdrawn children. The program said there are about 540,000 people aged 14 to 39 who are socially withdrawn in Japan, and the number of businesses that help such people is on the rise. But the program said that rather than help such families, some of these businesses are disreputable outfits that swindle their money.

- [A year after enactment of hate speech law, xenophobic rallies down by nearly half](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Companies employ systems to encourage female workers to continue careers](#) (Nikkei)

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

- [Playwright's criticism of Asahi Shimbun wins "Like" from PM Facebook account](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

