



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, May 24, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All networks led with follow-up reports on the Manchester bombing, saying that Prime Minister May announced that the terrorism threat level had been raised to the highest level for the first time in a decade.

## INTERNATIONAL

### **Suga says G7 leaders to demonstrate solidarity over North Korea and terrorism**

NHK reported this afternoon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga said at a press briefing this morning that PM Abe will visit Italy and Malta and attend the G7 summit in Sicily from May 25 to 28. The network said the premier is hoping to send a powerful message to demonstrate solidarity among the G7 nations over such issues as North Korea and terrorism. Suga was quoted as saying: "The G7 leaders will hold candid discussions on how to lead the global economy and how to address the pressing issue of North Korea and anti-terrorism measures." Suga also said: "Japan, as last year's host nation for the G7, and as a driver of the international community based on free and open rules, will send out a powerful, clear message." In addition, Suga reportedly said that PM Abe will hold meetings with President Trump and new French President Macron on the sidelines of the G7 summit and also visit a cemetery of Japanese navy members who were deployed to Malta during WWI.

- **Gov't sending fact-finding team to Sakhalin for "joint economic activities"** (Yomiuri)
- **A year after Obama's historic visit to Hiroshima** (Kanagawa Shimbun)

- [Kishida, Le Drian agree to step up pressure on DPRK](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on new ROK president](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: UNSC must impose additional sanctions on North Korea soon](#) (The Japan News)

## ECONOMY

### **NRA gives green light to resumption of Reactor Nos. 3 and 4 at Oi NPP**

All networks reported at noon that the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) officially decided today that Reactor Nos. 3 and 4 at the Oi Nuclear Power Plant in Fukui Prefecture meet the new safety standards. NHK said KEPCO will aim to resume operation of the reactors in winter or later, since the utility needs to obtain local consent first.

- [WTO chief welcomes TPP effectuation sans U.S.](#) (Asahi Online)
- [Japan concerned about rising antidumping measures](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Development Bank of Japan to raise 300 billion yen in investments and loans](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Gov't aims to double consumption of game meat by FY2019](#) (Mainichi)
- [One in three company employees say they have suffered power harassment, MHLW poll](#) (Asahi)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 23](#) (Nikkei)
- [Tokyo assembly election, Kake scandal affect Diet session](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Renho](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan's regulatory reform menu looks stale](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [PM Abe's Article 9 revision proposal aims at leaving legacy, dividing opposition](#) (FACTA)
- [LDP politician Onishi apologizes for making dismissive cancer comment](#) (The Japan Times)

## SECURITY

### **Global Hawk shown to media**

TV Asahi reported that the U.S. Air Force showed to the media today the "Global Hawk" unmanned surveillance aircraft that is temporarily deployed at Yokota AB in Tokyo. The network said the aircraft can fly at an altitude of 18,000 meters for more than 34 hours, adding that the aircraft will be controlled from the U.S. mainland via satellite. There are currently four Global Hawks deployed at Yokota. The network speculated that while the USAF explained that the deployment was to avoid typhoons in Guam in summer, it is aimed at conducting warning and surveillance activities for North Korea's ballistic missiles and the Chinese military.

- [Former police chief comments on Lower House passage of anti-conspiracy bill](#) (Sankei)
- [Cyberattack countermeasures are pressing issue, Abe](#) (Sankei)
- [Military analyst calls for creation of counterterrorism team](#) (Mainichi)
- [Okinawa City completes cleanup work at soccer pitch](#) (Okinawa Times)

## OPINION POLLS

- [50% opposed to Japan's acquiring capability to strike enemy bases, Jiji Press poll](#) (Jiji)
- [52% are cautious about "crime of conspiracy," Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [25% to vote for LDP in Tokyo poll, Yomiuri poll](#) (The Japan News)

## SCIENCE

- [Prof's finding backs theory that life on earth came from outer space](#) (Mainichi)
- [Artificially modified measles virus a promising cancer treatment](#) (Asahi)

## SOCIETY

### **Gold smugglers make a mint in Japan**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on the smuggling of gold into Japan, saying it has surged since Japan's consumption tax was raised from 5 to 8 percent in April 2014. The program said although travelers need to declare gold bars at customs and pay the 8 percent consumption tax, couriers

disguised as tourists bring in gold from Asia, mainly South Korea, without declaring it. The program said Japan has become a target because the current law imposes only light penalties for such crime.

- **No. of homeless falls 11% year on year** (Nikkei)

