



Afternoon Alert - Friday, May 26, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks led with follow-up reports on former Vice Education Minister Maekawa's press conference about the scandal involving Kake Educational Institution. NTV gave top play to a report that Koki Tanaka, a former member of pop group KAT-TUN, was arrested on Wednesday on charges of possessing marijuana.

INTERNATIONAL

PM Abe arrives in Italy for G7, talks with President Trump

All networks reported at noon that Prime Minister Abe arrived in Italy on Thursday to attend the G7 Leaders' Summit in Taormina, saying that four of the leaders, including President Trump, will make their G7 summit debut. NHK said while the leaders are expected to exchange views on a wide range of topics, including North Korea, Syria, Ukraine, anti-terrorism measures, and the global economy and trade, the focus of attention will be whether the leaders will be able to demonstrate solidarity over such issues as global warming and refugees. NHK also said arrangements are underway for talks between PM Abe and President Trump before the G7 summit begins.

“Russiagate”

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on the extensive media coverage of the alleged collusion between the Trump campaign team and Russia, saying that the scandal is being compared to the Watergate scandal and is being dubbed "Russiagate." The program reported on the ongoing conflict between President Trump and the media, and the continued leakage of information from within the White House. While the program said one of the reasons for the leakage is the power struggle

between Steven Bannon and Jared Kushner, Keio University Professor Nakayama said it demonstrates increasing concern in the administration about the crisis swirling around the President. Several experts discussed whether his words and actions constitute obstruction of justice and whether this scandal will lead to his impeachment.

- [Trump mulls 1st visit to Japan in Nov.: key transition team member](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Russia to survey disputed isles in June for joint projects](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe to urge tougher G-7 line on North](#) (The Japan News)
- [Analysis: Different motives behind Japan, U.S. moves to improve relations with China](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Trump's strategy for stabilizing the Middle East to be put to test](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Erratic Trump needs to dispel distrust in him in Middle East](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: President Trump in the Middle East](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: PM Abe at G7](#) (Mainichi)
- [Vietnamese prime minister to visit Japan from June 4](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

[U.S. military to position bases irrespective of Japanese opinion](#)

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo took up remarks made on Capitol Hill on Wednesday by USMC Commandant Neller, who said the DOD may review its plan to relocate U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam in view of recent developments in North Korea and environmental concerns in Guam. The papers said his remark that "the capabilities of our adversaries have changed the dynamic" show that the U.S. military is poised to locate military facilities flexibly depending on changes in the strategic environment. According to the papers, although the GOJ has explained that Okinawa Marines will be transferred to Guam so as to reduce the base-hosting burden on the island prefecture, the top Marine general's remarks showed that the U.S. military's assessment of the security environment is a primary factor in determining the allocation of forces, but consideration for Japan is not.

- [Meeting on preventing nuclear terrorism to be held in Tokyo next week](#) (Kyodo News)
- [SDF chief's retirement re-extended by one year](#) (Mainichi)

- [Gov't looking into new approach for international contribution with end of South Sudan mission](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Osprey expenses earmarked in Navy budget request for the first time](#) (Akahata)
- ["North Korea is behind cyberattack," former NSA specialist](#) (Sankei)
- [Analysis: Taking the measure of North Korea's military power](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't to consider stepping up border control to stem inflow of terrorists, weapons](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan reeling from shock of losing Australian submarine deal](#) (Shukan Ekonomisuto)
- ['White hat hacker' training center to combat cyber-attacks](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 25](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opposition steps up offensive against Abe over school scandal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of discussions at Lower House Commission on the Constitution, May 25](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Party leaders' debate to be held soon](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Long-lasting administrations hinge on "Kantei's leadership"](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [60% call LH deliberations on "crime of conspiracy" inadequate, Asahi spot poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun spot poll on "crime of conspiracy" bill](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

- [Japan's direct investment in U.S. hits record high in 2016](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Panel calls for gov't to maintain goal of primary balance surplus](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Japan, Canada to cooperate for November summit of TPP nations](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Mexico vows cooperation with Japan to bring TPP into effect](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan's Diet OKs appointment of nuclear safety regulator chief](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: KEPCO has huge responsibility in restarting nuke plants](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Nuclear power advisory body to be created](#) (Asahi)

SCIENCE

- [Japanese, U.S. universities to discuss whaling in June](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan amends law for tighter control of ivory business](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

- [Backers of immigration detainees blast prolonged stays as violation of human rights](#) (The Japan Times)
 - [Day care wait lists still growing in much of Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
 - [New gov't website launched to promote Japanese culture](#) (Kyodo News)
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