



Afternoon Alert - Monday, July 3, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks led with reports on the results of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election, in which Tomin First No Kai, the party led by Governor Koike, scored an overwhelming victory. Koike told reporters this morning that she intends to resign as the leader of the party in order to focus on her role as governor. TV Asahi gave top play to a reports on heavy rain in the Hokuriku and Tohoku regions.

INTERNATIONAL

President Trump, PM Abe confirm stronger pressure on DPRK

All networks reported at noon that President Trump and PM Abe held a telephone conference from about 9 to 9:30 this morning, saying that they agreed to hold a trilateral summit with South Korea on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Germany slated for this weekend. The two leaders also reportedly confirmed that the three nations will cooperate and play a leading role in getting the international community to apply stronger pressure on North Korea and urge China to play a further role. According to NHK, PM Abe also welcomed the U.S. announcement of sanctions on two Chinese companies and two Chinese individuals for their involvement in North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, and expressed hope that the three nations, including South Korea, will work closely to strengthen pressure on North Korea. In response, President Trump reportedly explained that his first summit with ROK President Moon was "very good."

USG, GOJ to postpone "2+2" meeting set for July 14

TV Asahi reported at noon that although the governments of the U.S. and Japan agreed to hold a "2+2" meeting of their foreign and defense ministers in Washington on July 14, the meeting will be postponed at the request of the U.S. side. According to the network, the meeting is being postponed

because Secretary of State Tillerson will be traveling overseas on that day. The network said the Japanese side will continue to make arrangements to hold a meeting soon for the two nations to deal with the North Korea nuclear and missile issues.

- [Editorial: Can U.S., South Korea cooperate to exert pressure on North Korea?](#) (The Japan News)

Experts discuss ISIL

NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show aired a discussion by four experts on international and Middle East affairs. Canon Institute for Global Studies Research Director Kunihiko Miyake, Open University of Japan Professor Kazuo Takahashi, and Institute of Energy Economics, Japan Assistant Director Shuji Hosaka agreed that despite ISIL's recent setback in Mosul, Iraq, its forces remain active in neighboring Syria. Aoyama Gakuin University Professor Kumiko Haba expressed strong concern about the rising number of refugees as a result of fighting between ISIL and government forces in the region. The panelists also expressed concern about ISIL-affiliated fighters' growing activities in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Tracking down a "Japanese" terrorist from Bangladesh

Saturday evening's "NHK Special" reported on the terrorist attack exactly one year ago at a restaurant in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in which 20 hostages, including seven Japanese, were killed by five militants. The program said although it remains unclear why Japanese nationals were targeted because all five militants were killed, it learned of a Bangladeshi man by the name of Ozaki who is suspected of being involved in the attack. Ozaki reportedly lived in Japan for 14 years, married a Japanese woman, and obtained Japanese citizenship. Although he was hired as an associate professor at Ritsumeikan University two years before the incident, he left Japan to join ISIL in Syria in the same year. The program interviewed Ozaki's acquaintances and parents, saying that although Ozaki originally loved Japan, he came to dislike the country because of the lack of Japanese media coverage about the situation faced by Muslims around the world. Ozaki is suspected of helping ISIL militants obtain visas and financial assistance.

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 2](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 1](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on June 30](#) (Nikkei)
- [Humbled by LDP's rout in Tokyo race, Abe vows to win back trust](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Tomin First wins many votes from other parties' supporters, analysis of Kyodo News exit poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

- [36 women elected to Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, new record](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe to reshuffle cabinet and LDP leadership in light of crushing defeat in Tokyo election](#) (Sankei)
- [Tokyo debacle dampens prospects for constitutional revision and Abe's reelection as LDP Chief](#) (Asahi)
- [Outcome of Tokyo assembly election to sour LDP-Komeito coalition relationship](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Renho to keep job as president after DP's loss in Tokyo assembly election](#) (Sankei)
- [Key LDP Tokyo chapter members lose seats in assembly election](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: LDP under Abe must ponder the meaning of historical debacle](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: LDP's crushing defeat signals public discontent over "Abe politics"](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Aso criticizes "irresponsible" media in Tokyo assembly election campaign speech](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP execs say it's fault of media for party's election battle](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Damage control vital for Abe after Tokyo assembly defeat](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cartoon: A body blow to Abe](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Abe, Shimomura, Inada](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

TBS poll shows public support for Abe cabinet at record low

TBS reported at noon on the results of its opinion poll conducted over the weekend, which found that public support for the Abe cabinet hit a record low of 43.3%, down 11.1 points from last month, with nonsupport at 55.5%, up 11.4 points. This is the first time since October 2015 for nonsupport of the the Abe cabinet to exceed support. Concerning Defense Minister Inada's remarks during a campaign speech for an LDP candidate in the Tokyo assembly election, 15% thought it was not problematic, while 82% said it was. In addition, 63% said Inada should resign. On the Kake Gakuen scandal, 79% said Prime Minister Abe has not fulfilled his obligation to provide an explanation, while 12% said he has. On Abe's intention to submit a new bill on constitutional amendment during the next extraordinary Diet session, 30% welcomed it, but 49% did not.

- [Trend in average cabinet support rate, Saitama University Social Survey Research Center](#) (Saitama University Social Survey Research Center)

ECONOMY

- [Japan-EU EPA to hinge on leaders' talks](#) (The Japan News)
- [Konica Minolta to buy US cancer-testing company](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Toshiba Memory deal remains elusive, fund chief says](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Foxconn's Terry Gou still wants Toshiba's memory unit](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Thrifty ways keep Japan's consumption recovery narrow](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan pension giant picking socially conscious stocks with \\$26bn](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Mitsubishi Heavy aircraft unit falls into negative net worth on costs](#) (Kyodo News)

EDUCATION

- [The higher the university position, the fewer women there are](#) (Nikkei)
 - [Over 30% of universities offer assistance to students with disabilities](#) (Nikkei)
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