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Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, July 5, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports on the record rainfall in Shimane Prefecture, saying that the Japan Meteorological Agency lifted the emergency warning for the prefecture this morning.

INTERNATIONAL

Prime Minister Abe leaves for Europe

NHK reported this afternoon that Prime Minister Abe has departed for Europe to attend the G20 summit in Germany and visit five other European nations. He left Haneda Airport at around 2 p.m. today for Belgium, the first stop on his tour. The network quoted the premier as telling reporters before his departure: "I would like to use the opportunity at the G20 to strongly stress to world leaders, including President Trump, President Xi, President Putin, and President Moon, the need for the international community to closely cooperate against North Korea, which raised the threat level by launching an ICBM on Tuesday." Concerning the EPA being negotiated by Japan and the EU, Abe reportedly said it is an important pillar of Abenomics and that he will meet with EU President Tusk ahead of the G20 summit and conclude a broad agreement. The network said Abe will exchange views with leaders of nations attending the G20 summit on the sustainable growth of the global economy, hold a trilateral summit with the U.S. and South Korea, and meet for the first

time with President Moon to discuss North Korea and other matters.

- [Abe to visit Belgium, Scandinavian nations, Estonia alongside G-20](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to give Africa \\$6 bil. in energy aid](#) (The Japan News)
- [Abe to call on G-20 to press Pyongyang](#) (The Japan News)
- [INSIGHTS into the WORLD / What is Donald Trump's strategy in Asia?](#) (The Japan News)

American woman arrested on charges of possessing ammunition at Haneda

NHK reported at noon that an American woman was arrested at Haneda Airport on Tuesday after 100 bullets were found at the airport. The woman was arrested on charges of violating the Swords and Firearms Control Law. According to the network, the bullets were found in a trash can in the departure lobby of the International Terminal at around 4 p.m. on Tuesday. The Tokyo Metropolitan Police found after analyzing security camera footage that they belonged to an American woman in her 60s. The woman apparently temporarily entered Japan with her husband on their way to a Southeast Asian nation. The woman reportedly explained that the bullets had been stored at her U.S. home but realized they were in her bag after entering Japan and threw them away.

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 4](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 3](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe gov't at a crossroad between prioritizing economy vs. security with China](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP's Tokyo assembly election debacle may affect race to succeed Abe](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Latest appointments to leading ministry posts reflect less Kantei intervention](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Exclusive interview with PM: Abe determined to end debate on whether SDF are constitutional](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election outcome](#) (Sankei)

- [Lawmakers agree to reopen parliament, PM favoritism claims on agenda](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP's Nukaga faction to support the Abe administration](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP accepts Koike leaving party](#) (The Japan News)
- [Aso professes continued support for Abe after forming second largest LDP faction](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Abe should fulfill vow for serious 'soul-searching' with actions](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Abe must make efforts to regain public trust after LDP electoral defeat](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Abe's political rhetoric no longer effective after Tokyo election setback](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: LDP must reflect on arrogance, laxity caused by Abe dominance / Pro-Koike forces must fulfill duties](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: LDP must reflect on arrogance in face of historical loss in Tokyo assembly poll](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Voters say 'no' to Abe's arrogance, send his LDP to crushing defeat](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Aso expands his base after LDP's defeat in Tokyo election](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Mired in scandals, Abe's party loses to the upstart it scoffed at](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cartoon: Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election](#) (Asahi)
- [Tokyo governor fights for 'passive smoking' ordinance](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cartoon: Koike's children](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Defense chief Inada must act sensibly to maintain political neutrality of SDF](#) (The Japan News)
- [Abe trades barbs with protesters in Akihabara](#) (Sankei)

SECURITY

- [Counter North Korean threat with missile bases on Japanese islands](#) (THEMIS)

ECONOMY

- [EU: Broad deal on EPA likely to come this week](#) (The Japan News)
- [LDP lawmakers ask Prime Minister to protect domestic producers in EPA negotiations](#) (Mainichi)
- [Regional airports to receive tourism promotion incentives](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to collect part of casino revenue to finance steps against gambling addiction](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan's corporate tax revenue sinks to post-Abenomics low](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [The rebirth of the Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Innovation Network Corp. has new policymaking committee chief](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, New Zealand to introduce Patent Prosecution Highway](#) (Nikkei)
- [Debris extraction method at Fukushima nuclear plant to be revealed](#) (Kyodo News)

SCIENCE

Fire ants land in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" on Tuesday evening reported on fire ants, which experts say are one of the most dangerous alien species to enter Japan. After the venomous ants that are native to South America were first confirmed in a container that arrived at Osaka Port three weeks ago, they were also spotted at Nagoya Port. The program said once fire ants create a colony, they have incredible power to reproduce, adding that fire ants have entered the U.S., Australia, and China and caused major damage to local livestock and crops. All of the fire ants found in Japan are believed to have come from a single port in China. The program also reported on another alien species, the redback spider, stressing the importance of border control.

OPINION POLLS

- [Disapproval of cabinet exceeds approval as support rate falls below 40%, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Highlights of the June 2017 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)



- [Kusaka named director-general for Okinawa affairs at Cabinet Office](#) (Okinawa Times)

