



Afternoon Alert - Friday, July 14, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters gave top play to reports on the torrential rains in Inuyama, Aichi Prefecture, today, saying that an evacuation order has been issued for the entire city.

INTERNATIONAL

FM Kishida, CCS Suga welcome Senate approval of Hagerty as ambassador to Japan

All networks reported that the U.S. Senate approved by a majority on Thursday the appointment of William Hagerty as the next U.S. ambassador to Japan, saying that Hagerty is expected to arrive in Japan as early as August. NHK said he is expected to work on coordinating a visit to Japan by President Trump by the end of this year.

NHK said Foreign Minister Kishida sent his congratulations, saying: "It is a great honor to welcome Mr. Hagerty, who has lived in Japan and has rich experience in both the private and public sectors, as the ambassador to Japan." He also said: "The U.S. and Japan are strong allies that share universal values, and the bilateral alliance is the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy and security. The U.S. commitment to the region is essential for the stability of the Asia Pacific region. I hope that he will assume the post soon and look forward to further strengthening the U.S.-Japan ties together."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga also welcomed the approval, saying at a press briefing this morning: "Mr. Hagerty is well-versed in Japan affairs and is deeply trusted by President Trump. I would like to deeply welcome the Senate approval of him as the ambassador to Japan." He also said: "I would like to solidify the U.S.-Japan alliance, which is the cornerstone of Japan's foreign and security policy,

and together with Mr. Hagerty further strengthen bilateral relations."

- [Senate OKs Trump's pick of Hagerty as U.S. envoy to Japan](#) (Kyodo News)

Foreign Minister Kishida to visit New York from July 16

NHK reported on its website that Foreign Minister Kishida told reporters today that he will visit New York from July 16 to 19 and attend a meeting on measures against poverty and the spread of high-quality education slated for July 17 at the UN Headquarters. Kishida reportedly expressed hope to "highlight Japan's efforts toward realizing an inclusive and diverse society where no one is left behind." Concerning the "2+2" meeting that was originally planned for this month, Kishida said: "No specific date has been set at this point. We will continue to make efforts to hold the meeting at an early date."

"Trump fatigue"

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on the endless barrage of media reports on President Trump, saying that the American public is getting tired of it and suffering from "Trump fatigue." Program host Takeda reported from New York, saying that some people have stopped paying attention to news related to the President and one media outlet has a "Trump-free" day once a month. The program also reported on growing moves to "unite" the nation, which has become deeply divided between Trump supporters and protesters. The program reported on Jon Bon Jovi's "Soul Kitchen," which provides free meals to anyone who is willing to work or help out in the kitchen; a high-end restaurant that donates leftover food to the needy; and an Islam volunteer group that provides free meals to local people.

- [Japan to highlight contribution to U.S. economy](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Lower House Speaker Oshima to visit Mongolia and China](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: China should exercise self-restraint to curb South China Sea tensions](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Abe's diplomacy tested: Xi proposes 'separation of politics, economy'](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Japan toes U.S. line on nukes](#) (Akahata)

ECONOMY

- [11 nations may compile TPP review draft in Aug.](#) (Jiji Press)
- [TPP to stay largely as is minus US, members agree](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Japan eyes steps to help farmers impacted by EU trade pact](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Labor federation nears backing white-collar overtime exemption](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Rengo parts ways with DP on merit-based pay system for the sake of practical gains](#) (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 13](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe eyes retaining Nikai as LDP secretary-general](#) (Nikkei)
- [Foreign Minister Kishida professes support for Abe administration](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Distance with Abe: Aso secures "unassailable No. 2 position"](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cartoon: PM Abe at the beach](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Abe and key advisers mull rebranding](#) (Mainichi)
- [DP wary that Tomin First's entering national politics may trigger more defections](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Abe's "black-magic" political craftsmanship corrupting Diet](#) (Sentaku)
- [Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hagiuda, a "man of pressure" in Prime Minister's Office](#) (Sentaku)

OPINION POLLS

- [Abe cabinet support rate plummets to 29.9%, nonsupport rises to 48.6%, Jiji Press poll](#) (Jiji)

SCIENCE

- [Editorial: Int'l cooperation vital for realizing Japan's manned space exploration reality](#) (The Japan News)

SOCIETY

- [National Police Agency to be notified prior to investigating conspiracy charges](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

- [Inmate who had appealed for retrial, 1 other executed](#) (The Japan News)
- [Trend in relative child poverty rate](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [Iranian, Turkish Embassies refuse to issue passports for deportees in Japan](#) (Sankei)

SECURITY

- [PACOM commander comments on U.S. response to North Korea](#) (Asahi)
- [North Korea's threat enters "new stage," defense white paper](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan gears up to foil nuclear terrorism ahead of Tokyo Olympics](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Growing number of SDF members with foreign connections poses security risk](#) (Sentaku)
- [Sensitive government communications network details exposed to public](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)



Okinawa prefecture to seek injunction against Henoko work

Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged a report saying that the Okinawa Prefectural Government is planning to file a lawsuit on July 19 or later with the Naha District Court seeking an injunction against the ongoing work to destroy rock reefs at Henoko. The paper wrote that the prefectural government will probably file the suit next week because the prefectural assembly plans to approve today a motion to endorse the legal action by the prefectural government.

- [Okinawa vendors market products to U.S. bases](#) (Okinawa Times)