
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, August 17, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that President Trump's remark that "both sides are to be blamed" in the fatal incident in Charlottesville is drawing strong criticism even from Republicans. TBS gave top play to a report that Defense Minister Onodera has decided to procure the Aegis Ashore system for the SDF using next year's budget. NTV led with a report that an otter was spotted in Tsushima, Nagasaki, saying that this is first time for an otter to be spotted in Japan in 38 years. Fuji TV reported that it has rained in Tokyo for 17 consecutive days. TV Asahi led with a report that DOS spokesperson Nauert told reporters that the planned U.S.-ROK joint military exercises slated to begin next Monday will not be suspended.

SECURITY

Kono, Onodera meet with National Security Adviser McMaster

NHK reported at noon that visiting Foreign Minister Kono and Defense Minister Onodera met with National Security Adviser McMaster in Washington on Wednesday ahead of the planned "2+2" meeting on Thursday evening. According to the network, FM Kono pointed out during the meeting that the roles of China and Russia, including in implementing UNSC resolutions, will become more important from the viewpoint of deterring North Korea from staging more provocations. DM Onodera reportedly stressed the need to avoid contingencies and for the U.S. and Japan to work closely to be fully prepared. He also expressed hope to establish close communication at all levels. The network said the three officials agreed that the two nations will work together closely and make careful preparations in order to avoid any contingencies and also agreed on the importance of full implementation of the new UNSC sanctions resolution, which was also endorsed by China and

Russia, in order to increase international pressure on the North.

Meanwhile, the network also quoted DM Onodera as telling reporters in Washington: "It is important to stop North Korea's menacing behavior through diplomatic efforts. In order to do so, we need various types of sanctions, particularly economic pressure and various kinds of international pressure. North Korea is an unpredictable country, and we would like to be fully prepared."

MOD to deploy Aegis Ashore system

All TV networks reported at noon that the Ministry of Defense has decided to install an Aegis Ashore system to boost Japan's missile defense capability in view of the advancement of North Korea's ballistic missile technologies. NHK said the MOD will request the necessary funds in the fiscal 2018 budget. The networks said DM Onodera is planning to convey the decision to the U.S. side during the upcoming "2+2" meeting on Friday. Several networks also reported that the MOD is planning to increase the number of Aegis-equipped vessels to five by the end of this fiscal year, earlier than scheduled. TBS said the MOD also plans to establish a "space unit" within the ASDF and strengthen the joint outer space monitoring network with the U.S. military.

- [Japan to deploy new land-based missile defense system](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan may be able to shoot down North Korean missiles but has no legal basis: experts](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Defense Ministry to develop new space monitoring radar for ASDF](#) (Sankei)
- [Chiba prefectural police teach college students how to investigate cybercrimes](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: The Osprey](#) (Akahata)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Senior DPRK official says all of China is within range of North Korea's missiles](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cartoon: President Trump and Kim Jong Un](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Moon's speech inflames history issues, despite claimed wish for better ties](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gov't to provide 1.4 billion yen to finance waterworks in Jordan](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

- [Study of the Cabinet Secretariat \(Part 2\): The engine of TPP 11](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gov't to step up efforts to foster nuclear plant inspectors](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [36% of corporations report "labor shortage," Sankei survey of 121 companies](#) (Sankei)
- [80% of companies say "economy is expanding," Sankei survey of 121 companies](#) (Sankei)
- [No. of foreign visitors to Japan in July hits new monthly record](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's Inpex mulls Azadegan tender bid, int'l consortium](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Obstacles grow for coal power in Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Restart delayed for Kyushu Electric's nuclear reactors](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- [Abe keeps up suspense over snap election](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Maehara leads Japanese opposition DP's leadership race](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Editorial: Time to work for constitutional goal of equal education to all](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [LDP constitutional reforms on education fall flat, highlight Abe's waning momentum](#) (The Mainichi)
- [LDP, Ishin at odds on constitutional revision for free higher education](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Yokoyama submits resignation to DP](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Deputy CCS Sugita, cabinet intel chief Kitamura wield covert power at Kantei](#) (Sentaku)
- [Interview with Midori Miyazaki on women's empowerment](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Bungeishunju spot survey of 408 LDP Diet members on their party](#) (Bungeishunju)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 16, 2017](#) (Nikkei)

SCIENCE

- [Japan's cancer treatment device approved as international standard](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [Tokyo university quota hike will not be allowed](#) (The Japan News)

SOCIETY

- [Record child abuse cases in 2016 increasing strain on welfare workers](#) (Kyodo News)
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