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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, August 24, 2017

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#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

TBS led with a report on the extremely hot weather mainly in the Kansai region today, while NHK gave top play to a report that heavy rain is expected in Tohoku today and tomorrow. Fuji TV led with a report that a man was arrested today on charges of abandoning the body of his father in 2014. TV Asahi gave top play to a report that another woman who was infected with O-157 E. coli said that she ate the same potato salad as other people who became infected with E. coli. NTV reported that a Gifu company is suspected to have illegally dumped mud in the mountains along the Chuo highway.

#### SECURITY

##### Japan worried about potential “structural problems” in 7th Fleet

NHK's "News Watch 9" took up the U.S. Navy's decision to relieve the 7th Fleet Commander, Vice Adm. Aucoin, to hold him accountable for the four accidents involving 7th fleet warships this year, including the recent fatal collision between the USS McCain and a merchant ship off Singapore. The network's Washington correspondent noted that the Navy is expediting the investigation into the cause of the McCain incident on the suspicion that there may be common factors behind all four cases, pointing out that the 7th Fleet has experienced an "excessive workload" lately on account of its continued, intense operations to hold in check North Korea's relentless provocations and China's accelerated militarization of the South China Sea. The reporter also mentioned growing congressional calls for a probe into whether or not the defense budget sequestration under the Obama administration has had adverse effects on the training, equipment, and operational readiness of the U.S. military. The show anchor said that since the 7th Fleet plays a crucial role in

ensuring Japan's defense, the GOJ is paying keen attention to the McCain investigation in the hope that the U.S. military can quickly identify any "structural problems" that undermine the Navy's operational fitness in the western Pacific.

### **Two protestors injured after hit-and-run incident in front of Camp Schwab**

NHK reported at noon that a 69-year-old man and a 83-year-old woman who were sitting on a curb of National Route 329 to participate in a protest rally against the Futenma relocation plan in front of the gate of Camp Schwab were injured after a car ran over their feet. The car did not stop. The network said police are investigating the case as a hit-and-run incident and searching for the car. According to the report, the woman's foot was broken and the man suffered a minor injury to his left foot.

- [Grounding of U.S. Navy ship in January also due to human error](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan to create cyberdefense bureau](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [U.S. military chopper flew close to Yokohama Bay Bridge](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **North Korea may be developing new type of ballistic missile**

NHK reported at noon that North Korea's state media aired on Wednesday a photo of a panel showing a three-stage missile, apparently called "Hwasong-13 (Mars 13)." The photo belongs to the North Korean institute in charge of ballistic missile development. The network said North Korea may be developing a new ground-based solid-fuel ballistic missile in addition to a new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM). The network said North Korea launched a "Hwasong-12" mid-range ballistic missile in May and two "Hwasong-14" ICBMs last month, adding that all the missiles used liquid fuel. The network said although North Korea has not officially announced the existence of the "Hwasong-13" missile, it may be developing a new ground-based ballistic missile using solid fuel, which substantially shortens the launch time compared with liquid fuel, since the institute is in charge of developing solid fuel engines. Noting that North Korea will celebrate the anniversary of the beginning of Kim Jong-il's "military-first leadership" on August 25, the network said there is concern that North Korea may stage a provocation around that time.

- [Journalist says Abe will make major diplomatic move this month](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [Russia designates isles claimed by Japan as special economic zone](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't views Northern Territories economic zone as Russian negotiating tactic](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Ceremony to mark anniversary of normalization of Japan-China ties to be held for first time in 10 years](#) (Kyodo)
- [Editorial: With Bannon's ouster, Trump needs to get administration on right track](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan seeks more active role in bringing peace to Middle East](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japanese high school cancels trip to Guam due to missile fears](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

- ['Made in Japan' resurges as Asia labor costs grow](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [METI to request 1.4 trillion yen in FY18 budget](#) (Nikkei)
- [HondaJet wins top spot for 1st time in global small-jet market](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Honda soars ahead in Japanese passenger jet race](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: To protect bluefin tuna, adopt measures from long-term perspective](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan to simplify some procedures for biz launches](#) (Jiji Press)

## POLITICS

### **Nagasaki mayor visits FM Kono, calls on GOJ to serve as “bridge” between nuclear and non-nuclear powers**

NHK's "News Watch 9" reported on Wednesday evening that Nagasaki Mayor Taue visited FM Kono at the Foreign Ministry earlier in the day and called on the GOJ to serve as a bridge between the nuclear and non-nuclear states so that the recently adopted UN treaty banning nuclear weapons will become more effective. In response, Kono reportedly explained that he called on the U.S. to work to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) when he met with Secretary of State Tillerson last week. Kono reportedly pledged that the government will serve as a bridge and continue to work toward nuclear arms elimination. The program quoted Mayor Taue as telling reporters after the meeting: "The treaty banning nuclear weapons may have been adopted, but that doesn't mean nuclear weapons will disappear. I hope the government will discuss ways to see how the treaty can be best utilized."

- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 23, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP, Komeito mulling compilation of supplementary budget](#) (Yomiuri)

- [DP presidential candidates differ on relations with labor group Rengo](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Tomin First restricting members' speech](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Ruling coalition snubs Article 53 by delaying Diet session](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Mainichi obtains report relating to shady land deal that gov't won't disclose](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Analysis: Populism fails to catch fire in Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

#### SCIENCE

- [MEXT to launch public-private project to build large-scale synchrotron radiation facility](#) (Nikkei)

#### EDUCATION

- [MEXT to help finance universities active in recruiting young and female scholars](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

#### SOCIETY

- [Unmarried single parents to become eligible for state support](#) (Kyodo News)

#### OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [SDF has used Northern Training Area in Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)