
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, August 31, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters led with reports related to North Korea's latest ballistic missile launch, including President Trump and Prime Minister Abe's teleconference and the South Korean Defense Ministry's assessment that the Kim regime apparently controlled the missile's trajectory so that it flew only half of its maximum range of 5,000 km. NHK highlighted the strong criticism of North Korea voiced by many participants during a UN General Assembly conference on nuclear weapons tests held in New York on Wednesday.

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Hagerty presents credentials to Emperor

NHK reported online that Ambassador Hagerty presented his credentials to Emperor Akihito this morning at the Imperial Palace. Following the presentation, the Ambassador shook hands and exchanged words with the Emperor. Ambassador Hagerty, along with the new ambassadors of other nations, will be invited to the Palace at a later date for a meeting with the Emperor and Empress.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. Japanese ministers agree to put greater pressure on DPRK

All broadcasters reported on separate teleconferences this morning between Defense Minister Onodera and Defense Secretary Mattis and Foreign Minister Kono and Secretary of State Tillerson, noting that the participants agreed to ratchet up the pressure on North Korea based on the judgment that even greater bilateral coordination is necessary to cope with what the Japanese politicians called an "unprecedented serious threat" posed by the latest DPRK missile launch. Kono and Secretary Tillerson agreed to jointly pursue a new sanctions resolution at the UN Security Council so

as to prevent the North from escalating provocations. Onodera and Mattis reportedly confirmed missile defense cooperation. In reply to the Japanese minister's request to make sure that a string of accidents involving 7th fleet warships will not create a "vacuum" in America's security posture in the Pacific, the Pentagon chief promised not to allow such a situation to occur.

In a related development, Mainichi reported online that Ambassador Hagerty met with the press this morning and commented on last night's teleconference between President Trump and Prime Minister Abe on North Korea by saying: "The President said the U.S. will support Japan completely. All options are on the table in dealing with a regime like North Korea.... The United States' commitment to defending Japan by employing all means is ironclad." As for discussions at the UN Security Council, the Ambassador said: "We hope that countries like China and Russia will step up the pressure on North Korea." He added that Pyongyang's current posturing shows that it has no intent to take a concerted approach with the international community.

Meanwhile, TV-Asahi claimed that during an emergency UN Security Council meeting held in New York on Tuesday, some members called for tougher sanctions on the DPRK, such as a ban on oil supplies and a prohibition against the import of North Korean textiles. China, Russia, and others reportedly expressed opposition saying that a diplomatic solution should be pursued. Fuji TV speculated that in their teleconference last night, President Trump and Prime Minister Abe apparently discussed the idea of the UN slapping a ban on the export of oil to North Korea. The network said, however, that Moscow and Beijing will probably not support it, quoting a GOJ source as saying: "The further the U.S. and Japan enhance mutual coordination toward North Korea, the more displeased China and Russia become."

GOJ worried about U.S. adopting "America First" in coping with DPRK

Wednesday's regular nightly news programs highlighted North Korea's official announcement regarding what it claimed was the successful launch of a "Mars-12" intermediate-range ballistic missile over Japan on Tuesday, with TV-Asahi's "Hodo Station" reporting on an emerging consensus among U.S. security experts that Washington may have no options other than to acknowledge the DPRK as a nuclear power in exchange for its abandoning the development of ICBMs in order to ensure the security of the U.S. mainland. The program stressed that this "American First" approach, if taken, would be truly devastating for Japan's security. Former Kyodo News managing editor Goto claimed that a growing number of GOJ officials are concerned that the Trump administration may be inclined to hold dialogue with North Korea, suspecting that during his teleconference with President Trump on Tuesday morning, Prime Minister Abe may have tried to obtain assurances from the U.S. leader that Washington will not seek rapprochement with Pyongyang without Tokyo's consent.

Meanwhile, TBS "News 23" analyzed a video and photos of the launch released by the DPRK media showing strongman Kim Jong Un observing the launch first-hand at a site near Pyongyang's international airport. A former MSDF admiral said the latest missile test may have been a "failure"

given that the projectile flew only about 2,700 km, some 800 km short of the projected distance that was shown on a computer screen installed on the desk of the DPRK leader. The ex-SDF official explained that if the missile had been launched toward Guam and flown as envisaged, it could have hit the U.S. territory in the Pacific.

President Trump to tap hardliner toward Beijing as top Asia hand at Pentagon

Yomiuri reported on the disclosure by a diplomatic source in Washington that the Trump administration has informally decided to appoint former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Randall Shriver as DOD assistant secretary for Asian and Pacific security affairs, noting that he is known for his hawkish stance on China. According to the article, former Assistant Secretary of State under the George W. Bush administration John Rood will be offered the job of undersecretary of defense for policy. Because Rood is an expert on nuclear nonproliferation and missile defense, the article speculated his appointment signals the Trump administration's greater focus on North Korea. The daily added that Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Susan Thornton will probably be promoted to assistant secretary.

British leader observes MSDF warship

NHK reported that British Prime Minister May visited the helicopter destroyer Izumo at an MSDF base in Yokosuka this morning. Aboard the ship she was briefed by Defense Minister Onodera on various SDF operations. In reply, the British premier said: "We have a long history of cooperation in these areas.... My visit today is a sign of our growing cooperation and partnership in defense matters."

- [Japan's Abe seeks support from allies on Pyongyang](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Big powers reach impasse over further Pyongyang sanctions](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [After N. Korea missile, Britain and Japan agree on closer security ties](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: The global community must unite to rein in North Korea](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: N. Korea firing missile over Japan intolerable, reckless act / Intl community must guard against new threat](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Japan needs to push for urgent diplomatic solution to N. Korea issue](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Do not make Japan a missile testing ground](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: J-Alert](#) (Asahi)

- [Putin aide Patrushev to visit Japan next week ahead of Vladivostok summit](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Seoul's choice for Japan envoy backs dialogue with North](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Northern Territories Minister Esaki expresses dissatisfaction with December 2016 Japan-Russia summit](#) (Sankei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 30-31, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Aso issues explanation of "Hitler" statement](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Aso's retraction of remark about Hitler again fails to go far enough](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Aso's "Hitler statement" can't be smoothed over with retraction](#) (Mainichi)
- [DP member points out Abe stays at official quarters only on days before missile launches](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of Lower, Upper House committees' off-session meetings, Aug. 30](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Maehara leads Edano in DP leadership race: Kyodo survey](#) (Nikkei)
- [Carbon tax likely to be introduced under new environment minister](#) (Shukan Ekonomisuto)
- [Rengo chief calls on DP to end united front with JCP](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Land ministry budget request tops ¥6 trillion, with focus on infrastructure, tourism](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Northern territories graves visit under way](#) (The Japan News)
- [New guidelines governing documents to be put in place by year-end: Kajiyama](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Keizo Takemi tapped as chairman of LDP Policy Board in the House of Councillors](#) (Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- ['TPP 11' to freeze drug data protection demanded by US](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [TPP talks in Sydney end with further negotiation set for Sept.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Brexit-wary Japan executives to talk with UK trade chief](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Government to introduce measures to cap online race betting](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Labor ministry to consolidate bills on work-style reform](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Restaurants mulling changing procurement sources after safeguards invoked on U.S. beef imports](#) (Mainichi)
- [JETRO to open fifth office in India in November](#) (Nikkei)
- [Carbon tax likely to be introduced under new environment minister](#) (Shukan Ekonomisuto)
- [Public-private panel starts talks on commercial self-driving vehicles](#) (Kyodo News)

SCIENCE

- [Safety of iPS cells in monkeys with Parkinson's disease confirmed](#) (Jiji Press)

SOCIETY

- [America-Japan Society creates new award](#) (Yomiuri)

SECURITY

Osprey unlikely to take off from Oita any time soon

NHK projected that the Futenma-based Osprey that has been grounded at Oita Airport since Tuesday night will probably not take off in the near future, noting that the prefectural government has been told by the Defense Ministry that the U.S. military called off the planned delivery by air this morning of equipment necessary for mechanical checkups. The prefectural government is reportedly asking the ministry to provide information on the aircraft without delay.

- [Japan, U.S. defense chiefs agree on "visible" pressure on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan Defense Ministry seeks record-high budget amid N. Korea threat](#) (Kyodo News)
- [DM Onodera says DPRK missiles fired at U.S. may justify exercising collective defense right](#) (Yomiuri)

- [White smoke seen coming out of troubled Osprey day before emergency landing](#) (Akahata)
- [Defense Ministry agency earmarks 11 billion yen in public funds for research](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Ex-Japanese commander says U.S. ship protection enhances Japan-U.S. alliance, deterrence](#) (Asahi)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa dismayed by latest mishap involving Futenma Osprey

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times both gave front- and inside-page play to what appears to be the engine trouble with a Futenma-based Osprey that has been grounded at Oita Airport since Tuesday evening. Given that the same plane made a similar precautionary landing on Ie Jima in June and that it was witnessed spewing smoke while parked at MCAS Iwakuni on Monday, the articles speculated that the aircraft is experiencing serious engine trouble.

Pointing out that there have been a total of 12 mishaps and incidents involving the Okinawa-based Osprey fleet since its deployment in 2012, including a shallow water landing in December last year, Ryukyu Shimpo claimed that this proves the aircraft is dangerous. Okinawa Times underscored that the latest mishap has compounded local anger and distrust of the safety measures for the tilt-rotor planes that the U.S. military has implemented in response to numerous incidents at home and abroad, including the deadly crash off Australia on Aug. 5.

- [Top USFJ official suggests continuation of parachute drills at Kadena](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)