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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, September 1, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report that the GOJ carried out a major disaster prevention drill today. TBS led with a report that former foreign minister Maehara is likely to be elected the new leader of DP today. Other top TV news included reports on Typhoon Hato and Japan's national soccer team, which qualified for the World Cup for the sixth straight time after defeating Australia on Thursday.

## ECONOMY

### PM Abe orders Aso to cancel his U.S. visit due to tension over North Korea

Yomiuri reported online that Deputy Prime Minister/Finance Minister Aso held a press conference today and announced that he has canceled his visit to Washington for an informal meeting with Vice President Pence following the growing tension over North Korea. According to the daily, Aso told reporters that since PM Abe will leave Japan to attend an economic forum in Vladivostok on Sept. 6 and 7 and that the prime minister will be accompanied by FM Kono, he was ordered by the premier to remain in Japan and to be fully prepared for any crisis in view of the tense security environment. Nikkei also reported that the Japanese side conveyed the decision to the U.S. side over the phone, and that the U.S. side responded that it "fully understands and respects Japan's decision." The paper wrote that the two governments will continue to coordinate to hold the second U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue.

## INTERNATIONAL

### North Korea's missile launch

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" on Thursday reported on North Korea. The program looked into how North Korea is able to continue its program to develop missiles, saying that despite global efforts to impose economic sanctions on the North, the country is still able to obtain foreign currency through its deals with Chinese companies. The program said the U.S. and Japan may be coordinating with

other nations to ban oil exports to North Korea, adding that China holds the key to making sanctions effective. However, Nanzan University Professor Shunji Hiraiwa said it is unlikely that China would agree to a ban on oil exports to North Korea because China believes pressure alone will not change the DPRK and the ban would adversely affect ordinary citizens in North Korea. Hiraiwa also said China is afraid that driving North Korea into a corner could enrage the reclusive state. Former defense minister Morimoto stressed that Japan needs to continue to work closely with the U.S. and South Korea, apply various kinds of pressure on North Korea, and make a diplomatic effort to get the Kim regime to fundamentally changes its policies.

- [Gist of joint statements issued after Japan-UK summit, Aug. 31](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Abe and May](#) (Mainichi)
- [Britain PM inspects Japan defense helicopter carrier in Yokosuka](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe asks ex-PM Koizumi to visit DPRK as “secret envoy” to mediate talks with U.S.](#) (Shukan Asahi)
- [Hokkaido, Tohoku prefecture governors protest DPRK’s missile launch](#) (Nikkei)
- [Former PM Fukuda says Japan needs to encourage talks between U.S. and China](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, U.S., ROK tell UN conference that DPRK’s nuclear and missile programs are “global threat”](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [Cartoon: Abe, May, and Kim](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan asks U.N. disarmament forum to take up N. Korea abduction issue](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Commentary: Why President Trump leverages racial discrimination for political gain](#) (Sankei)
- [Why Sea Shepherd decided not to obstruct Japan’s research whaling](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [With efforts to build sub hitting a snag, Taiwan turns to Japan](#) (Sande Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Intensify global pressure on N. Korea to deter further provocative actions](#) (The Japan News)

<b>POLITICS</b>
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**Maehara elected new DP leader**

NHK reported live on the presidential election of the Democratic Party held this afternoon. Foreign minister Seiji Maehara, 55, beat Yukio Edano, 53. According to Asahi, Maehara won 502 points and Edano, 332. Maehara is expected to hold a press conference later today.

- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 31, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- ["Deputy PM Aso is blatantly pro-Hitler," JCP Chairman Shii](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Aso's statement on Hitler creates stir](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ex-top diplomat Maehara becomes new opposition Democratic Party chief](#) (Kyodo News)

#### OPINION POLLS

- [Trend in average cabinet support rate, Saitama University Social Survey Research Center](#) (TV / Social media)

#### SCIENCE

- [Dolphin drive hunt season begins in Taiji town in western Japan](#) (Jiji)

#### SOCIETY

- ["Nursing care" becomes visa status from Sept. 1](#) (Asahi)
- [Children's cafeterias booming in Japan, but neglected kids still big issue](#) (Kyodo News)
- [2020 Tokyo Olympics first day may become national holiday](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Tokyo governor skips tribute to Koreans murdered after 1923 quake](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Quake disasters and false rumors – the pitfalls of prejudice and good intentions](#) (Asahi)

#### SECURITY

### Repair of Osprey begins at Oita Airport

TBS reported at noon that this morning the U.S. military began repairing the Osprey that made an emergency landing at Oita Airport on its way to MCAS Futenma on August 29. The network said two new engines were brought to the airport last night, speculating that the U.S. military will replace the engines today. The network added, however, that it is not clear what kind of repair work will be done or when the aircraft will takeoff.

- [Osprey that made emergency landing at Oita Airport did same in Okinawa in June](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Key items in MOD's budget request](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Diet needs to debate limits on continued rise in defense spending](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [U.S. amphibious assault ship departs for southwestern Japan](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Coast Guard chases off 820 DPRK fishing boats poaching in Sea of Japan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [All Okinawa Council to receive Sean MacBride Peace Prize](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Experts on effectiveness of Aegis Ashore](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

#### OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

### **Ginowan mayor calls for suspension of Osprey flights in response to precautionary landing**

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Deputy Mayor Matsukawa of Ginowan visited the Defense Ministry's Okinawa bureau on Thursday to lodge a protest with regard to a Futenma-based MV-22 Osprey's precautionary landing at Oita Airport on Tuesday. Saying that local residents are becoming increasingly concerned about the possibility of accidents involving Ospreys, the deputy mayor insisted that a thorough investigation into the cause of the incident should be carried out so that a similar incident does not take place again. The deputy mayor also said Osprey flights should be suspended until the safety of the aircraft is confirmed.