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Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, October 4, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK led with a report that Rengo Chairman Kozu delivered a speech this morning in which he said Rengo will support candidates on an individual basis in the upcoming election instead of supporting a specific political party as it did in the past. Most commercial networks gave top play to updates on the shooting massacre in Las Vegas on Sunday.

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 3, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Party of Hope's push for "diversity" inconsistent with actions](#) (Mainichi)
- [CCS Suga forward-looking about cooperating with Party of Hope on constitutional revision](#) (Asahi Evening edition)
- [Speculation on possible timing of Koike declaring candidacy for Lower House election](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Party of Hope to field "assassins" against Constitutional Democratic Party candidates](#) (Mainichi)
- [New opposition party gathers unlikely momentum on Twitter](#) (Kyodo News)
- [DP gives political funds to Party of Hope, Constitutional Democratic Party candidates](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Party of Hope in disarray after rejecting DP heavyweights](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Party of Hope waters down wording about security laws in accord to be signed by DP applicants](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Liberal Party's Ozawa to run as independent](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Keidanren chief indicates support for Abe administration](#) (Mainichi)
- [Six variables determining LDP's performance in Lower House election](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Article 9 should be squarely debated in lower house election campaign](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Can Kibo no To hold firmly to the principles of policy accord?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: LDP appears to write over old promises in election manifesto](#) (The Mainichi)

## SECURITY

- [INSIGHTS into the WORLD / Japan should acquire counterstrike ability](#) (The Japan News)
- [Asahi survey: Only 30% of universities have guidelines on military research](#) (Asahi)

## INTERNATIONAL

### **Defense Secretary Mattis says Trump administration not split over North Korea**

NHK reported at noon that concerning Secretary of State Tillerson's disclosure last month that the United States is talking to North Korea followed by President Trump's tweet saying that talking to North Korea is "a waste of time," Secretary of Defense Mattis said on Tuesday: "All we are doing is probing. We're not talking with them, consistent with the President's dismay about not talking with them before the time is ripe.... So I do not see the divergence as strongly as some have interpreted it." The Defense Secretary reportedly said that the United States and North Korea are not at the stage of dialogue on denuclearization and explained that the members of the Trump administration have a unified view on the issue.

- [Kono, Seko to visit Russia in late November](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Gov't decides to allow ship inspections in Japanese waters to strengthen sanctions on DPRK](#) (Yomiuri)

## ECONOMY

## **[NRA gives green light to reactors at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa](#)**

NHK reported at noon that the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) has compiled a report suggesting that Reactors No. 6 and 7 at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant in Niigata Prefecture are in compliance with the new safety standards. The network said this is the first time for the operations of nuclear power plants operated by TEPCO to be given the green light, adding that the nuclear plant in Niigata is the same type as Fukushima Daiichi.

- [Japan farmers market opens at Singapore airport to promote exports](#) (The Japan Times)

### **OPINION POLLS**

- [Highlights of the September 2017 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)
- [Trend in average cabinet support rate, Saitama University Social Survey Research Center](#) (Saitama University Social Survey Research Center)
- [56% “not optimistic” about Abenomics, Nihon Yoron Chosakai poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

### **SOCIETY**

## **[Who is responsible for the Fukushima nuclear accident?](#)**

"Close-up Gendai+" reported that a ruling on the largest class action suit against the GOJ and TEPCO over the Fukushima nuclear accident will be handed down next week, saying that the main focus will be on whether the tsunami could have been predicted and the accident prevented. About 4,000 plaintiffs are calling for the GOJ and TEPCO to pay them 50,000 yen per month each because they lost their jobs, families, homes, and neighborhoods, while the GOJ and TEPCO are insisting that there was no way to predict such a powerful tsunami. The program reported on plaintiffs who have evacuated to other prefectures and those who chose to stay in Fukushima, saying that they all continue to suffer from the effects of the accident.

- [Local election boards struggle to find ways to get more voters to turn out](#) (The Japan Times)

### **OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS**

## **[Ambassador Hagerty to hold talks with Okinawa governor](#)**

Okinawa Times wrote that it has learned from several GOJ sources that arrangements are being made for Ambassador Hagerty and Okinawa Governor Onaga to hold talks when the Ambassador visits Okinawa on Saturday. The paper wrote that the governor plans to convey to the U.S. envoy his

opposition to the construction of a new base at Henoko and seek the United States' understanding for the prefecture's desire to resolve problems related to U.S. bases there. According to the paper, when prefectural government officials visited the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo in September to request to review the SOFA, they asked the U.S. side to arrange for the Ambassador to hold a meeting with the governor at an early date. The paper also wrote that according to the GOJ sources, the Ambassador expressed his hope to visit Okinawa at an early date after his arrival in Tokyo in August.

### **Okinawa to study details of U.S. SOFAs with other nations**

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Kiichiro Shabana, the head of the Okinawa governor's office, stated at a prefectural assembly session on Tuesday that the prefectural government will begin by the end of this fiscal year a study of the details of the United States' status of forces agreements (SOFAs) with nations other than Japan, including Germany and Italy. The papers speculated that the prefectural government intends to gain nationwide momentum in its campaign to revise the SOFA by shedding light on what it believes to be the unfair nature of the accord.

### **Noise pollution at Takae increases 12-fold in five years**

Okinawa Times gave top play to a report saying that the results of a recent survey conducted by the Defense Ministry's Okinawa bureau showed that the number of instances in which noise levels exceeding 60 decibels were caused by U.S. military aircraft in the Takae district of Higashi Village in Okinawa where six helipads were constructed increased more than 12-fold from five years ago. The number increased to 6,886 in fiscal 2016 from 567 in 2012. Noting that the deployment of MV-22 Ospreys began in Okinawa five years ago and that the number of noise instances grew from 1,474 in fiscal 2014 to 4,216 in 2015, the paper speculated that the increase was connected to the start of operations at the helipads in the N4 district at Takae. The paper wrote that although the GOJ has been saying that it will take whatever steps it can to reduce the base-hosting burden on Okinawa, its pledge has not had any effect on the situation in Northern Okinawa in terms of noise pollution.