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Afternoon Alert - Thursday, October 5, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that a U.S. anti-gun group held a press conference on Wednesday calling for tighter gun control following the deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas on Sunday. Fuji TV gave top play to a report on a meeting between Party of Hope leader Koike and Democratic Party leader Maehara this afternoon. TV Asahi led with a report that a man in his 20s was arrested this morning for allegedly attacking multiple people in Kita Ward, Tokyo. NTV gave top play to a report that a truck caught fire inside a tunnel on the Tokai-Hokuriku Expressway this morning.

POLITICS

Koike reiterates she will not run in upcoming election

NHK reported this afternoon on a meeting between Party of Hope leader Koike and Democratic Party chief Maehara at a Tokyo hotel today, during which Maehara asked Koike to run in the upcoming general election. The network said Koike reiterated her position that she will not run in the election. She was quoted as telling reporters after the meeting: "I told Mr. Maehara that I had no intention to run in the election from the beginning." The network also reported that Koike and Maehara agreed that they will aim to oust the Abe administration in the upcoming election.

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 4, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Koike rejects Democratic Party chief's request to run in Japan's snap election](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Interview with PM Abe on campaign issues in Lower House election](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Main points of Party of Hope's election platform](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Gist of JCP's campaign pledges for Lower House election](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Three political blocs' views on nuclear energy](#) (Mainichi)
- [Koike's party to halt sales tax hike, push constitutional debate](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Constitutional Democratic Party fielding 46 candidates: Yomiuri survey](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Komeito official acknowledges possibility of cooperation with Party of Hope](#) (Sankei)
- [Maehara says DP's leftward shift prompted him to merge with Party of Hope](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Ishin chief to end cooperation with Koike's party if she runs in Lower House election](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Rengo criticizes Party of Hope's screening of candidates from DP](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Yukio Edano's liberal party rides wave of Twitter support, nearly catching up to Abe's LDP](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Column: Business sector supports LDP for the sake of political stability](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's opposition races to assemble slates as tumult persists](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cabinet approval rating, key events during Shinzo Abe's latest tenure as prime minister](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

OPINION POLLS

- [35% say they will vote for LDP, 12% for Party of Hope in Lower House election, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results for Nihon Yoron Chosakai poll on the economy](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Trump, Abe tee up a November summit in Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Chinese city to penalize firms that newly hire N. Korean workers](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

- [U.S. OKs missile sales to Japan amid N. Korea threat](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

Agriculture Secretary expresses willingness to pursue U.S.-Japan FTA

NHK reported this morning that Secretary of Agriculture Perdue delivered a speech in Washington on Wednesday, during which he expressed his willingness to begin negotiations for a U.S.-Japan FTA. According to the network, Secretary Perdue expressed the view that the United States should first promote talks with Canada and China to increase its exports to those nations, and also mentioned opening up the Japanese market. He was quoted as saying: "We want to bring down high tariffs on beef, pork, dairy, and fruits and vegetables and many other products. We are eager to enter into a bilateral trade negotiations with Japan to lower those barriers." The network said the Trump administration is calling on Japan to take measures to contain the negative impact of Japan's safeguard measures against U.S. frozen beef, adding that attention will be focused on how tough a stance the U.S. will take at the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue slated for mid-October in Washington.

- [Japan's plutonium stockpile to be reduced in long term: gov't panel](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Tepco reactors clear safety review for 1st time after Fukushima](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Concerns over potential political vacuum due to snap election](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Don't cut pay along with overtime: business lobby to Japan Inc.](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Zero-nuclear power policy without concrete measures is irresponsible](#) (The Japan News)
- [Gov't considers cutting property taxes on high-tech indoor agriculture](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gov't to choose 30 municipalities as models of sharing economy](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

- [Newspaper association demands METI unlock office doors](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
 - [Japan science panel issues proposal to protect LGBT rights](#) (Jiji Press)
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