
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, December 5, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning that the GOJ will formally decide at a cabinet meeting on Dec. 8 that the Emperor's abdication will take place on April 30, 2019. TBS led with a report that UN Under Secretary General for Political Affairs Feltman will make a rare visit to Pyongyang today at the invitation of North Korea and meet with Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and others, saying that FM Kono told reporters today that international sanctions against North Korea are taking effect. Kono also expressed hope that Feltman will emphasize the need for the DPRK to change its policies. TV Asahi led with a report on the first snowfall of the season in western Japan today. Fuji TV gave top play to a report that the father of popular actor Tadanobu Asano was arrested on charges of using stimulants. NTV continued to report on Harumafuji.

INTERNATIONAL

Lower House adopts resolution in protest of North Korean missile launch

NHK reported on its website that the Houser of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution strongly protesting the latest ballistic missile launch by North Korea and calling on the government to urge UN members to completely implement the UNSC sanctions resolution and make an all-out measure to prepare for a contingency. The resolution reportedly says: "North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile on Nov. 29 tramples on the strong commitment by the international community to resolve the issue peacefully and can never be tolerated. North Korea's nuclear and missile development has become an unprecedentedly grave and imminent threat, and we strongly protest and condemn it." The resolution also urges North Korea to refrain from taking further provocative actions and immediately abandon its nuclear and missile development programs. Following the

approval, PM Abe reportedly said: "North Korea's launch of what appears to be a new type of ICBM is unacceptable. In accordance with the intent of the resolution, we will make an all-out effort to resolve North Korea's nuclear, missile, and abduction issues." The network said the Upper House has also unanimously adopted a resolution of protest against North Korea on Dec. 4.

- [LDP, Komeito secretaries general to visit China to exchange views on North Korea situation](#) (NHK online)
- [Japan's lower house passes resolution condemning N. Korea ICBM test](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Osaka should remember value of sister-city ties before dumping San Fran](#) (The Mainichi)
- [U.N. adopts Japan's nuke abolition motion, but support down](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan issues entry visas to N. Korean soccer teams: sources](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

Japan-China CEO summit held in Tokyo

NHK reported that leaders of major Japanese and Chinese companies gathered for the "Japan-China CEO Summit" in Tokyo today, saying that they agreed on the need to strengthen bilateral cooperation on the economic front given the current momentum for rapprochement. According to the network, leaders of about 60 major companies representing Japan and China, including Japan's Toyota Motors and Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation as well as China's BOE and China Construction Bank, attended the summit. Keidanren chief Sakakibara reportedly stressed the need for economic circles to deepen the trust relationship, saying: "When I visited China last month, Premier Li said the Japan-China relationship is seeing upward momentum and that this momentum should be cherished." In response, the representative of the China Center for International Economic Exchange said that "since the political atmosphere and external environment are improving, economic and trade cooperation between the two nations have a new opportunity for development."

China's shift to renewable energy

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on China's shift from coal power and nuclear energy to renewable energy, saying that China is now leading the global renewable energy market due to its advanced technology and cost competitiveness. The program said the Chinese government began backing the domestic industry after seeing that European nations began to shift to renewable energy, saying that its goal is to increase the percentage of renewable energy to 80% of total energy sources by 2050. The program reported that Chinese companies are buying land in Japan to set up solar panels. Meanwhile, Japan's renewable energy market has lagged behind because many solar

panel manufacturers have withdrawn from the market due to high costs and strict regulations in Japan.

- [Editorial: Fraud undermining trust in Japanese manufacturers](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan must rethink customs on product quality: Toray chief](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Indian and Chinese drugmakers move to crack Japan's market](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's largest labor union to demand 4% pay hike in wage talks](#) (Kyodo News)
- [90% of companies say economy is "expanding," Asahi poll of 100 major companies](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun survey of 100 major companies](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan to discuss whether to build new nuclear reactors](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan eyes new standards for key farm exports](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Tokyo and City of London agree to enhance financial partnership](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Decommissioned reactors to be used for studying deterioration](#) (Nikkei)
- [TEPCO to halve branches, reassign thousands](#) (The Japan News)

POLITICS

Diet members visit Yasukuni Shrine

NHK reported this morning that a bipartisan group of about 60 Diet members visited Yasukuni Shrine earlier in the day. The network said although the group visits the shrine during the spring and autumn festivals and on Aug. 15 every year, they visited the shrine today instead of during the annual autumn festival because the festival overlapped with the campaign period for the Lower House election. The lawmakers included Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Seiichi Eto, Senior Vice Minister for Internal Affairs Shinsuke Okuno, Senior Vice Foreign Minister Masahisa Sato, Senior Vice Minister for Education Toshiei Mizuochi, and Senior Vice Minister for the Environment Naomi Tokashiki.

- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec 4, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gov't draws up 2 tril. yen package for education, child-care support](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Outline of gov't's 2 trillion yen package for education, childcare support](#) (Sankei)
- [Bid for reelection as LDP president in 2018 behind Abe's policy package](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe deflects grilling on Moritomo, Kake issues at special Diet session](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Emperor abdication may affect timing of constitution reform](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Kuroda denies discussing with Abe his reappointment as BOJ chief](#) (Kyodo News)

SCIENCE

- [Gov't-backed fund, businesses to invest 10 bil. yen in space venture](#) (Kyodo News)

EDUCATION

- [Japanese students shying away from studying in U.S.](#) (Asahi, Evening edition)

OPINION POLLS

- [Highlights of the November 2017 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)
- [51% are interested in human rights for persons with disabilities, Cabinet Office poll](#) (Sankei)

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Hagerty expresses willingness to visit A-bombed cities, pledges efforts to ensure Osprey safety

The Kyushu regional Nishinippon Shimbun ran a one-on-one interview with Ambassador Hagerty that was conducted in Fukuoka on Dec. 1. The paper wrote that the Ambassador expressed his willingness to visit the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by saying that he is looking forward to visiting both cities. Concerning the safety of the Osprey, the Ambassador stated that the United States will ensure the safety of the aircraft as much as humanly possible. Asked whether President Trump requested Prime Minister Abe to start negotiations for a U.S.-Japan FTA at their summit meeting in Tokyo in November, the Ambassador said that the two nations haven't formally initiated an FTA process but have talked about areas that will have to be addressed. With regard to North Korea, Ambassador Hagerty was quoted as saying that the final goal of the United States is the complete, irreversible, and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

- [Interview with Ambassador Hagerty: “Looking forward to visiting Nagasaki, Hiroshima,” “Will continue to work as hard as humanly possible to ensure Osprey’s safety”](#) (Nishinippon Shimbun)

SECURITY

- [Leading U.S. senator urges Pentagon to evacuate military families from South Korea as threat of war grows](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan boosting missile defense to face North Korean threat](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [NPA report refers to possibility of terrorist attack in Japan](#) (Asahi)
- [Public, private to conduct joint cyber defense drill](#) (Nikkei)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Senior Okinawa Marine officer says “fatal accident was caused by individual”

Okinawa Times front-paged a report on visits on Monday by a group of nine Okinawa prefectural assembly members to relevant offices of the U.S. and Japanese governments to deliver a letter of protest against the recent fatal traffic accident involving a Marine. According to the group, while offering an apology for the incident, Col. Darin Clarke at Camp Zukeran told the local assembly members that although Marine authorities strictly control keys of official vehicles, the Marine in question took the key of a truck without permission. In response to the assembly members’ question about his views about the Marines’ organizational responsibility for the incident, the colonel stated that the accident was caused by an individual who was off duty. The paper wrote that after the meeting the prefectural legislators expressed strong displeasure at the Marine officer's remarks by saying that his statement showed contempt for the people of Okinawa. Ryukyu Shimpo ran a similar inside-page report.

- [Unauthorized Osprey drills conducted on U.S. Army base in Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)