


JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Friday, December 29, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most broadcasters led with reports that large numbers of are people heading to their hometowns or elsewhere for the New Year's holidays. TV-Asahi's top item was a tweet by President Trump in which he criticized China for allowing oil to be transferred to North Korea, also reported by NHK and others.

INTERNATIONAL

UN to ban port visits by four vessels for violating DPRK sanctions resolutions

NHK reported that the UN Security Council is likely to prohibit three North Korean ships and one Palau vessel from visiting ports of UN member states on the grounds that they have been smuggling sanctioned items such as petroleum products to North Korea in violation of relevant economic sanctions resolutions. China has reportedly accepted the United States' insistence that these four cargo ships should be subject to the UN punitive measures.

President Trump expresses disappointment with China over trade with DPRK

Most TV networks took up a tweet by President Trump in which he said he is "very disappointed that China is allowing oil to go into North Korea." The network commented the message is apparently intended to press China to put more pressure on its defiant neighbor.

- [Japan urges S. Korea to implement comfort women accord](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Editorial: Review of comfort women accord no excuse to delay implementation](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Is Moon trying to undermine relations between states?](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan's ruling party bigwig asks China's Xi to visit Tokyo next year](#) (Kyodo News)
- [FM Kono starts making arrangements to visit China next month](#) (Nikkei)

- [S. Korean navy begins 2-day exercise for defense of disputed islets](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Foreign Minister Kono meets with Turkish president, agrees on security talks](#) (Sankei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec. 28, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [PM Abe meets with Hashimoto for first time in one year](#) (Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [TEPCO to cooperate with Portuguese, U.S. startups to obtain renewable energy technology](#) (Nikkei)
- [SoftBank acquires U.S. investment firm](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [Major Korean junior high school, cut off from aid, to close in March](#) (Kyodo News)

OPINION POLLS

- [Poll: Americans split on whether DPRK should be recognized as nuclear power; 70% of Japanese opposed](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Affinity with China highest in four years, 2017 Survey of Public Opinion in Japan](#) (Mainichi)
- [Infographics from 2017 Survey of Public Opinion in Japan](#) (Mainichi)
- [Mainichi Shimbun-Saitama University opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Ginowan officials request U.S. military not to fly over schools

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo both led with reports that the mayor, municipal assembly representatives, and other officials of Ginowan asked the U.S. military, U.S. Consulate General Naha, Okinawa Defense Bureau, and other relevant offices on Thursday not to fly Futenma-based aircraft over daycare centers, elementary schools, and other educational institutions in the vicinity. The request was made following the recent mishap in which a window fell onto a school playground from a USMC CH-53E helicopter stationed at MCAS Futenma. According to Okinawa Times, a U.S. military official who met with the visitors indicated that it is difficult for the U.S. military to provide a 100% guarantee that it will never fly aircraft over sensitive areas. The official was quoted as saying: "It's impossible to predict all of the circumstances that might occur while in flight.... I can't say that such flights will never occur."

