



Afternoon Alert - Monday, January 22, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports that heavy snowfall is expected to disrupt the public transportation system in the Tokyo region this afternoon.

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Hagerty says progress in U.S.-Japan trade to be seen by spring, ties stronger than ever

NHK reported multiple times on Friday evening on its one-on-one interview with Ambassador Hagerty, which was conducted earlier in the day in Tokyo. On the U.S.-Japan economic relationship, the Ambassador was quoted as saying: "Our national security partnership is deep and growing stronger everyday. And we need to see our economic partnership continue to strengthen in the same direction." The network said the Ambassador also said that a working-level USTR delegation will visit Japan as early as this week to discuss creating a framework for negotiation for a possible trade deal with Japan. The Ambassador was also quoted as saying: "We will be able to settle on a specific framework to move forward. I think, certainly by the spring of 2018, we will be able to see forward progress and momentum."

According to the network, the Ambassador also said that there has been a good deal of talk about the future of LNG exports to Japan and that such exports can increase. The Ambassador also reportedly said he sees great opportunity to have more innovative technologies coming from America to Japan in fields such as medical devices and expressed hope to expand U.S. exports to Japan.

NHK's late-night news program "News Check 11" also took up the Ambassador's interview, saying

that the Ambassador expressed a strong will to expand U.S. direct investment in Japan. The Ambassador was quoted as saying: "We want to do our level best to make the U.S. the number one participant in that growth."

ECONOMY

- [U.S., Japanese companies to benefit from Trump administration's tax cuts](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: U.S. companies using money to improve business operations](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan in talks over bid for UK uranium powerhouse](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Fukui weighs new wave of reactors to protect status as Japan's 'nuclear capital'](#) (The Japan Times)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Japan to help developing nations enforce North Korea trade sanctions](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [LDP's proposed constitutional provisions on emergencies not to boost gov't powers](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Let's get real about female equality in corporate Japan](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 19, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 20, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 21, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [37% approve of Abe continuing for third term as LDP president, Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)
- [Pollees' top pick for next prime minister is Abe, followed by Koizumi and Ishiba, Jiji Press poll](#) (Jiji)

SECURITY

Okinawa Prefectural Assembly delivers resolution of protest to U.S. military

NHK reported at noon that members of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly visited the headquarters of the U.S. military in Okinawa this morning and handed Col. Darin Clarke a resolution of protest which was unanimously adopted by the assembly in response to a series of problems related to U.S. military aircraft in Okinawa. The network said the resolution calls for the suspension of flights and training by U.S. military aircraft stationed at MCAS Futenma over civilian areas such as schools and hospitals and the swift relocation of the U.S. Marines in Okinawa outside the prefecture or Japan. According to the network, the assembly members also visited the Okinawa Defense Bureau and lodged a similar protest.

First-ever anti-ballistic missile evacuation drill held in Tokyo

TBS and TV Asahi reported at noon that an anti-ballistic missile evacuation drill was held for the first time ever in Tokyo this morning. According to the networks, about 350 residents participated in the drill, which was held in Bunkyo Ward and was based on the scenario of a ballistic missile hitting Japan. The participants evacuated to underground facilities upon receiving the J-Alert.

SOCIETY

Collaboration between amputee dancer and his former rival

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on Japanese dancer Koichi Omae, who performed with singer Ken Hirai at NHK's Kohaku Utagassen year-end music program. The program reported on Omae, who lost his left leg in a traffic accident right before an important audition 15 years ago, and choreographer Kazuhiko Tsujimoto, who passed the same audition and became a world-renowned dancer. The program reported on how the two former "rivals" collaborated for the first time, resulting in Omae's unforgettable performance at Kohaku.

- [Suicides in Japan notched eight consecutive drop in 2017, preliminary data show](#) (The Japan Times)