



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, May 1, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks gave top play to updates on an escaped inmate who was caught in Hiroshima on Monday. Fuji TV led with a report on the unusually hot weather across Japan today.

INTERNATIONAL

Japanese Ambassador to UN says sanctions not to be eased before DPRK takes action

NHK reported this morning that Japanese Ambassador to the UN Bessho said during a regular press briefing on Monday in New York that the UN sanctions against North Korea should not be relaxed until North Korea takes steps that will definitely lead to the abolition of its nuclear and missile development programs. He was quoted as saying: "Nothing will change until concrete action is taken." He also said: "No concrete steps have been taken yet, and the UNSC sanctions will remain in place until they are. We will think about what to do only after we see some progress as a result of concrete actions."

Japanese experts cautious about Kim's commitment to denuclearization

NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show featured a discussion among Japanese experts on the inter-Korean summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon. While welcoming the rapid rapprochement between the two Koreas, all panelists were somewhat skeptical of the speed and the scope of denuclearization that the DPRK strongman committed to since he did not mention the time frame or other details. They also expressed disappointment that the two leaders failed to fully address the issue of North Korea's ballistic missile program. Nevertheless, the discussants voiced hope that President Trump will capitalize on Kim's willingness to improve ties with the international community to strike an accord on denuclearization and missiles when he meets with him by June. However, several scholars, including Keio University Professor

Toshihiro Nakayama, expressed concern that the U.S. leader might be so eager to cut a deal with Kim that he could be tempted to focus on getting rid of the DPRK's ICBM programs and downplay the issue of medium- and short-range missiles, which pose a critical threat to Japan's security.

- [Gist of PM Abe's statement to the press after teleconference with Pres. Trump on April 28](#) (Sankei)
- [Gist of Abe-Moon teleconference on April 29](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan seeks greater Mideast role to keep U.S. engaged in Asia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Kono hurries to meet Pompeo as Iran casts shadow on Asia diplomacy](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Schedules overlap, Japan-U.S. foreign ministers' meeting moves up](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Abe seeks talks with Kim on North Korean abductions](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe hails outcome of inter-Korean summit](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Aso says "North Korea could resume nuclear development when situations change"](#) (Sankei)
- [Ex-U.S. state department official expresses concern over slackening of sanctions on DPRK](#) (Nikkei)
- [Inter-Korean summit can't be assessed unless U.S.-North Korea summit is factored in](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Path to denuclearization of North Korea still not in sight / Trump's negotiation tactics face test](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: All now down to Trump to clinch lasting deal with Kim on nukes](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Denuclearization promised in 1st North-South Korea summit in 11 yrs](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: The border too far](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Denuclearization](#) (Asahi)
- [Four Mideast ministers meet in Jordan to discuss Japanese economic initiative](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Trade Minister Seko coordinates with Russian counterpart toward May summit](#) (Mainichi)
- [Palestinian head responds to questions from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)
- [Palestinian President Abbas to refuse U.S. mediated-peace process](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

USFJ to conduct touch and go training on Ioto Island from May 3

NHK reported online that the U.S. Naval Forces Japan announced that its carrier-borne aircraft will conduct touch-and-go drills mainly on Ioto Island from May 3 to 13. The network said this will be the first such training since the aircraft were transferred to MCAS Iwakuni in Yamaguchi from Atsugi AB in March. The U.S. Navy reportedly said that if all of the training cannot be conducted on Ioto Island due to bad weather or another reason, it will be held at Yokota AB, Atsugi AB, or MCAS Iwakuni. Noting that Iwakuni City has asked the U.S. side not to conduct the training locally due to the loud noise generated, the network said the U.S. Navy is planning to "make efforts to minimize the impact

of the exercises on local residents."

- [MSDF, Royal Navy conduct 1st joint exercise in waters off Kanto](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

ECONOMY

- [Free trade, energy diversity and 'real' big data vital to Japan's survival, says METI chief Hiroshige Seko](#) (The Japan Times)
- [SoftBank's Son loosens grip on Sprint as passion shifts to AI and robots](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Casino giants itching to place bets on Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Toyota to invest 170 m. dollars in Mississippi plant](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Hitachi seeks assurance from UK's May on shared stake in nuclear project](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Major airlines, low-cost carriers in Japan fiercely compete over Asia flights](#) (The Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on April 27, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on April 28, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on April 29, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on April 29-30](#) (Nikkei)
- [Summary of Abe's interview on Japan-U.S. ties, DPRK affairs, domestic political issues, more](#) (Sankei)
- [Concerns about gambling addiction may prevent casino bills from passing current Diet session](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Golden Week rush overseas](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [Scandals drain support from Japan's Abe, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Opinion poll & results from Nikkei Digital](#) (Nikkei, Online)
- [Highlights of the April 2018 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)
- [Support for constitutional revision exceeds opposition, Yomiuri poll](#) (The Japan News)

SOCIETY

Oedo – Part 1: City of waterways built by samurai

Sunday's "NHK Special" aired the first part of a new series on Tokyo when it was known as Edo, focusing on how samurai strove to build the city. The program said Edo had developed into the largest city in the world with a population of one million by about 100 years after Tokugawa Ieyasu founded the Edo Bakufu in 1603, saying that samurai across the nation played an integral role in building the city of waterways. The program said the spiral moats built around Edo Castle, the land

reclamation and stone walls, and vast underground waterworks system built by samurai were essential for the development of the city.

- [Editorial: Misuse of the system for recognizing refugees must not be tolerated](#) (The Japan News)
 - [Ex-U.S. diplomat Albright, writer Ishiguro to be decorated in Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
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