



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, May 8, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TBS led with reports that Diet proceedings will return to normal after an interval of 19 days. Fuji TV gave top play to a report that the rainy season officially began in Okinawa today. TV Asahi led with a report that a woman was found dead in her apartment in Fukuoka on Monday. NTV gave top play to a report that a girl was hit by a train in Niigata on Monday evening.

INTERNATIONAL

Kim Jong Un possibly visiting China again

NHK reported this afternoon that amid speculation that a high-ranking North Korean official is visiting Dalian, China, an NHK news crew spotted a North Korean airplane landing at the Dalian international airport, explaining that there is no regular flight between Dalian and North Korea. According to the network, South Korea's KBS reported that according to a North Korean source, Chinese President Xi may have met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. NHK said there is growing interest in whether the leaders of China and North Korea have met again ahead of the U.S.-DPRK summit.

- [High-ranking N. Korean official may be visiting China's Dalian](#) (Kyodo News)

FM Kono expresses hopes for denuclearization talks at trilateral summit

NHK reported at noon that Foreign Minister Kono expressed hope that the leaders of Japan, South Korea, and China will deepen their discussions on how to have North Korea relinquish its weapons of mass destruction and missiles during the trilateral summit slated for Wednesday in Tokyo. Kono was quoted as telling reporters today: "I have high hopes that exchanges and economic activities between the three nations will be enhanced. Various discussions will be held on the topic of having North Korea abandon its weapons of mass destruction and missiles in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner." On the first official visit by a Chinese premier in eight years, Kono reportedly

said: "The Japan-China relationship has improved in various ways and high-level exchanges are beginning to take place. I hope that positive discussions will be held at the trilateral summit and the Japan-China summit."

PM Abe's aide to visit Moscow this week

Fuji TV reported at noon that Prime Minister Abe's Special Advisor Hasegawa will visit Moscow for a meeting with a senior member of the Putin administration on May 11. The network speculated that Hasegawa will seek to confirm progress on economic cooperation and ask for Russia's cooperation on the North Korea issue ahead of the Japan-Russia summit slated for late May.

- [Senior Japan, Russia officials to hold talks ahead of Abe's visit](#) (Kyodo News)

Former USG official says "Japan has been left out" of talks with DPRK

TV Asahi reported at noon that former U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy Joseph Yun said "Japan is being left out" in talks with the DPRK as an inter-Korean summit took place and a U.S.-DPRK summit is slated for the near future. The network quoted him as saying: "The big winners are South Korea and North Korea... I think, probably, the significant one in the negative column is Japan because it's been quite left out." On the planned U.S.-DPRK summit, Yun reportedly stressed that it would be "wrong" to conclude an agreement to end the Korean War before North Korea's denuclearization because it would be an acknowledgement that North Korea is a nuclear power.

- [Schedule of events for the Japan-China-ROK summit, May 9](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Moon vows utmost efforts for denuclearization](#) (The Japan News)
- [Kim Jong Un's muscle flexing resembles that of Kim Il Sung](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan students unlikely to get speaking chance at disarmament confab](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Next year's G-20 finance meeting to be held June 8-9](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, China to agree to facilitate mutual market entry in service sector](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan and China to discuss relaxing Fukushima import ban: Abe and Li to agree deal during Tokyo meeting](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Trade Minister Seko meets with Saudi energy minister](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Ruling, opposition parties strike deal to resume Diet proceedings](#) (Yomiuri)
- [The strength of floor groups in the Upper and Lower Houses](#) (Sankei)
- [Ruling parties assess influence of new opposition party as "limited"](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan minister repeats controversial comment on sexual harassment](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: The opposition returns](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Abe calls, the people say "no thanks"](#) (Akahata)
- [Prime minister's schedule on May 6-7, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri survey on the Constitution](#) (Yomiuri)

SCIENCE

- [80% say Japan's competitiveness in science and technology has declined, Nikkei poll of young scientists](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

Uterus transplants attracting attention as fertility treatment

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on uterus transplants, which are attracting attention as the latest fertility treatment. Uterus transplants are a source of hope for women who cannot give birth because they were born without a uterus or had to have their uterus removed because of illness. The program said that worldwide 11 babies have been born to women who had uterus transplants. Although studies on uterus transplants are also underway in Japan, discussions are being held on whether the treatment should be allowed from an ethical point of view.

- [Japan holds drill for Nankai Trough quake feared to strike within 30 years](#) (The Japan Times)
- [More of Japan's non-Japanese are living on welfare](#) (The Japan Times)

SECURITY

- [Japanese "Marines" engage in exercise with maritime defense force](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Estonia defense ministers agree on cooperation in cyber technology](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Nuclear regulator OKs terror response center plans for Sendai plant](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Dozens of security cameras hacked in Japan](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [General of Okinawan ancestry becomes new head of U.S.'s National Security Agency](#) (Okinawa Times)