



Afternoon Alert - Monday, May 14, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK led with a report that Prime Minister Abe said at the Diet this morning that his former aide Yanase did not inform him that he had met with Kake Gakuen officials three times. All commercial networks gave top play to updates on the murder of a 7-year-old girl in Niigata, saying the police are currently questioning a man in his 20s in regard to the case.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Suga welcomes DPRK's announcement on dismantling nuclear test facility

Fuji TV reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga welcomed North Korea's announcement that it will dismantle its nuclear test facility from May 23 to 25. Suga was quoted as saying: "This is a positive move in the wake of the inter-Korean summit and we welcome it." Suga also pointed out the importance of having North Korea take further concrete actions toward complete denuclearization. On North Korea's exclusion of the Japanese media from covering the event, Suga reportedly said: "We will not be swayed by North Korea's words and actions and will respond resolutely based on our position."

### Experts discuss prospects for upcoming U.S.-DPRK summit

On NHK's "Nichiyō Toron" Sunday debate show, five experts discussed the prospects for the planned U.S.-DPRK summit in Singapore on June 12. MIT Senior Fellow Yukio Okamoto expressed the view that attention will be focused on whether North Korea will agree to complete denuclearization, including the dismantling of its existing nuclear and missile programs. University of Tokyo Professor Fumiaki Kubo commented that whether Kim Jong Un will accept denuclearization within the specified period and allow reliable verification to take place will be a focal point of the upcoming U.S.-DPRK summit. Kubo speculated that the possibility of reducing U.S. forces in Korea

will not be taken up at the summit. Keio University Associate Professor Atsuhito Isozaki conjectured that Kim Jong Un's primary purpose is to obtain a regime guarantee. National Defense Academy President Ryosei Kokubun expressed the view that China is trying to restore its influence over the DPRK amid Pyongyang's active diplomatic overtures to Washington and Seoul. University of Shizuoka Associate Professor Hideki Okuzono commented that South Korea appears confident that it can mediate between the United States and North Korea.

- [Trump to meet Abe after talks with North Korea's Kim](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe seeks successive talks with Trump around U.S.-N. Korea summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Person likely to be high-ranking N. Korean official visiting China](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: U.S.-N. Korea summit should aim for road map for denuclearization](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Realization of harsh reality necessary for U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Sankei)
- [Kim seems to be leaving the door open on thorny abduction issue](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Senior U.S. official to visit Japan](#) (The Japan News)
- [Abe's hospitality toward Li aimed at securing Xi visit](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, U.S. defense chiefs eye talks at end of May over N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Japan, China must build confidence through multifaceted cooperation](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: U.S. Middle-Eastern policy may nip hope in the bud](#) (Asahi)
- [U.S. Manhattan Project park to display inhumane nature of A-bomb](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: US must draw on its wisdom to secure N. Korean denuclearization at summit](#) (The Mainichi)

## ECONOMY

### Cryptocurrency war heats up

Saturday's "NHK Special" reported on an incident in which 58 billion yen worth of a cryptocurrency called NEM was stolen from Coincheck, a Japanese cryptocurrency exchange. Although the NEM Foundation had been trying to track down the stolen cryptocurrency, it announced last month that it had called off the search. The program said the perpetrators have already exchanged all of the stolen NEM into bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies on the Dark Web. The program showed white hat hackers from Japan and around the world trying to hunt down the perpetrators using original programs and collecting information. The program also interviewed an FBI agent, who pointed out that various criminal organizations around the world, including groups engaged in human trafficking and drug smuggling, are targeting cryptocurrency. He stressed the need to prevent such organizations from obtaining funds through cryptocurrency.

- [Deliberation of TPP-related bills starts in Lower House committees](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Container terminal opens at northern Vietnam international port](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan mulling target to limit fiscal deficit to 3 pct of GDP](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan struggles to hamper int'l cryptocurrency money laundering operations](#) (The Mainichi)

- [Japan nuclear research project did not pay off: auditors](#) (Kyodo News)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 11, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on May 12, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on May 13, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [CDPJ steadily expanding in the regions ahead of 2019 simultaneous local elections](#) (Sankei)
- [LDP junior members propose freezing the consumption tax with the backing of Kantei](#) (Asahi)

## OPINION POLLS

- [75% don't buy Yanase's Diet testimony on cronyism scandal, Kyodo News poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Koizumi ranks first for next LDP president, Kyodo News poll](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## SCIENCE

### **"The Great Journey" – Part 2: Homo Sapiens meet Neanderthal**

Sunday's "NHK Special" aired the second part of a three-part series focusing on the journey of Homo Sapiens out of Africa to the Middle East. The program said Homo Sapiens encountered Neanderthal there. The program said although Neanderthals were physically stronger than Homo Sapiens, Homo Sapiens survived because they invented tools and lived in groups. The program also said that based on the latest DNA analysis, 2% of the DNA of people in Asia and Europe comes from Neanderthals, proving that Neanderthals and Homo Sapiens mated about 55,000 years ago.

- [Kenya's 1st satellite released from Kibo](#) (The Japan News)

## SOCIETY

- [Internal Affairs Minister Noda calls for anti-harassment training for senior government officials](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan tightens border controls against smuggled gold and drugs](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## SECURITY

- [China sends fighter jets near Taiwan for more drills](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan gets first look at U.S. drone with tests in Nagasaki](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Document shows gov't aware of combat risk to new PKO mission](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – The SOFA Hurdle \(Part 1\)](#) (Chugoku Shimbun, Online)

## OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [New group to be formed on May 27 to support Onaga's reelection as governor](#) (Okinawa Times)
  - [State Minister of Defense Yamamoto says no GSDF deployment to U.S. bases in Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
  - [Okinawa Governor Onaga to be discharged from hospital on or after May 21](#) (Okinawa Times)
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