

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, May 29, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

TBS, Fuji TV led with reports that a high-ranking North Korean official arrived in Singapore on Monday to make arrangements for a U.S.-DPRK summit. NHK, NTV, and TV Asahi gave top play to reports on the scandal involving Nihon University's football team.

INTERNATIONAL

Will the U.S. -DPRK summit happen?

Sunday's "NHK Special" focused on the U.S.-DPRK summit planned for June 12 in Singapore, saying that President Trump's sudden announcement that he was cancelling it sent shock waves around the world. The program looked into the maneuvering between President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un, saying that it appears as though the two leaders are both eager to meet on June 12 in Singapore as originally planned. The program claimed that differences remain between the U.S. and North Korea over the process of denuclearization, adding that attention will be focused on how they narrow the gap. According to the program, some observers opine that a failure to narrow the gap before the summit would turn the meeting into a diplomatic reality show, adding that there is still a possibility that the President will call off or postpone the summit.

- [Editorial: N. Korea far from displaying resolve on denuclearization / Trump's move part of summit tug-of-war](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japanese government reacts to May 26 inter-Korean summit](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Senior LDP officials voice hope for progress in abduction issue through U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Gist of Japan-Russia joint news conference, May 27](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Path still unclear over northern territories issue](#) (The Japan News)
- [Abe continues balancing act with Putin as he chases peace treaty, disputed isles at](#)

[Moscow summit](#) (The Japan Times)

- [Abe backs Trump stance on U.S.-North Korea summit and holds out hope for future talks](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Gains from Japan-Russia cooperation must lead to progress in territorial talks](#) (The Japan News)
- [A letter to President Moon Jae-in](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Vietnam president hails Japan's cooperation on S. China Sea](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Editorial: U.S. auto tariffs test Japan's ability to conduct economic diplomacy](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Steel federation chief says U.S. auto tariffs to have serious impact on steel industry](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe criticizes U.S. steel tariffs at International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg](#) (Yomiuri, Evening edition)
- [Nissan to cut North American production by up to 20%](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan committed to October 2019 tax hike, draft document shows](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Key points of "Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform" draft](#) (Nikkei)
- [Making a deal in individual fields not possible: ex-Japan envoy to U.S.](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's casino market can top Singapore, says Las Vegas executive](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, China, S.Korea discuss 5G](#) (NHK)
- [APEC trade ministers fail to agree on multilateral trade system](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to offer aid for Indian Ocean ports](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan-Indonesia joint venture set to start port construction in July](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Diet passes law allowing firms to access support for overseas infrastructure projects](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Wakayama's governor all-in on casino resort bet](#) (The Japan Times)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 24-25, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on May 25-26, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on May 26-27, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on May 28, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower, Upper House Budget Committees, May 28](#) (Sankei)
- [Processing of IR bills may be delayed if Abe goes to U.S. for summit in early June](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't mulls extending Diet session until late June or early July](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe becomes Japan's 3rd-longest-serving Prime Minister](#) (Jiji Press)
- [LDP faction chief says "tide has changed" for Abe's reelection for 3rd term as LDP president](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Abe takes a pratfall](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Abe's Diet agenda](#) (Akahata)

OPINION POLLS

- [53% of Japanese public snubs Abe as scandals grind on, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Opinion poll & results from Nikkei Digital](#) (Nikkei, Online)
- [Abe support rate nudges up to 31%, but majority still think Aso should resign, Mainichi poll](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Ishiba favored candidate for next LDP president, Mainichi poll](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

Japan's organized crime syndicates in dire straits

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on Japan's organized crime syndicates, saying that following the enactment of the anti-gang law and the organized crime exclusion ordinances, the number of organized crime groups and members has dropped significantly and their funding sources have dried up. As a result, the remaining groups are "impoverished," causing their members to commit crimes they have never committed before, such as petty theft. The program also said members of different organized crime syndicates are working together to commit crimes because they are in desperate need of money, adding that they are becoming a new threat to society as a result.

- [Govt sees fall in refugee applications](#) (The Japan News)
- [Mitsubishi Motors broke rules on foreign trainees](#) (The Japan News)
- [Vietnam pres. seeks cooperation with Japan over trainee issues](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Data shows women still struggling to advance in Japan's corporate world](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Net use on smartphones surpasses use on PCs for 1st time in Japan](#) (Kyodo News)

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Hagerty hikes historic Nakasendo road

The Nagoya-based Chunichi Shimbun and the Nagano-based Shinano Mainichi and Shimin Times reported that Ambassador Hagerty and his family hiked a portion of the old Nakasendo road in Nagano Prefecture on Saturday. The papers wrote that the Ambassador and his family visited the area to deepen their understanding of Japan's history and traditional culture and that they walked a total of about eight kilometers.

- [U.S. ambassador visits Kiso, walks 8km to Tsumago](#) (Chunichi Shimbun, Shinshu edition)
- [U.S. ambassador walks the Old Nakasendo](#) (Shimin Times)

SECURITY

USS Ronald Reagan departs for Iwakuni

Fuji TV reported at noon that the USS Ronald Reagan left Yokosuka for Iwakuni this morning, saying that depending on North Korea's moves with regard to the planned U.S.-DPRK summit, the nuclear-powered carrier may be able to put pressure on North Korea together with Aegis ships. The

network added that carrier-borne aircraft on USS Ronald Reagan are expected to begin touch-and-go training at MCAS Iwakuni as early as May 30, saying that it will be possible to dispatch the aircraft to the USS Ronald Reagan in the Pacific in June.

- [LDP calls for multipurpose aircraft “Mother Ship”](#) (Jiji Press)
- [NATO’s No. 2 to join Asia security forum amid N. Korea nuclear woes](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Panel requests integrating ex-U.S. military land into Okinawa park](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: System to preserve, protect remote border islands urgently needed](#) (The Japan News)

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| OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS |
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- [Journalist claims CIA produced manual on how to manipulate Okinawa public opinion](#) (Okinawa Times)
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