

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, May 30, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave led with reports saying that a 39-year-old inmate was arrested on suspicion of murdering a 9-year-old girl in Okayama 14 years ago.

INTERNATIONAL

Defense chiefs agree to maintain pressure on North Korea

NHK reported at noon on a meeting between Defense Minister Onodera and Secretary of Defense Mattis on Tuesday in Hawaii. The network said the two defense chiefs agreed on the importance of maintaining pressure on North Korea, including monitoring ship-to-ship transfers of cargo, to persuade it to change its policy and completely abolish its weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. In addition, they also reportedly confirmed the importance of U.S. Forces Korea for regional deterrence. The network showed Onodera telling reporters after the meeting: "I have confirmed that Secretary Mattis and I are completely in sync on the importance of the abduction issue as well as seeking the North's abandonment of missiles, including short-range missiles."

- [Former top diplomat: Japan should play active role in North Korea's denuclearization](#) (Yomiuri)
- [ROK top diplomat says early talks between Japan and North Korea "a very good thing"](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP chief Nikai supports Abe diplomacy through extensive foreign connections](#) (Yomiuri)

Amazon has been both good and bad for America

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on Amazon, which has expanded its online shopping business to include the development of smart speakers and new data management services. The program

said that while many consumers are benefiting from the services provided by Amazon, nearly 7,000 brick-and-mortar stores in the U.S. closed in 2017 alone due to the rise of the company, adding that President Trump is criticizing it for "destroying the retail business" in the U.S. The program said while Amazon's rapid growth is contributing to the U.S. economy, it is driving up housing prices in Seattle, the site of its headquarters, leading to a rise in homelessness.

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Hagerty meets with CEOs of Yokohama-based companies

TV Kanagawa reported that Ambassador Hagerty visited the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday to meet with the representatives of four Yokohama-based companies with factories or subsidiaries in the U.S. and exchange views with them on how to further expand their business operations there. According to the network, the Ambassador expressed appreciation for the fact that Japan's foreign direct investment in the U.S. has reached a record high and pledged to endeavor to make it easier for Japanese firms to secure sufficient personnel in the U.S. and obtain visas for Japanese engineers.

The network showed the Ambassador saying: "We can accelerate the process, make it easier for Japanese companies who are trying to get their professionals to the United States. I am optimistic that we may find some opportunities that would shorten the time and increase the number of people that will be able to obtain visas coming from Japan into the United States."

- [U.S. envoy meets with Yokohama company executives](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

ECONOMY

- [Japan sees light at the end of deflation tunnel](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Malaysia high-speed rail cancellation a blow to Japan's 'shinkansen' exports](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan begins full-scale import of American LNG](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japanese beef returns to Australia](#) (NHK)
- [Japanese investment in Myanmar soars to all-time high in FY2017](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's net foreign assets top 1,000 trillion yen in FY17; record investments made in the U.S.](#) (Sankei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 29, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gov't mulls extending Diet session until late June or early July](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Infographic: Comparison of cabinet support rates and economic indicators for PMs Abe and Koizumi](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe searching for next centerpiece policies as he eyes third term](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [Turnaround in cabinet support rate difficult, media polls](#) (Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [Plan eyed to foster IT, science experts / Integrated strategy to focus on next generation](#) (The Japan News)

EDUCATION

- [Diet group drafts bill that aims to promote Japanese language learning at home and abroad](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

- [Japan to welcome 500,000 foreign workers to help plug labor shortage](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Detained Turk sues Japan gov't over injury by Immigration Bureau](#) (Jiji Press)

SECURITY

- [Editorial: Dangerous and regressive plan by LDP to double defense spending](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Gov't to set up council to foster cybersecurity industry](#) (Yomiuri)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [New group formed in Okinawa to support Onaga in gubernatorial election](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [GOJ to stop providing direct subsidies to three districts in Nago](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [LDP to recommend cooperating with USFJ for English education in Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)