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Afternoon Alert - Thursday, July 5, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TV Asahi led with reports on the heavy rain in western and eastern Japan today. NTV, TBS, and Fuji TV gave top play to a report on the return of the Japanese national soccer team from Russia this morning.

AMBASSADOR

- [A year of partnership and prosperity](#) (The Japan Times)

ECONOMY

- [Fresh Japanese direct investment in US soars 70%](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan automakers see sluggish growth in U.S. sales](#) (Nikkei, Evening edition)
- [Editorial: Japan, other nations should urge Trump to end trade wars](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Japan plans shift toward renewable energy, planning for first time to cut plutonium stockpile](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Tokyo's pledge to cut plutonium hampered by idle reactors: Under US pressure, Japanese government states reduction in new energy plan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't envisages turning post-5G technology into 110-trillion yen industry](#) (Nikkei)
- [JERA to foster LNG resale as a new source of revenue](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Court rejects suspension of Oi nuclear power plant](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: Nuclear power](#) (Akahata)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Japan PM Abe scraps plan to visit Iran amid Trump's tough line](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on response to North Korea threat after U.S.-DPRK summit](#) (Sankei)
- [Chosen Soren on new mission to set up casinos in DPRK](#) (Sentaku)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 3, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 4, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Trump administration's North Korea policy changes political dynamics in the Kantei](#) (Sentaku)
- [Abe steps up campaigning for local chapters' votes in LDP presidential race](#) (Mainichi)
- [Komeito chief voices hope that Abe will win third term as LDP president](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP's Tanigaki group to open new office on July 19](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Strengths and weaknesses in Abe cabinet: Part 4 – CDPJ supporters' opposition to administration grows stronger](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [83% of Japanese, 66% of South Koreans say DPRK "denuclearization won't be achieved," Yomiuri-Hankook Ilbo poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Infographics from Yomiuri-Hankook Ilbo poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Yomiuri-Hankook Ilbo joint opinion poll & results](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Highlights of the June 2018 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)

SCIENCE

- [New synchrotron facility to be constructed in Sendai](#) (The Japan News)

SECURITY

Shifting views on Aegis Ashore deployment in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the GOJ's plan to install two Aegis Ashore systems in Japan in response to a series of ballistic missile launches by North Korea last year. The GOJ is considering setting up the systems in Akita and Yamaguchi prefectures. The sites will be formally decided in the summer and operation will begin within five years. The program said, however, that due to the imminent threat posed by North Korea at the time, sufficient discussions were not held on the need for the system or the enormous cost involved. The program said that due to recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, some within the LDP are beginning to say that the GOJ should reconsider the deployment of the Aegis Ashore system. The program also reported on the construction of Aegis Ashore platforms in Poland, saying that it is affecting the local economy because there are many restrictions around the site.

- [Tokyo to cover Pentagon costs for faster arms deliveries](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [China's military reform aimed at offshore expansion: text](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Column: PACOM changes name with an eye on China](#) (Nikkei)
- [Survey shows a decrease of up to 90% in Atsugi aircraft noise](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Gov't: "No daily use of Atsugi base for carrier-borne jets"](#) (Asahi)
- [Iwakuni: Local communities and the U.S. base – Yearlong closure of public road sparking local discontent](#) (Chugoku Shimbun)

**OKINAWA
LOCAL PRESS**

[U.S. Osprey departs Kagoshima island one month after emergency landing](#)

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported that the USAF CV-22 Osprey that had been grounded at Amami Airport in Kagoshima after making an emergency landing there on June 4 took off from the facility late Wednesday afternoon and arrived at Yokota AB at around 9 p.m via MCAS Iwakuni. The dailies said the tilt-rotor plane may have been grounded for an unusually long period due to delays in repair and maintenance work caused by the prolonged foul weather on the island.

- [Odor at Kadena allegedly caused by aircraft emissions](#) (Okinawa Times)
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