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Afternoon Alert - Thursday, July 12, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks continued to report on the aftermath of the record rainfall in western Japan, with NHK giving the death toll as 183, with 65 missing. Late in the afternoon Kyodo reported that the number of dead had reached 200.

INTERNATIONAL

Japanese, Indonesian coast guards conduct joint training

NHK reported on its website that the coast guards of Japan and Indonesia carried out a joint drill on July 10-11 off the Indonesian coast. Patrol boats of both nations took part in the drill that included mock training to interdict seaborne drug trafficking, with Japanese personnel reportedly giving their Indonesian counterparts instructions in the seizure of evidence, interrogation of suspects, and other investigation techniques. The network explained that by organizing similar joint training with other regional countries, the Abe administration is hoping to enlist their support for the "free and open Indo-Pacific" initiative that was originally proposed by Prime Minister Abe to rein in China's maritime push in the South China Sea.

- [U.S. demands on Iranian oil pose dilemma for Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cartoon: Kim Jong Un takes a pitch](#) (Asahi)
- [Hiroshima hibakusha recounts experience to American university students](#) (The Japan Times)

ECONOMY

Walmart mulls withdrawing from Japan

All Thursday evening papers reported that Walmart is mulling the sale of its stake in Japan's Seiyu supermarket chain, suspecting that as the major U.S. retailer plans to strengthen its digital businesses at home to counter Amazon and other online rivals, it is apparently considering

withdrawing from the Japanese market, which is bound to shrink due to the declining population.

- [About 80% of firms incorporate SDGs into management philosophy: Keidanren survey](#) (Sankei)
- [Infographic: International comparison of business startup rates](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Interview with Shigeo Kagami: “Japan needs to encourage its successful entrepreneurs to invest their capital in more venture companies”](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on July 11, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Suprapartisan league drafts Diet resolution to request Japan-DPRK summit](#) (Sankei)
- [Upper house passes controversial election reform bill](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Vote-value disparity at 3.087 in Upper House: Yomiuri estimates](#) (Yomiuri)
- [“Leak battle” over MOF appointments](#) (THEMIS)
- [LDP chief Nikai maintains “mutually-beneficial” relationship with PM Abe](#) (Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [Elusive particle found 80 years after physicist’s prediction](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

EDUCATION

- [Six-year secondary schools sending more students overseas](#) (AERA)

SOCIETY

How the boys’ soccer team was rescued from a cave in Thailand

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the remarkable rescue of 12 boys and their soccer coach from a cave in Thailand, focusing on the family of an 11-year-old boy, the youngest of the 12, who prayed for the return of their son and the rest of the team. The program reported on the 1,000 local volunteers who supported the rescue team every day for two weeks and the boys' classmates who also worked as volunteers.

- [Japan population declines at fastest pace yet to 125.2 mil.: gov’t](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Infographic: Japan’s population and year-on-year changes](#) (Yomiuri)
- [One in ten Tokyoites in their 20s are now foreigners](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov’t turning blind eye to reality of large immigrant population in Japan](#) (Mainichi, Evening edition)
- [Japanese students reach for the stars at U.S. Space Camp](#) (The Japan Times)

SECURITY

- [Opposition camp obsessed with “Mori-Kake” issue, overlooking chance to attack ruling parties](#) (Sentaku)
- [Japan to beef up nuclear security before Rugby World Cup, Olympics](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Ginowan leader to seek Okinawa governorship

Okinawa Times gave top coverage to yesterday's meeting at the Kantei between Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga and Ginowan Mayor Sakima, during which the Okinawa politician reportedly conveyed his willingness to run in the gubernatorial election slated for Nov. 18. The mayor is expected to respond positively to a request for his candidacy filed by the local LDP chapter. In preparation for the gubernatorial race, Sakima is reportedly consulting with his supporters to find a candidate to run in the by-election for Ginowan mayor since he would automatically lose his post under the Public Offices Election Law if he runs in another election.

