

Afternoon Alert - Friday, August 17, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK and TBS led with reports on a robbery and rape suspect who is still at large after escaping from an Osaka police station on Sunday. Fuji TV and TV Asahi gave top coverage to the cold weather in Hokkaido today. NTV gave top play to updates on the scandal involving Nihon University's football team.

## INTERNATIONAL

### **Pentagon report says China's bombers likely training for strikes against Japan or U.S.**

NHK reported at noon that the Pentagon indicated in its annual report to Congress on China that the nation has "rapidly expanded its overwater bomber operating areas," warning that its bombers are likely training for strikes against Japan or U.S. military bases in Western Pacific including Guam. The network said the Pentagon referred to six Chinese military bombers that flew through the Miyako Strait and as far north as the Kii Peninsula in August last year. The network added that the Pentagon also referred to China's development of missiles that can destroy satellites and said China is also threatening the U.S. in outer space.

### **State Department establishes new team to step up pressure on Iran**

NHK reported this morning that Secretary of State Pompeo announced at a press conference on Thursday the establishment of a new State Department team called the Iran Action Group as part of a policy of further stepping up pressure on Iran through such means as the suspension of Iranian oil imports. The network said the team will be placed directly under the Secretary and will be in charge of coordinating with other government organizations and relevant nations on U.S. policy toward Iran. According to the network, the Secretary tapped DOS senior policy adviser Brian Hook as the head of the new group and Washington's special representative for Iran. The network showed the Secretary

saying: "We must see major changes in the regime's behavior both inside and outside of its borders....President Trump is making our Iran strategy a true, multinational undertaking, and the Iran Action Group will be key to further progress in that regard." The network added that Iran has reacted sharply to the Trump administration's policy of increasing pressure, saying that there are concerns that tension will rise as a result of the U.S. stepping up the pressure on Iran.

- [Moves being made for Abe to visit China in October](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Japan weighs \\$10bn in North Korea aid to spur return of citizens](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Policy needed for foreigners, Japanese to work, live together safely](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japanese field study team denied entry to Etorofu](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Yokohama family to receive second WWII souvenir flag in two years](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

- [Trade war fuels export bonanza as China opts for Japanese cars](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Mitsubishi to supply LNG to emerging Asia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- ["Urge U.S. to return to multilateral negotiations," says Mitsui & Co. Chairman Iijima](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan extends industrial design protection by 5 years](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't puts stronger pressure on China to resume importing Japanese agricultural products](#) (Mainichi)
- [Four groups scrambling for Hokkaido sky](#) (Nikkei)

## SECURITY

- [MOD says it will enhance space, electronic warfare capabilities](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan to beef up anti-cyberattack operations with China in mind](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Use of returned U.S. military base land in Okinawa makes little progress](#) (Yomiuri)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Aug. 16, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cartoon: LDP presidential race](#) (Sankei)

## SOCIETY

- [Record 1,813 children fell prey to crime through SNS in 2017](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
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