



Afternoon Alert - Monday, August 20, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports on Typhoons Soulik and Cimaron, which are expected to approach Japan this week

INTERNATIONAL

Foreign Minister Kono expresses hope for more nations to join Arms Trade Treaty

NHK reported at noon that a conference of the signatory nations of the Arms Trade Treaty is currently being held in Japan for the first time, saying that Foreign Minister Kono expressed hope to have arms exporters such as the U.S. and Russia join the treaty. The network said during the opening session of the 4th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty held in Tokyo this morning, Kono said: "The illicit trade of conventional weapons has caused devastating human suffering and regional instability. The treaty aims to enhance peace and security. I hope we can hold productive discussions." Meanwhile, in relation to the fact that arms exporters such as the U.S., Russia, and China have yet to sign the treaty, Kono reportedly said: "We must cooperate more in order to further increase the number of signatory nations." The network said the conference will continue until Aug. 24.

- [Japan eyes economic aid to N. Korea in policy overhaul](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Veteran politician: Abe may make "historic decision" in Vladivostok in Sept.](#) (Sankei)
- [Trans-Siberian Railway eyed for freight route with Russia](#) (The Japan News)
- [Kono calls for increasing members joining arms trade treaty](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Komeito chief to visit China in September](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Experts hold symposium in Tokyo on arms transfers](#) (The Japan News)
- [UN committee discusses 'comfort women'](#) (NHK)
- [Japan seeks removal of latest 'comfort woman' statue in Taiwan](#) (The Japan Times)

ECONOMY

Radioactive substances other than tritium found in contaminated water at Fukushima a plant

TV Asahi reported that it has learned that radioactive substances other than tritium have been detected in contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi NPP even after purification. The network said that although the contaminated water was known to contain tritium even after being treated, iodine 129 and other substances exceeding the legal limits have also been detected in the water. The network said although there is a plan to dilute the contaminated water and discharge it into the ocean, local fishermen strongly oppose this idea.

- [New Japan-U.S. trade talks to be litmus test for Japan's framework for future trade negotiations](#) (Sankei)
- [Ex-Chinese vice minister pessimistic about trade talks with U.S.](#) (Nikkei)
- [Fukushima tsunami plans to be expedited at stricken N-plant](#) (The Japan News)
- [ALPS system at Fukushima No. 1 plant failing to remove more than tritium from toxic cooling water](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Osaka leaders revel as casinos bid for attention](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Mitsubishi Heavy to introduce world's largest wind turbine](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on August 17, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on August 18, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on August 19, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ginowan mayoral election to be held on the same day as gubernatorial election](#) (Mainichi)
- [Polls indicate rising interest in improvement of social security](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [Abe cabinet support edges up to 38.5, but falls below nonsupport for sixth month in row. Jiji poll](#) (Jiji)

SOCIETY

- [Foreign interns face specter of abuse at labor-hungry Kumamoto quake sites](#) (The Japan Times)

SECURITY

- [Japanese defense chief kicks off tour of India and Sri Lanka](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's Defense Ministry to request record ¥5.3 trillion budget for fiscal 2019](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan to reinforce remote island defense](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Chinese gov't ships strengthen supervision of fishing boats in Japan waters near Senkaku](#) (Sankei)
- [Okinawa referendum could bring clarity](#) (The Japan Times)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

[Local Diet member Tamaki likely to run in Okinawa gubernatorial election](#)

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times led with reports on a decision made on Sunday by Okinawa prefectural assembly members who supported the late Okinawa Governor Onaga to ask Lower House member Denny Tamaki to run in the gubernatorial election slated for Sept. 30. Tamaki told reporters that he will seriously think about the idea and make a decision by the end of this week. Although Kanehide Group Chairman Morimasa Goya had also been viewed as a possible candidate to succeed Governor Onaga, he reportedly has no intention to run in the election. As a result, if Tamaki runs, he will probably face off with former Ginowan Mayor Sakima, who is backed by the LDP. According to Ryukyu Shimpo, Shigenobu Asato, a former chairman of the Okinawa Convention & Visitors Bureau who had initially expressed his intention to seek the governorship, officially announced his decision not to run following a meeting with LDP Secretary General Nikai in Tokyo on Sunday.

- [Okinawa vice governor given power to decide when to withdraw Henoko landfill permit](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)