
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, August 22, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, NTV, and TBS led with the forecast that Typhoon Cimaron will make landfall in western Japan on Thursday. Fuji TV led with a report on the final game of the National High School Baseball Championship yesterday. TV Asahi gave top play to a report that a woman was stabbed by a man at a sports gym in Nagasaki this morning.

AMBASSADOR

- [Sports diplomacy is a home run for the United States and Japan](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Ambassador Hagerty watches Koshien high school baseball championship game](#) (Asahi)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Japan makes its move in Indian Ocean power game](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, China look to expand currency swap line to 3 tril. yen](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe plans Australia trip to bolster Indo-Pacific alliance](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan-Australia relations affected by Canberra's economic dependence on China](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan and the U.S. and Chinese superpowers \(Part 1\): Competition for hegemony over high-technology](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan and the U.S. and Chinese superpowers \(Part 2\): World's center of gravity will shift to the Indo-Pacific](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

TEPCO, Chubu Electric, Hitachi, Toshiba discussing possible nuclear business alliance

NHK reported on the finding that TEPCO, Chubu Electric, Hitachi, and Toshiba are holding discussions on a possible alliance for nuclear power business. According to a source, the four entities are in talks on the operation of nuclear power plants, construction of nuclear reactors, and maintenance. The network noted that it has become difficult for Hitachi and Toshiba to expand orders for nuclear power plants in Japan given that construction of new plants has virtually stopped following the Fukushima accident, and

overseas business has also become difficult due to growing costs resulting from increased safety measures. As the four entities have all worked with boiling water reactors, multiple plans have emerged during the ongoing talks, including integrating their nuclear power businesses in the future.

- [Japan and China agree to set common charging standards for EVs](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Tepco, Hitachi and Toshiba in talks for 4-way nuclear alliance](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [FY17 investment in startups increases for five consecutive years](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan catches 177 whales for “research whaling” in northwest Pacific](#) (Kyodo News)
- [CCS Suga pledges to create system to help international students find jobs](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on Aug. 21, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Constitution should not be used as political tool in LDP presidential race](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Abe’s dogmatic leadership style put to test in LDP race](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Ishiba vexed by lack of opportunities for direct debate with PM Abe in LDP presidential race](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Komura becomes longest serving LDP vice president](#) (Asahi)

Correction: The article titled “Main opposition party holds only 1% of Lower House seats” in yesterday’s Alert should have read [Main opposition party holds only 10% of Lower House seats](#).

OPINION POLLS

- [Analysis of Yomiuri poll: Abe cabinet enjoys high support rate among men](#) (Yomiuri)

SOCIETY

- [Poll shows Japan is the most popular travel destination for Americans](#) (Nikkei)
- [Support group for Vietnamese residents in Japan established](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

Five CV-22 Ospreys to be deployed at Yokota starting Oct. 1

Asahi reported online that the GOJ announced today that the USFJ will officially deploy five CV-22 Ospreys at Yokota AB starting Oct. 1. The paper said while 24 MV-22 Ospreys are already deployed at MCA S Futenma, it will be the first time for CV-22 Ospreys, which are tasked with special operations, to be deployed in Japan, adding that there are growing concerns about possible accidents or noise pollution among residents near the base and training sites. The daily wrote that ultimately a total of ten CV-22 Ospreys are expected to be deployed at Yokota.

- [Editorial: Tokyo must face up to governors unanimous call for SOFA review](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [LDP, Komeito formally decide to endorse Sakima in Okinawa gubernatorial election](#) (Nikkei)
- [U.S. weapons purchases boost Japan’s defense spending](#) (Akahata)
- [Gov’t developing system to detect suspicious ships with AI technology](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Japan to fortify electronic warfare capabilities](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

**OKINAWA
LOCAL PRESS**

DOD OIG points out Marine aviation squadrons' inaccurate reporting on aircraft readiness

Okinawa Times led with a Washington-dated Kyodo report saying that the Department of Defense's Office of Inspector General has released a report on its investigation into whether Marine Corps aviation squadrons accurately reported aircraft readiness. The OIG said it reviewed ten non-statistically sampled aviation squadrons that operate F/A-18s and CH-53Es and found that Marine Corps aviation squadron commanders did not accurately report aircraft readiness. Aviation squadrons belonging to U.S. bases in Japan were not included in the ten squadrons. However, noting that a Futenma-based CH-53E helicopter crashed in Okinawa last year, Kyodo said the OIG report pointed out that inaccurate reporting could potentially put mission accomplishment at risk. Ryukyu Shimpo ran the same Kyodo story on an inside page.

