



Morning Alert - Wednesday, October 5, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Morning news

NHK and NTV gave top play to reports on Typhoon Chaba which is expected to pass through the city of Tsushima in Nagasaki around noon. TBS and TV Asahi led with reports on interpellation by party representatives at the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly on Tuesday. Fuji TV aired a one-on-one interview with Yoshinori Ohsumi, who won this year's Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine.

Top stories in national dailies included a GOJ plan to mandate country-of-origin labeling for processed food ingredients (Asahi); Tokyo Governor Koike's remarks on the construction of Tokyo Olympics facilities and the Toyosu fish market at the metropolitan assembly (Mainichi, Yomiuri); a plan by Hitachi to sell two of its subsidiaries (Nikkei); and potential problems arising from the increasing foreign ownership of land (Sankei).

## INTERNATIONAL

### ROK government hoping for apology letters to comfort women

Most papers wrote that in response to numerous questions from reporters on Tuesday about Prime Minister Abe's statement that the GOJ is not considering sending letters of apology to the former comfort women, a South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson said the government will not comment on the matter. The official did say, however, that South Korea will work with Japan to swiftly restore the women's honor by respecting the spirit of the Japan-ROK agreement. Although the ROK government understands that it would be difficult to ask Abe to write letters to the women because that was not part of the agreement, Seoul is hoping for letters from the Japanese prime minister to help assuage domestic opposition to the agreement with Japan.

### **Bipartisan group of lawmakers to hold rally on Takeshima**

Sankei wrote that a bipartisan group of lawmakers chaired by former Internal Affairs Minister Shindo told reporters on Tuesday that they will hold a rally in Tokyo on Nov. 9 to seek the early return of Takeshima, which is illegally occupied by South Korea. The group said that the GOJ's resolute diplomacy and strong public support will be necessary to resolve the dispute over Takeshima.

### **Kishida says U.S.-Russia relations will not affect Japan's talks with Russia**

Tuesday evening's Yomiuri wrote that Foreign Minister Kishida commented during a news conference on Tuesday on the U.S.'s suspension of talks with Russia over a ceasefire in Syria. When asked by a reporter whether the deteriorating relations between Washington and Moscow will affect Japan's talks with Russia, Kishida said that he does not expect that U.S.-Russia relations will be discussed during Japan's talks on the Northern Territories and a peace treaty.

## **SECURITY**

### **Marines to resume AV-8 Harrier operations in Okinawa**

Tokyo Shimbun wrote that it has learned from a source connected to the Okinawa Prefectural Government that the U.S. Marines in Okinawa informed the prefecture on Tuesday that they will resume on Oct. 7 the AV-8 Harrier operations that have been suspended since one of the planes crashed in waters off Okinawa in September. Governor Onaga told reporters that he lodged a protest with the U.S. military and feels betrayed by the decision because it was made without any explanation on specific safety measures.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Some Democratic Party members support the TPP**

Nikkei wrote that following the Lower House approval on Tuesday of a supplemental budget for fiscal 2016, the focus of Diet deliberations will shift to the TPP. The largest opposition party Democratic Party (DP) is opposed to the TPP, arguing that the agreement lacks sufficient measures to protect Japan's agriculture products and will bring few benefits to the Japanese auto industry. Although some DP lawmakers support the TPP, they are not speaking up out of deference to the majority opinion.

### **Japan eyes accepting foreign workers in farm sector**

Most papers wrote that a GOJ advisory panel on national strategic special zones decided on Tuesday to consider amending relevant laws to allow foreign laborers to work in the agricultural sector in certain special economic zones. Prime Minister Abe told the panel meeting that the GOJ will expedite discussions on the issue with the goal of submitting relevant bills to the next ordinary Diet session.

## SCIENCE

### **Wildlife panel adopts ban on domestic ivory trade**

Asahi and Mainichi reported on a meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on Tuesday in Johannesburg, during which a resolution calling on nations to ban domestic ivory trade was adopted. The papers wrote that although Japan claims that its ivory market is not subject to the ban because it is regulated by law, Tokyo may face international criticism if it fails to tighten controls in the future in view of China's decision to support the ban.

## POLITICS

### **LDP lawmaker admits she is a dual citizen of Japan and U.S.**

Most papers wrote that LDP Upper House member Kimi Onoda has admitted on Facebook that she is a dual citizen of Japan and the U.S. and is undertaking procedures to renounce her U.S. citizenship. She was born to an American father and a Japanese mother in the U.S. Onoda submitted documents to choose Japanese citizenship in October 2015 in order to run in the Upper House election, but failed to undertake procedures to renounce her U.S. citizenship. She checked the status of her U.S. citizenship following the controversy over the recent revelation that Democratic Party President Renho held Taiwanese citizenship.