



Morning Alert - Thursday, October 6, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Morning news

NHK as well as most commercial networks gave top play to the Toyosu fish market issue, saying that Tokyo Governor Koike is planning to take disciplinary action against those involved in the soil issue. NTV led with a report on the damage caused by Typhoon Chaba in Japan as well as South Korea.

Main news items in national papers included the Abe administration's informal decision not to eliminate the present spousal tax deduction system due to strong opposition within the ruling coalition; the likely election of former Portuguese Prime Minister Guterres as the next UN secretary general; and Fujitsu's plan to consolidate its personal computer business with China's Lenovo.

## SECURITY

### Inada meets with PACOM Commander Harris

Most papers wrote that visiting PACOM Commander Harris paid a courtesy call on Defense Minister Inada on Wednesday and affirmed enhanced mutual coordination to deal with China's aggressive pursuit of maritime interests in the South and East China Seas. The top U.S. military official in the Pacific said: "U.S.-Japan relations reinforce peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region." Inada pledged the Abe administration's efforts to obtain parliamentary approval of the updated bilateral ACSA. She also called for additional information on the recent crash of an AV-8 Harrier off Okinawa. In reply, Admiral Harris said: "Thorough safety inspections have been conducted."

### Okinawa leader displeased with planned resumption of Harrier flights

Tokyo Shimbun reported that Okinawa Governor Onaga criticized the U.S. military for its announcement on Wednesday regarding the resumption of AV-8 Harrier flight operations in Okinawa and its vicinity on Oct. 7. The governor told the press: “We cannot possibly accept the U.S. military’s position of unilaterally resuming the flights without providing any report to the prefectural government.”

### **U.S. Marine crashes into fence in stolen car**

Mainichi reported in its city news section that a U.S. Marine allegedly stole a car from a garage in Gotemba, Shizuoka Prefecture, drove into a fence at a nearby private residence, and fled from the scene in the early morning on Sept. 17. The incident reportedly took place when the Marine was on his way to Camp Fuji from JR Gotemba Station. The Marine has been questioned on a voluntary basis, with a Gotemba police spokesperson saying: “Although it is true that the incident occurred, the details cannot be disclosed because the investigation is still underway.” According to the daily, the municipal authorities first learned of the incident from the victim on Oct. 3 because neither the prefectural police nor the Defense Ministry had announced it.

### **Yokosuka calls for detailed plan for evacuation of Japanese employees in CVN accidents**

Tokyo Shimbun wrote that the Yokosuka municipal government is demanding that the Defense Ministry put together a detailed manual for the evacuation of Japanese workers at Yokosuka Naval Base in the event of a nuclear accident on the USS Ronald Reagan. According to the daily, some 5,000 Japanese are currently employed at the naval station by the Defense Ministry, which says that the Japanese workers should heed instructions from the base authorities in the event of such an accident. However, the USG does not have any evacuation manual for local citizens based on the judgment that the CVN is safe.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Clinton acknowledges Abe’s approach toward Northern Territories dispute with Russia**

Yomiuri reported on a speech delivered in Washington on Wednesday by former Assistant Secretary of State Campbell, who disclosed that when meeting with Prime Minister Abe in New York on Sept. 19, Hillary Clinton was briefed on the Japanese leader’s approach toward resolving the Northern Territories dispute with Moscow. Campbell, who sat in on the session, explained that Clinton acknowledged Japan’s “strategic insights,” which revolve around improving ties with Moscow with the goal of settling the territorial dispute while at the same time maintaining sanctions over the annexation of Crimea and continuing diplomatic lobbying on the situation in Ukraine. Campbell said the U.S. should support Japan’s efforts to improve relations with Russia while cooperating with the international community on diplomacy.

In a related story, Nikkei published a column on Clinton's session with Abe, with Washington correspondent Yoshino asserting that the Democratic presidential candidate held a meeting with the Japanese leader with the goal of winning Ohio, one of key battleground states for the election since many residents there work for Honda and other Japanese companies. Pointing out that Clinton mentioned the word Japan twice in her recent TV debate with Donald Trump, the columnist claimed that the Democratic candidate was trying to call attention to her close bonds with Japan so as to encourage Ohio employees at Japanese plants to support her campaign. The writer added that although Trump mentioned Japan four times in the debate, he did not reiterate his previous claim that "Japan is stealing American jobs," perhaps because he has realized that many Americans work for Japanese companies in Ohio and elsewhere.

### **Japan to end measures to support comfort women**

Asahi reported that MOFA has decided not to seek funding in FY2017 for its decades-long initiative to support comfort women on the grounds that the ROK Reconciliation and Healing Foundation will carry out similar programs based on the bilateral comfort women agreement. The ministry has allocated some 10 million yen annually for the past 10 years to task a Japanese NGO with providing medical and other assistance for the victims.

### **Japan to extend \$400 million annually for Afghan reconstruction**

All papers reported on the opening of the Afghan donors' conference in Brussels on Wednesday to discuss aid policy for the war-torn country from 2017 through 2020. Japan pledged to provide \$400 million in aid annually. But State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura said the effectiveness of the aid will be limited unless the security situation is improved, calling on the Afghan government to address corruption and other outstanding issues. The daily said international financial assistance for Kabul in the next four years will be about 60% of the level of five years ago.

### **Brazilian leader to visit Japan**

Nikkei reported that Brazilian President Michel Temer is likely to visit Japan for a summit with PM Abe in mid-October, during which the two leaders will affirm stronger economic cooperation. Abe is expected to ask for Brazil to contribute its expertise to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Japan unlikely to take part in Morocco confab on Paris Agreement**

Asahi took up remarks made at the Diet on Wednesday by Environment Minister Yamamoto, who projected that Japan will probably not be able to participate in an upcoming international conference to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco, next month to discuss the rulemaking for the Paris Agreement on global warming since it will be almost impossible to obtain parliamentary approval and submit ratification documents to the UN by Oct. 19. Japan will only be able to voice its opinions as an observer.

Mainichi said the Democratic Party is eager to pass the Paris Agreement legislation swiftly and has agreed with the LDP to start deliberations at the Upper House first since the lower chamber is expected to be busy with debate on the TPP bills. However, it may be difficult to pass the Paris accord legislation swiftly depending on Diet debate on the TPP bills.

## **POLITICS**

### **JCP to withdraw candidates to support DP candidates in two by-elections**

All papers reported on an agreement forged yesterday among the Democratic Party, Japanese Communist Party, and two other opposition parties to enhance electoral cooperation in the upcoming Lower House by-elections in Tokyo and Fukuoka on Oct. 23. The JCP will not field candidates so that the DP candidates can face off with their LDP rivals.

### **Term of LDP presidency likely to be extended**

Several papers front-paged an emerging consensus within the LDP to change the present rule that prohibits its president from serving more than two consecutive three-year terms, noting that it will either allow the party chief to run for up to three consecutive three-year terms or eliminate the restriction completely. Opponents, including former Minister for Regional Revitalization Ishiba, are likely to endorse the change since the new rule will be applied not only to PM Abe but also to his successors.