


JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Morning Alert - Tuesday, November 8, 2016

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

Please fill out our short online [Readership Survey!](#)

HEADLINES

Morning news

NHK, NTV, and Fuji TV led with updates on the fire that broke out inside an art installation in Tokyo on Sunday, claiming the life of a 5-year-old boy. TBS led with a report on the upcoming U.S. presidential election. TV Asahi gave top play to a report that MHLW officials raided Dentsu's offices on Monday in relation to its employees committing suicide due to overwork.

Top stories in national dailies included the Labor Ministry's investigation of Dentsu (Asahi); divided opinions among members of an experts' panel over the Emperor's wish to abdicate (Mainichi); the final stage of the U.S. presidential election campaign (Yomiuri, Sankei); and a plan by Tokio Marine to provide insurance for auto accidents involving self-driving vehicles ([Nikkei](#)).



POLITICS

Vote on TPP bills put off, bill to ratify Paris Accord to be approved today

All papers reported on front or inside pages on the ruling coalition's decision on Monday to forgo putting the TPP ratification and related bills to a vote in a Lower House plenary session on Tuesday due to objections from the opposition parties. The ruling coalition plans to put the bills to a vote on Thursday, but the Democratic Party and other opposition parties are considering submitting a no-confidence motion against Agriculture Minister Yamamoto over his recent gaffes about railroading the bills. However, the ruling and opposition blocs agreed to approve a bill to ratify the Paris Agreement on climate change at a Lower House plenary session today. According to Yomiuri, the ruling camp has decided to extend the current Diet session, which is scheduled to end on Nov. 30, to approve the TPP agreement.

SECURITY

Abe meets with U.S. Air Force chief

Mainichi wrote that Prime Minister Abe held a meeting with U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff David Goldfein at the Kantei on Monday. Citing Japan's enactment of the new security legislation, the premier expressed his determination to further strengthen the U.S.-Japan alliance. The paper wrote that with North Korea's nuclear development and other issues in mind, the Air Force chief said in response that the U.S. will firmly apply its extended deterrence to its alliance with Japan.

USFK transports American citizens to Japan in noncombatant evacuation training

Asahi wrote that the U.S. Forces in Korea conducted noncombatant evacuation operations training from late October to Nov. 3. According to a USFK source, the U.S. military transported USFK members, their dependents, and other American citizens from a base south of Seoul to an installation in Japan by a C-130 and other transport planes as part of the operations. Although the USFK conducts the operations annually, this was the first time in seven years for them to transport mock evacuees outside the Korean Peninsula.

INTERNATIONAL

Abe to meet with Putin on sidelines of APEC summit in Peru in November

Mainichi and Sankei wrote that Prime Minister Abe stated at a meeting of the GOJ and the ruling coalition on Monday that he will hold talks with Russian President Putin on the sidelines of the APEC leaders' meeting to be held in Peru on Nov. 19-20. Abe said that the meeting is intended to discuss progress in their nations' preparations for Putin's planned visit to Japan in mid-December.

Japanese, Kazakhstan leaders agree on wide range of cooperation

All papers reported on Prime Minister Abe's meeting on Monday with visiting Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev, during which the two leaders signed a joint statement on wide-ranging cooperation between their countries. Abe stated during a joint press conference that the joint statement will serve as a milestone for further cooperation between the two nations, including on the investment environment in Kazakhstan, the promotion of Japanese companies' investment in Kazakhstan, and maritime security. The two leaders also discussed UN reform in view of Kazakhstan's nonpermanent membership in the UN Security Council beginning next year and cooperation on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Former comfort women call for official apology and compensation

Mainichi wrote that former comfort women from South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, and East Timor visited MOFA on Monday and submitted a letter addressed to Prime Minister Abe calling for Japan to provide an official apology and compensation to them. The women criticized the Japan-ROK agreement on the comfort women for "making distinctions based on nationality" and called on Tokyo to provide them with education and other assistance.

Japanese journalist detained in Iraq freed

Several papers wrote that Kosuke Tsuneoka, a Japanese journalist who had been detained by the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) near Mosul since late October, was released on Monday. According to MOFA, the KRG suspected that Tsuneoka has connections to ISIL.

