



Morning Alert - Thursday, June 1, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Morning News

NHK gave top play to a report that President Trump is expected to make an announcement soon on whether the U.S. will withdraw from the 2015 Paris Agreement, adding that several U.S. media outlets are reporting that senior White House officials have said he will probably decide to pull out of the climate accord.

NTV led with a report that sumo wrestler Takayasu was officially promoted to the second-highest ranking of ozeki on Wednesday. TBS and TV Asahi gave top play to reports that the Tokyo government, the GOJ, and the Olympic organizing committee have reached a broad agreement on cost sharing for the 2020 Olympics. Fuji TV led with a report that a municipal board of education in Ibaraki apologized to the parents of a 15-year-old girl for concluding last March that bullying was not the cause of her suicide.

Top stories in national dailies included a follow-up report on the Kake Educational Institution scandal (Asahi); the basic agreement reached between the GOJ, the Tokyo government, local governments, and the Olympic organizing committee on cost sharing for the 2020 Olympics (Mainichi, Yomiuri), a plan by Japanese staffing agencies to begin hiring large numbers of engineers from other Asian nations (Nikkei); and a plan by President Trump to announce within a few days a decision on whether to withdraw from the Paris Agreement (Sankei).

## INTERNATIONAL

[Abe, Yang agree to improve Japan-China ties, cooperate on North Korea](#)

All papers reported on Prime Minister Abe's meeting with visiting Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi at the Kantei on Wednesday, saying that the two officials agreed that Japan and China will increase exchanges between their leaders and other senior officials on the sidelines of international conferences to improve bilateral ties. Asahi speculated that as this year marks the 45th anniversary of diplomatic normalization, Tokyo and Beijing are hoping to improve their relations that have cooled due to the Senkakus and other issues.

Abe and Yang also discussed North Korea. The premier called on China to play a more constructive role in responding to North Korea's provocations and the two officials agreed that Tokyo and Beijing will work closely to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. According to Mainichi, Yang told Abe that China expects other nations to play constructive roles as well. Yomiuri quoted the Chinese official as saying that China hopes that the North Korea problem will be resolved peacefully and diplomatically. Sankei wrote that differences between Japan and China over how to deal with the DPRK were made clear, as Tokyo is hoping to ratchet up the pressure on Pyongyang, while Beijing has expressed its intention to attach importance to dialogue with North Korea.

### **Nikai to visit South Korea**

All papers wrote that LDP Secretary General Nikai told the press on Wednesday that he will visit South Korea on June 10-13. Nikai is reportedly making arrangements to hold talks with President Moon and other senior ROK officials during his visit to Seoul.

### **Tokyo, Moscow differ over joint economic activities in Northern Territories**

Asahi wrote that members of Japan's public-private mission on joint economic activities in the Northern Territories held a meeting on Wednesday with officials of Sakhalin Oblast, which effectively controls the disputed islands. The Japanese delegation led by Prime Minister Abe's Special Advisor Hasegawa agreed with the Sakhalin officials on a plan for a group of Japanese experts to visit the islands in late June. The paper wrote, however, that major differences remain between the two nations because although Tokyo is hoping that the envisaged joint economic activities will help pave the way for resolving the territorial dispute, Moscow is giving priority to obtaining economic cooperation from Japan.

## **SECURITY**

### **LDP proposes Japan's enhanced missile defense capabilities**

Mainichi front-paged a report saying that the LDP's Research Commission on Security has put together the party's draft recommendations for Japan to enhance its missile defense capabilities in response to North Korea's nuclear and missile development. The recommendations include introducing early-warning satellites and aircraft as well as an Aegis Ashore system to improve ballistic missile defense. The party also recommended that Japan obtain cruise missiles as part of the ability to attack enemy bases. Nikkei ran a similar inside-page story.

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