



Morning Alert - Friday, June 9, 2017

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HEADLINES

Morning News

NHK gave top play to a report that the polls have closed in the general election in the UK on Thursday, saying that the ruling Conservative Party will probably be unable to maintain its majority. NTV and Fuji TV led with reports that a police officer was arrested on Thursday for allegedly killing his wife and two children in Fukuoka. TBS led with a report on exchanges between Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga and reporters on Thursday over the Kake Educational Institution scandal.

All national dailies except Nikkei led with reports on the congressional testimony by former FBI Director Comey. Nikkei led with a report on the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's intention to incorporate in its energy plan the building of new nuclear power plants and the replacement of existing equipment to maintain a stable energy supply over the long term.

INTERNATIONAL

Senate committee approves nomination of William Hagerty as ambassador to Japan

All Thursday evening papers reported on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's approval on Wednesday of the nomination of William Hagerty as the new U.S. Ambassador to Japan. The papers wrote that Hagerty is expected to arrive in Japan as early as this summer after obtaining the approval of the full Senate in the near future. Yomiuri wrote that during a congressional hearing on May 18, Hagerty expressed his readiness to work to reduce the U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

Abe and ROK house speaker agree to build forward-looking relations

All papers reported on Prime Minister Abe's meeting with South Korean Assembly Speaker Chung Sye-kyun on Thursday at the Kantei, saying that the two officials agreed that Japan and the ROK should build forward-looking relations and work closely on North Korea. The premier asked the ROK house speaker to tell President Moon that he is looking forward to holding a meeting with him at an early date.

Japan, China, ROK agree to conduct joint study on Arctic development

Nikkei wrote that during a high-level dialogue in Tokyo on Thursday, Japan, China, and South Korea agreed to conduct a joint scientific study on the development of the Arctic region, including sea routes and natural resources. The three nations plan to participate in a large-scale Arctic project to be conducted by the U.S., Russia, and several European nations in the summer of 2020 by offering research vessels and icebreakers with the hope that this will facilitate the participation of their private sectors in future economic activities in the region.

North Korea fires surface-to-ship cruise missiles

All papers reported on North Korea's firing of surface-to-ship cruise missiles on Thursday morning. The papers speculated that the DPRK has been conducting launches of multiple missiles since May 14 to demonstrate to the U.S., Japan, and South Korea its progress in missile development.

ECONOMY

Japan-EU EPA talks enter critical stage

Asahi wrote that the Japan-EU negotiations on an economic partnership agreement are entering a crucial stage with the aim of reaching a broad agreement at a Japan-EU summit on the sidelines of the G20 leaders' meeting to be held in Germany on July 7-8. The paper wrote that Tokyo is hoping that a Japan-EU EPA will have a positive impact on other trade negotiations, speculating that the U.S. agricultural industry may urge the Trump administration to make compromises with Japan if European farm products are allowed to enter the Japanese market at low prices as a result of reduced tariffs under their economic partnership agreement.

Nikkei ran a similar report saying that Japan and the EU will be tested on whether they will be able to stave off the international trend of protectionism at a time when the TPP is in danger of going adrift due to the Trump administration's announcement of its intention to withdraw. The paper wrote that an agreement with the EU will give Japan a strong bargaining chip in moving forward with negotiations on the TPP 11.

SECURITY

Suga expresses regret at Okinawa's plan to sue GOJ over FRF construction at Henoko

Asahi wrote that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga commented during a press briefing on Thursday on Okinawa Governor Onaga's plan to sue the central government to block the FRF construction at Henoko by saying that the plan is very regrettable.

GOJ, Nagasaki Prefecture to conduct joint evacuation drill

Mainichi wrote that the GOJ has decided to conduct a joint evacuation drill with Nagasaki Prefecture in July based on the scenario of a foreign military attack. This will be the first time for the prefecture to carry out this type of exercise involving the SDF, police, and fire department.

