



Morning Alert - Monday, June 12, 2017

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HEADLINES

Morning News

NHK gave top play to a report on the first day of the G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting in Italy, saying that the focus will be on whether the ministers will be able to obtain U.S. cooperation in efforts to curb global warming. NTV, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi led with reports on a fatal traffic accident on a highway in Aichi Prefecture on Saturday. TBS gave top play to a follow-up report on the Kake Educational Institution scandal.

No papers were published this morning due to a press holiday.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan, South Korea to hold summit next month

Saturday morning's Sankei, Yomiuri, and Mainichi reported that South Korea's Blue House announced on Friday that President Moon will attend the G20 summit slated for July 7 and 8 in Hamburg, Germany, and will hold bilateral summit meetings with the U.S., China, Japan, Russia, and other nations on the sidelines. Mainichi wrote that this will be the first meeting between Prime Minister Abe and the new ROK leader if the GOJ fails to arrange a Japan-ROK summit before then.

Abe gives Nikai a letter for ROK President Moon

Saturday morning's Sankei, Yomiuri, and Mainichi reported that Prime Minister Abe met with LDP Secretary General Nikai at the Kantei on Friday ahead of Nikai's visit to South Korea from June 10 to

13. During the meeting, Abe reportedly handed Nikai a letter to deliver to President Moon. According to Sankei, Abe told Nikai: "South Korea is an important country. I want to develop a foundation for active bilateral exchanges." Nikai reportedly told reporters that the premier also expressed his wish to host a trilateral summit between Japan, South Korea, and China this year. The paper said Nikai is expected to meet with President Moon on June 12 and exchange views with him on Japan-ROK relations and North Korea. Nikai also reportedly said: "We must dispel the image of always being at odds and frequently hold exchanges between our leaders. I hope to hold candid discussions with President Moon."

MOFA to ask for help locating maps that refer to Sea of Japan as "East Sea"

Saturday morning's Sankei reported that MOFA has begun a full-scale search for foreign maps that refer to the Sea of Japan as the "East Sea," the nomenclature used by South Korea. The paper said MOFA plans to ask Japanese nationals living overseas to notify Japanese diplomatic missions if they find any such maps. MOFA is also planning to ask Japanese nationals to inform diplomatic missions if they find any maps that refer to Takeshima as "Dokdo." The daily wrote that the move is aimed at thwarting South Korea's efforts to make East Sea and Dokdo internationally established names, adding that MOFA is planning to ask publishers to correct maps that use these names.

Senior Pentagon official says DPRK probably able to test-launch ICBM this year

Sunday morning's Mainichi reported that Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy Robert Soofer said at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday that based on analysis by the U.S. intelligence community, North Korea will probably be ready to test an ICBM within this year.

GOJ freezes assets of four additional North Korean entities and 12 individuals

Saturday morning's Yomiuri reported that the GOJ has added four North Korean entities and 12 individuals to a list of those targeted for asset freezing in response to the latest sanctions resolution adopted by the UN Security Council.

Former residents to travel to Northern Territories by air for first time

Saturday morning's Nikkei, Sankei, and Mainichi reported that Foreign Minister Kishida said during a press briefing on Friday that former residents of the Northern Territories will make their first trip by air to the islands on June 18 to visit their ancestors' graves. Mainichi wrote that about 70 former residents of Etorofu and Kunashiri islands will make a day trip to visit the graves using a chartered Russian commercial airplane. The group will be headed by State Foreign Minister Nobuo Kishi. Officials of MOFA and the Cabinet Office will also accompany the group.

Leader of Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong to visit Japan

Sunday morning's Asahi reported that Joshua Wong, the 20-year-old former leader of the 2014 Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong, will visit Japan on June 13 and meet with Japanese students. Wong said in an interview with the paper that he wants the Japanese people to know that the "one

nation, two systems” framework is under threat from China and that freedom of speech and assembly are in jeopardy in Hong Kong.

SECURITY

Osprey leaves Amami airport after making emergency landing

NHK reported on Sunday evening that an MV-22 Osprey that had made an emergency landing at Amami airport in Kagoshima on Saturday left the airport at about 4:30 p.m. on Sunday after a safety inspection. The network reported earlier that the Osprey made an emergency landing on a runway at Amami airport at about 8:50 p.m. on Saturday, saying the aircraft suffered no damage and no crew members were injured. The network said the U.S. military explained to the Okinawa Defense Bureau that it was a precautionary landing. NTV, TBS, TV Tokyo, and all Sunday morning papers carried similar stories.

U.S. Navy, SDF hold joint military exercises

Saturday morning's Nikkei, Sankei, and Yomiuri reported that the SDF announced on Friday that two MSDF escort ships conducted joint military training with the USS Ronald Reagan in the vicinity of the Sea of Japan and waters east of Okinawa from June 3 to 9. According to Yomiuri, ASDF F15 fighters joined the exercises on June 6. Noting that the U.S. and Japan also held joint military exercises in the Sea of Japan earlier this month, the paper said the latest joint military drill was aimed at keeping North Korea in check.

POLITICS

Law enacted to allow Emperor Akihito's abdication

All Saturday morning papers gave top play to reports that the Japanese Diet enacted a law on Friday to allow Emperor Akihito to relinquish the throne to his elder son Crown Prince Naruhito in what would be Japan's first abdication since the previous Imperial House Law was enacted in the Meiji Era (1868-1912). Asahi wrote that it is widely thought that the Emperor will abdicate at the end of December 2018 or the end of March 2019.