



Morning Alert - Thursday, July 6, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Morning news

All broadcasters gave top play to reports on the record rainfall in the Kyushu region, saying that at least nine people are currently missing. All national dailies led with reports on the broad agreement reached between Japan and the EU in their EPA talks.

## INTERNATIONAL

### President Trump, PM Abe to hold talks on July 8

Nikkei reported on a MOFA announcement on Wednesday that Prime Minister Abe will hold bilateral talks with President Trump on July 8 on the sidelines of the G20 summit to be held in Hamburg, Germany. The paper speculated that the two leaders will discuss such issues as measures to further step up the pressure on North Korea. Abe also plans to hold a trilateral meeting with President Trump and ROK President Moon on Thursday.

### Secretary Tillerson confirms, strongly condemns North Korea's ICBM test

All papers reported on a statement released on Tuesday by Secretary of State Tillerson, in which he stated: "The United States strongly condemns North Korea's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. Testing an ICBM represents a new escalation of the threat to the United States, our allies and partners, the region, and the world." Quoting the Secretary as saying, "We intend to bring North Korea's provocative action before the UN Security Council and enact stronger measures to hold the DPRK accountable," Yomiuri speculated that Washington probably has such measures as cutting oil supplies to the DPRK in mind. The secretary called for cooperation from other nations, stating: "Global action is required to stop a global threat. Any country that hosts North Korean guest workers,

provides any economic or military benefits, or fails to fully implement UN Security Council resolutions is aiding and abetting a dangerous regime.”

Asahi wrote that although the Trump administration is expected to take the next step in response to the latest provocation by the DPRK, military options appear unfeasible. Mainichi wrote that there is no clear path toward effective pressure on North Korea in sight because China and Russia remain hesitant to apply greater pressure on Pyongyang. Yomiuri wrote that although an ICBM test by North Korea had been viewed as a “red line” for U.S. military action, the Trump administration will likely step up economic sanctions on North Korea instead of taking military action. Nikkei wrote that attention will be focused on how the U.S. responds to North Korea’s ICBM test.

### **Secretary Tillerson, FM Kishida agree on need for more pressure on North Korea**

All papers wrote that Secretary of State Tillerson and Foreign Minister Kishida spoke by phone on Thursday and agreed on the need to further increase the international pressure on North Korea. The U.S. and Japanese officials also agreed to seek another UN Security Council resolution that will include harsher sanctions on Pyongyang at its emergency meeting today.

### **U.S., ROK conduct missile firing drills in response to North Korea’s ICBM test**

All Wednesday evening papers front-paged reports on a joint U.S.-ROK military exercise conducted on Wednesday, during which the two militaries fired ballistic missiles on the eastern coast of South Korea. The papers wrote that the drills were apparently carried out in response to North Korea’s ICBM test on Tuesday.

### **China to monitor North Korean nuclear tests more closely**

Mainichi front-paged a report saying that Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) has told the paper that the Chinese government is planning to begin by the end of this year operations at five domestic facilities that can detect radioactive gasses generated by nuclear tests. The paper wrote that this may be part of China’s measures to step up the pressure on North Korea. According to the paper, the CTBTO has been urging China to begin operations at these facilities for the past ten years and Beijing has only recently responded positively to the call.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Japan, EU reach broad agreement on EPA**

All papers gave top play to reports on a meeting held between Foreign Minister Kishida and EU Trade Commissioner Malmstrom in Brussels on Wednesday, during which the two parties reached a broad agreement on an EPA. According to the papers, Japan agreed to set up a low-tariff quota for European cheese and phase out tariffs on cheese in 15 years, while the EU consented to eliminate its tariffs on Japanese auto exports in seven years. Kishida told reporters after the meeting that

Japan and the EU as leaders of free trade reached a high-level and comprehensive agreement that sets a good example for the world. Prime Minister Abe and European Council President Tusk are expected to confirm the agreement at their planned talks to be held in Brussels on Thursday.

Asahi speculated that Japan and the EU reached an agreement in their trade negotiations that have gone on for four years by reciprocally making concessions based on the common goal of taking the lead in free trade. Yomiuri wrote that common concern over growing protectionist sentiments around the world urged Japan and the EU to reach an agreement. Nikkei conjectured that Japan is hoping to take advantage of its trade agreement with the EU to boost its own economy.

### **Japan to host TPP chief negotiators' meeting**

Nikkei wrote that the GOJ will host a meeting for the chief negotiators of the TPP member states from July 12 through 14 in Hakone, Kanagawa Prefecture, speculating that the participants will discuss the possibility of reaching an agreement on the TP

### **Cargo ship carrying MOX fuel departs France for Japan**

NHK reported this morning that a cargo ship carrying MOX fuel to be used for Reactor No. 4 at Takahama Nuclear Power Plant in Fukui, which resumed operations in May, left France for Japan on Thursday. The network said the MOX fuel, nuclear fuel that contains plutonium blended with uranium, was manufactured by French company Areva for KEPCO, and will be used for pluthermal power generation at Reactor No. 4. The network said this is the second time for MOX fuel to be shipped to Japan since the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011. The network added that the vessel will likely take two to three months to reach Japan, and in order to ensure security, its route will only be disclosed after about two weeks. Noting that the construction of new nuclear power stations has become difficult following the Fukushima nuclear accident, the network said Areva is facing financial difficulties, quoting its spokesperson as saying: "We hope to be able to continue providing MOX fuel to Japan."

## **POLITICS**

### **Communist party leader to visit U.S. for UN meeting on treaty to ban nuclear weapons**

Asahi wrote that Japanese Communist Party Chairman Shii left for New York on Wednesday to attend a UN meeting on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons to be held on Friday. Shii visited the U.S. in March to lobby for the conclusion of the Nuclear Weapons Convention.

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