



Morning Alert - Thursday, November 9, 2017

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.

HEADLINES

Morning news

NHK and Fuji TV gave top play to reports that four Japanese tourists were killed after a van they were traveling struck a truck in Ayutthaya, Thailand, on Wednesday afternoon. TV Asahi led with a report on the summit meeting planned for today between President Trump and President Xi in China. TBS reported on the President's speech before the South Korean National Assembly yesterday. NTV led with a report that 94% of the fish in the largest tank at Sunshine Aquarium in Ikebukuro, Tokyo, were found dead yesterday.

Top stories in national dailies included President Trump's remarks to the National Assembly of South Korea (Mainichi, Sankei); a GOJ plan to cut fees for medical services (Asahi); a plan by Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ to reduce full-service branches by half by March 2024 (Yomiuri); and a plan by Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ to invest in Indonesia's Bank Danamon (Nikkei).

INTERNATIONAL

President Trump delivers strong message to North Korea in Seoul speech

All papers reported on President Trump's remarks to the National Assembly of South Korea on Wednesday, saying that the President stressed the United States' policy of continuing to apply pressure on the DPRK by using all possible economic, diplomatic, military means until the nation abandons its nuclear programs. The papers wrote that the President sent a warning to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un by saying: "I also have come here to this peninsula to deliver a message directly to the leader of the North Korean dictatorship." The papers wrote that the U.S. leader also held out the possibility of future dialogue with Pyongyang that would offer the regime "a path to a much better future."

Asahi wrote that the President stressed the need for full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on North Korea by citing China and Russia by name and said: "The time for excuses is over. Now is the time for strength.... All responsible nations must join forces to isolate the brutal regime of North Korea." Quoting the President as saying, "The world cannot tolerate the menace of a rogue regime that threatens with nuclear devastation," Mainichi wrote that the President refrained from using provocative rhetoric out of consideration for China and Russia. Yomiuri wrote that the President delivered a stern warning to North Korea, quoting him as saying: "We will not permit America or our allies to be blackmailed or attacked.... Do not underestimate us, and do not try us.... The regime has interpreted America's past restraint as weakness. This would be a fatal miscalculation. This is a very different administration than the United States has had in the past."

Asahi also wrote that the President took up North Korea's human rights violations, including abductions, by saying: "Soldiers have kidnapped foreigners and forced them to work as language tutors for North Korean spies." The paper quoted a senior White House official as saying that no other speech by a U.S. president in the past has delved into the true nature of North Korea and shined the spotlight on its human rights violations, and the President delivered a clear message that it is the responsibility of the global community to confront the threat posed by the DPRK. Asahi and Yomiuri wrote that White House Press Secretary Sanders expressed the view on Wednesday that the President will decide whether to put the DPRK back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism at the end of his Asia tour. Sankei wrote that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga welcomed the President's reference to the abductions in his address on Wednesday by saying the remarks were extremely significant for seeking an early resolution of the abduction issue.

President Trump arrives in China

All papers reported on President Trump's arrival in Beijing on Wednesday for his three-day visit to China. Saying that President Xi and his wife greeted the President and the First Lady at the Forbidden City and gave them a tour there, Asahi wrote that China is rolling out the red carpet for the U.S. leader while Nikkei said that Beijing is demonstrating "diplomacy as a major power equal to the U.S." The papers speculated that President Trump will call on President Xi to take specific steps against North Korea, including a ban on oil exports, and reduce its trade deficit with the U.S.

FM Kono lodges protest over South Korea's banquet for President Trump

Asahi and Sankei wrote that Foreign Minister Kono filed a protest with the South Korean government on Wednesday for inviting a former comfort woman to the state banquet in honor of President Trump on Tuesday and serving "Dokdo shrimp."

PM Abe to hold talks with President Xi

Sankei wrote that it has learned from several GOJ sources that Prime Minister Abe is making arrangements to hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi on Nov. 11 on the sidelines of

the APEC leaders' meeting to be held in Vietnam. Abe also plans to meet with Chinese Premier Li on Nov. 13 on the margins of the ASEAN leaders' meeting to be held in Manila.

SECURITY

U.S. Air Force's F-35A makes "emergency landing" at Kadena AB

Tokyo Shimbun front-paged a report saying that an official of the town of Kadena witnessed a U.S. Air Force F-35A fighter jet landing at Kadena Air Base at around 10:40 a.m. on Wednesday with a fire truck standing by on each side of the runway. The paper wrote that although the Air Force explained that the jet made a "precautionary landing," the Kadena town government believes it was an "emergency landing." No damage to the aircraft or injuries have been reported.

Osprey accident rate higher than that of other Marine aircraft

Asahi and Yomiuri wrote that the Ministry of Defense announced on Wednesday that the accident rate of the MV-22 Osprey at the end of September this year was 3.27 per 100,000 flight hours. Asahi wrote although the GOJ has explained that the accident rate of the Osprey is the same or lower than that of other aircraft operated by the U.S. Marine Corps, its explanation has lost one of its justifications because the accident rate for all Marine aircraft was 2.72.

POLITICS

Tamaki, Ogushi declare candidacy in Party of Hope leadership race

All Wednesday evening papers wrote that Yuichiro Tamaki and Hiroshi Ogushi, both of whom were reelected as Lower House members in the latest general election, filed their candidacies on Wednesday for co-leader of the Party of Hope. The party will select a co-leader to work with Tokyo Governor Koike, who leads the party from outside the Diet, in a vote by its 53 lawmakers on Friday. Tamaki, a fourth-term politician from Kagawa Prefecture who is supportive of the new security laws, expressed his intention to promote discussion on constitutional revision, including Article 9, during a news conference. Ogushi, a fifth-term legislator from Saga Prefecture who is against the security laws, stated at the same news conference that it is not necessary at this stage to amend Article 9.