


JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Morning Alert - Monday, November 13, 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 gave top play to a report that Prime Minister Abe will attend the Japan-ASEAN Summit today and exchange views with his counterparts on economic cooperation and measures against North Korea. The premier is also expected to attend the ASEAN+3 Summit and the East Asia Summit tomorrow. TBS and TV Asahi led with reports on President Trump's first tour of Asia, with TV Asahi saying that President Trump and President Xi have developed closer ties. NTV led with a report that a racing car struck a group of spectators in Saga on Sunday, leaving one in serious condition. Fuji TV reported on the temporary suspension of all service on Tokyo's Yamanote Line on Sunday afternoon.

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

ECONOMY

President Trump emphasizes "America First" trade policy

All Saturday morning papers reported on President Trump's speech in Da Nang, Vietnam, on Friday, during which he presented a "free and open Indo-Pacific" strategy. Mainichi said that the President once again stressed the policy of promoting bilateral trade agreements based on "America First," adding that the speech failed to present a vision on what role the U.S. will play in regional stability and prosperity and how it will deal with China's hegemonic advancement in the region. Yomiuri wrote that the President justified the U.S. withdrawal from the TPP by saying that America will no longer participate in "multilateral agreements that tie our hands and surrender our sovereignty." The daily added that President Trump expressed his frustration over the U.S. trade deficit and urged nations in the region to open up their markets. Yomiuri wrote the President played up his "America

First” policy, highlighting the difference between his administration’s policies and the Obama administration’s rebalance to Asia.

11 TPP members reach broad accord

All Sunday morning papers reported that the trade ministers of the 11 TPP nations announced that they reached a new broad agreement on Saturday in Da Nang, Vietnam, saying that they agreed to suspend 20 clauses in the original text mainly on intellectual property until the U.S. returns to the deal. They also announced that the name of the new agreement will be “Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership” (CPTPP). Nikkei reported that leaders of the 11 nations will sign the agreement as soon as early next year and seek to effectuate it in 2019, adding that it will be the first mega-FTA in the Asia-Pacific region. Asahi said, however, that it remains to be seen whether the 11 nations will be able to effectuate the agreement, given that Canada refused to attend the signing ceremony at the last minute. Yomiuri wrote that Japan, which has been taking the initiative in the TPP following the U.S. withdrawal, is hoping to conclude a high-quality deal and demonstrate the benefits of a multilateral free trade framework to the U.S. Noting that President Trump defended the U.S. withdrawal from the TPP during his speech on Friday and that President Xi is aiming to increase China’s influence in the region through his “One Belt, One Road” initiative, the paper said Japan’s leadership is being tested.

APEC leaders issue declaration

Sunday’s Asahi, Nikkei, and Mainichi reported that the APEC summit ended on Saturday in Da Nang, Vietnam, after the leaders adopted and issued a declaration which says the member economies will fight protectionism. It also refers to possible measures against practices that distort markets, reflecting consideration for the Trump administration.

EU to lift import ban on Fukushima rice

Sunday’s Yomiuri reported that the European Union officially decided on Saturday to partially lift its import ban on food products from the disaster-hit Tohoku region, including Fukushima rice as well as yellowtail and red sea bream from Iwate. The paper said the ban will be lifted on Dec. 1.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan, UK to hold “2+2” meeting next month

NHK reported this morning that Japan and the UK are planning to hold their third “2+2” meeting of foreign and defense ministers in London on Dec. 14. The network said the Japanese side is hoping to confirm cooperation for increasing pressure on North Korea as it poses a threat to the entire international community and to convey its position that any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force is unacceptable, with China’s maritime advancement in mind. In addition, the network said the two sides are expected to discuss joint military training between the GSDF and the British

army around December 2018 and joint research on the development of defense equipment, including fighters.

Suga comments on U.S.-China summit

Friday morning's Nikkei reported that when speaking of President Trump's call on President Xi to increase pressure on the DPRK, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters on Thursday that the general idea of having the international community apply pressure on North Korea has "taken shape" with President Trump's visit to Asia. Suga also referred to the U.S.-Japan summit, in which the two leaders agreed to maximize pressure on the North, by reportedly saying: "Judging from the results of the U.S.-China summit, the U.S.-Japan summit was extremely significant."

Abe, Putin agree on implementation of UNSC resolutions

All Saturday morning papers reported on the summit held on Friday between Prime Minister Abe and President Putin on the sidelines of the APEC summit in Vietnam. The papers wrote that the two leaders agreed to strictly implement the UNSC resolutions against North Korea and work together closely. They also agreed to accelerate discussions on implementing joint economic activities in the Northern Territories next spring, begin discussions on a legal framework for the movement of former residents, hold a vice-ministerial level meeting next year, and make it possible for former residents to visit their ancestors' graves again next year. Mainichi said that no major progress was made in the territorial discussions, adding that the Japanese side is hoping to make headway after the Russian presidential election in March.

Foreign Minister Kono says China does not border the Pacific

Concerning Chinese President Xi's remarks during a joint press conference with President Trump on Friday that "the Pacific is big enough to accommodate both China and the United States," Foreign Minister Kono expressed displeasure during a BS-Asahi program recorded on Friday, Sankei reported on Saturday. He was quoted as saying: "China does not border the Pacific."

Foreign Minister Kono says Japan to deepen ties with South Korea in positive manner

Saturday morning's Sankei reported that Foreign Minister Kono told a press conference on Friday that he will respond in a level-headed manner to the South Korean foreign ministry's rebuttal of Japan's protest against a banquet held for President Trump in South Korea, where "Dokdo" shrimp were served and a former "comfort woman" was in attendance. Kono reportedly stressed: "We won't quibble about how South Korea reacted. Amid the North Korean crisis, it is important for Japan and South Korea to deepen ties in a positive manner."

U.S. media says no nuclear or missile tests for 60 days would be condition for dialogue with DPRK

Saturday morning's Sankei reported that Washington Post reported online on Thursday that U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy Joseph Yun said at an off-the-record meeting of a U.S.

think tank held on Oct. 30 that if North Korea halted its nuclear and missile testing for about 60 days, that would be the signal the U.S. needs to resume direct dialogue with Pyongyang. The U.S. media also reported that Yun's view is consistent with that of Secretary of State Tillerson.

SECURITY

GOJ making arrangements to deploy Aegis Ashore in Akita, Yamaguchi

Saturday's Yomiuri and Sunday's Nikkei reported that the GOJ is making arrangements to deploy Aegis Ashore system at ASDF camps in Akita and Yamaguchi prefectures to prepare for possible ballistic missile launches by North Korea. Nikkei wrote that the government is planning to allocate funds in the FY2017 supplementary budget for research into whether the high-performance radar of the Aegis Ashore system would cause radio interfer

MSDF to conduct joint training with three U.S. aircraft carriers on Sunday

Saturday's Sankei and Mainichi reported that three MSDF vessels and three U.S. Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carriers will conduct joint military training in the Sea of Japan on Sunday. The paper said the joint drills are intended to demonstrate strong partnership between the U.S. and Japan and put pressure on North Korea.

Sunday's Nikkei reported that diplomatic sources from Japan and South Korea disclosed that although the U.S. originally proposed holding trilateral military exercises between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea, it has been decided that the U.S. will hold separate training with South Korea and Japan due to South Korea's opposition to trilateral drills. The paper said the U.S.-ROK joint military training will be held in the Sea of Japan from Nov. 11 to 14.

Ambassador Hagerty to meet Okinawa governor for first time on Nov. 13

Sankei reported on Saturday that the Okinawa government announced on Friday that Ambassador Hagerty will visit Okinawa and meet with Governor Onaga for the first time on Monday. The paper wrote that Governor Onaga is expected to call for a reduction in the base-hosting "burden" on Okinawa following the incidents involving U.S. military aircraft and convey his opposition to the Futenma relocation plan.

SCIENCE

Environment Minister Nakagawa to ask U.S. to reconsider withdrawal from Paris Agreement

Saturday morning's Mainichi reported that Minister of the Environment Nakagawa told a press conference on Friday that he will attend the COP23 meeting in Bonn, Germany, starting on Nov. 13 and urge the U.S. through bilateral talks and other occasions to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. Nakagawa reportedly said: "I want to convey to the U.S. the importance of addressing climate change and promoting innovation in order to balance measures to tackle

climate change and economic growth. I would like to urge the U.S. to reconsider the decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement.”

POLITICS

Yuichiro Tamaki to be co-leader of Party of Hope

All Saturday papers reported that the Party of Hope elected Lower House member Yuichiro Tamaki on Friday to serve as co-leader alongside its founder, Tokyo Governor Koike. Nikkei wrote that Tamaki will work with Koike on rebuilding the party, which suffered a massive defeat in the Lower House election.

