



Morning Alert - Tuesday, November 21, 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](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

## HEADLINES

### Morning news

NHK and NTV gave top play to reports that President Trump announced on Monday that he has put North Korea back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism. Video showed the President saying at the White House: "In addition to threatening the world by nuclear devastation, North Korea has repeatedly supported acts of international terrorism including assassinations on foreign soil." The President also announced that the Treasury Department will announce major additional sanctions against North Korea on Tuesday. Other top news included reports on the alleged assault case by sumo grand champion Harumafuji.

Top stories in national dailies included Diet interpellation on Monday, during which Prime Minister Abe discussed constitutional revision and other issues with lawmakers (Mainichi, Yomiuri); the likelihood of Canada's request for a new TPP agreement being rejected by the other 10 members (Sankei); a GOJ plan to cut taxes for businesses that raise wages or boost investment (Nikkei); and a new arrest warrant issued for the suspected serial killer in Zama (Asahi).

## INTERNATIONAL

### Chinese envoy returns from DPRK apparently without meeting Kim Jong Un

All papers reported that Song Tao, the head of the Chinese Communist Party's International Department and a special envoy of President Xi Jinping, returned to China on Monday after a four-day visit to North Korea. There have been no reports in the official media of the two countries that Song met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Asahi wrote that North Korea's "cool" treatment of the Chinese envoy indicates North Korea's obstinate rejection of calls from the U.S. and China for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The paper also wrote that substantial improvement in relations between Beijing and Pyongyang will probably be difficult and that China will likely be torn

between the Kim regime and the Trump administration, which is calling for further sanctions. Mainichi wrote that the apparent absence of a meeting between the Chinese envoy and the North Korean leader indicates a rift between Beijing and Pyongyang.

### **Prime Minister Abe's advisor to visit U.S.**

Nikkei wrote that the GOJ announced on Monday that Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Sonoura will visit the U.S. on Nov. 20-22. The GOJ official will hold talks with senior USG officials, including close aides to President Trump, in Washington and visit Virginia to hold meetings with senior state officials and Japanese business people operating there.

### **Komeito leader to visit South Korea, China**

All papers wrote that Komeito Chief Representative Yamaguchi announced on Monday that he will visit South Korea on Nov. 22-25 and China on Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Yamaguchi is hoping to hold talks with President Moon in Seoul and President Xi in Beijing to discuss North Korea and a possible trilateral summit between the leaders of the three nations.

## **SECURITY**

### **Top Marine in Okinawa apologizes to governor for fatal accident involving service member**

Asahi, Mainichi, and Tokyo Shimbun wrote that in response to the arrest of an Okinawa Marine over his involvement in a fatal drunk-driving accident in Naha on Sunday, Okinawa Area Coordinator Nicholson offered an apology to Okinawa Governor Onaga on Monday by saying that the incident is very regrettable. Onaga responded by saying: "You say you're going to tighten discipline and prevent a recurrence, but the people of Okinawa can't trust you at all. We can't call you 'good neighbors.'"

In a related development, Sankei wrote that the Okinawa police announced on Monday that about 30 vehicles used by U.S. military personnel have been defaced with graffiti in the prefecture since Sunday. The police are investigating the cases of vandalism to see whether they were connected to the fatal accident involving the Marine.

### **USFJ issues alcohol ban**

All Monday evening papers reported on restrictions imposed by the USFJ on service members in response to an accident on Sunday morning in Naha in which an Okinawan man was killed when his vehicle was struck by a truck being driven by a U.S. Marine. Under the restrictions, U.S. service members in Japan are prohibited from purchasing or consuming alcohol either on or off base, and U.S. service members in Okinawa are required to stay on base or in their residences. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga stated at a press conference on Monday that the incident is very regrettable and that the GOJ conveyed great displeasure over the incident to the U.S. military and the U.S. Embassy and made strong requests that the U.S. side enforce stricter discipline, take measures to prevent a

recurrence, and respond sincerely to the family of the victim. Asahi, Yomiuri, and Nikkei wrote that Suga also said that Ambassador Hagerty has expressed condolences and an apology.

## **ECONOMY**

### **GOJ prepares assistance package for farmers in preparation for TPP, Japan-EU EPA**

Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri, and Nikkei wrote that the GOJ presented to a meeting of the ruling coalition on Monday a package of assistance measures for Japan's agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries, which will likely be affected by the new TPP agreement and Japan-EU EPA. The measures are likely to total around 300 billion yen and include subsidies for farmers producing milk for cheese. The GOJ will officially decide on the package this week and include it in a supplementary budget for fiscal 2017.

### **Canada's request for cultural exemptions in TPP likely to be rejected by other members**

Sankei gave top play to a report saying Canada's request to include "cultural exemptions" for foreign investment in the new TPP agreement will likely be turned down by the other 10 TPP members. The paper wrote that Canada will probably skip a signing ceremony for the new accord if its request is turned down.