



Morning Alert - Thursday, April 5, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Morning news

Most networks gave top play to reports on the revelation that although the daily activity logs of a GSDF unit in Iraq were discovered in March 2017, the defense minister was not informed at the time. Fuji TV led with a report that several women who tried to provide treatment to Maizuru City Mayor Tatami when he collapsed in a sumo ring were ordered to leave the area because women are traditionally not allowed in the ring.

All national dailies other than Nikkei gave top play to reports on the GSDF's failure to report its discovery of daily activity logs to the defense minister. Nikkei led with a report on the United States' announcement of its plan to impose tariffs on China for its violation of intellectual property rights, and China's announcement of retaliatory measures.

## INTERNATIONAL

### U.S. may consider quid pro quo for concrete actions by DPRK

Yomiuri ran a Washington-dated report claiming that according to a source connected to U.S.-Japan relations, President Trump plans to discuss with Prime Minister Abe in their talks in Florida on April 17-18 a roadmap for the denuclearization of North Korea, including possible rewards to Pyongyang in exchange for concrete actions toward denuclearization. The paper speculated that Washington is mulling such steps as easing its unilateral sanctions, including the travel ban to North Korea; scaling back military exercises; establishing channels of communication between the two nations' militaries; and expanding humanitarian assistance.

### IOC chief briefs Abe on his trip to North Korea

Asahi, Mainichi, Sankei, and Nikkei reported on a telephone conversation between Prime Minister

Abe and International Olympic Committee President Bach on Wednesday, during which the IOC chief briefed the prime minister on his trip to Pyongyang and meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last week. Kim reportedly expressed North Korea's intention to send athletes to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in his talks with the IOC chief. Prime Minister Abe reportedly told Bach that he hopes the IOC will give consideration to the Japanese public's strong feelings about the abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea.

### **Japan files protests with U.S., Russia over power plant construction on Shikotan**

Nikkei wrote that Foreign Minister Kono told a meeting of the Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee on Wednesday that Japan has lodged protests with the United States and Russia over a U.S. firm's plan to build a power plant on Shikotan Island in the Northern Territories. Kono reportedly said that a third country firm's engagement in economic activities on the island runs counter to Japan's position and is extremely regrettable. Kono reportedly added that problems of this sort can't be settled unless the issue of the Northern Territories is resolved.

## **SECURITY**

### **Ospreys to be deployed at Yokota ahead of schedule**

Asahi reported on the arrival of five CV-22 Ospreys in Yokohama on Wednesday, saying that although the Osprey deployment at Yokota AB was planned for October 2019 or later, it is now scheduled to take place this summer. The paper wrote that the Trump administration's security strategy of attaching importance to Asia was behind the accelerated deployment of the aircraft, quoting an unnamed GOJ official as saying, "The United States moved up the deployment of Ospreys to Japan specifically in response to the situation on the Korean Peninsula and moves by China."

### **Children at Camp Kinser learn about Okinawa's history**

NHK reported this morning that pupils at Kinser Elementary School at USMC Camp Kinser in Okinawa are learning about the history of the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. The network showed a group of children of U.S. military personnel and civilians stationed in Okinawa presenting 4,000 origami cranes to a memorial at Maeda Kochi, or Hacksaw Ridge, the site of a fierce fighting, last week. The network said the students are learning about the history of Okinawa in their Japanese language classes. A Japanese teacher was shown giving a presentation to the children about Maeda Kochi. Another teacher asked the children how they would feel if they were dragged into a battle like the local residents in Okinawa were, and stressed the importance of understanding the feelings of the Okinawan people and the fact that many of them died in the fighting. At Maeda Kochi, where a survivor talked to the children about the battle, the teacher asked them to take the story of Okinawa back to the U.S. and spread the word. One of the children was quoted as saying: "It was kind of shocking how many people survived and how many didn't. That was kind of sad." Another child was quoted as saying: "I felt that this was a great experience and I'll remember it forever. It was

just amazing to be able to learn the history and donate the cranes to the Hacksaw Ridge memorial.” The network said the wish for peace is being handed down to the next generation and across cultures.

## ECONOMY

### **U.S.-China trade war may affect Japanese economy**

Sankei wrote that concern about a “trade war” between the United States and China is growing. The paper claimed that Japan’s exports might be severely affected by a trade war because the volume of worldwide trade could decrease and the value of the yen could rise. The paper said that according to an estimate by a private organization, Japan’s GDP could drop by about 1.4%.

### **Japan may face difficulties responding to U.S. demands for market opening**

Yomiuri wrote that amid the escalating trade war between Washington and Beijing, Japan may run into difficulties dealing with trade issues because the United States is concerned about its trade deficit with Japan and may step up its market-opening pressure on Tokyo. The paper wrote that although the steel tariffs will likely be taken up for discussion at the planned U.S.-Japan summit on April 17-18, there is concern within the GOJ that the United States will call for launching FTA talks if Tokyo asks Washington to exempt Japan from the tariffs.

