



Morning Alert - Monday, June 11, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Morning news

NHK and NTV led with the forecast for heavy rain in the Kanto, Koshin, and Tokai regions due to an approaching typhoon. TBS led with a report on the upcoming U.S.-DPRK summit. Fuji TV and TV Asahi led with reports that a man with a knife went on a rampage aboard an Osaka-bound Bullet Train on Saturday evening, killing one passenger and injuring two others.

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

## INTERNATIONAL

### G7 nations agree on DPRK, but differ over trade

All national dailies gave extensive coverage on Sunday to the G7 summit held in Canada on June 8-9. The papers wrote that the G7 leaders agreed to cooperate on the denuclearization of North Korea, including providing support for a successful summit between President Trump and DPRK leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore on Tuesday and fully implementing UNSC sanctions resolutions. Prime Minister Abe reportedly obtained support from the other G7 nations in resolving the abduction issue.

However, the papers wrote that major differences remained between the United States and the European members and Canada over such issues as trade, including the U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Iran nuclear deal. The papers wrote that the leaders of Canada and all the European members except Italy expressed opposition to President Trump's proposal to invite Russia to return to the G7. Prime Minister Abe did not express a clear position on the proposal but simply stated that it is necessary to hold dialogue with Russia. Asahi conjectured that Abe was trying not to isolate President Trump in the G7 discussions, while Yomiuri

claimed that the prime minister was attempting to maintain G7 unity out of concern that a dispute over trade could undermine cooperation against the DPRK.

Asahi claimed that this year's G7 summit produced little in the way of results and that cooperation among the group is being undermined by the rift between the Trump administration and other members. Mainichi wrote that the G7, which has addressed global issues based on the shared values of free trade and democracy, is facing a critical test on whether its members will be able to uphold the unity they have maintained for 40 years. Nikkei wrote that the differences between the G7 nations could affect their ability to address global economic risks. Sankei claimed that concern over the possibility of the Trump administration imposing a 25% tariff on autos will grow if the gap between the United States and the other G7 nations remains, speculating that additional tariffs would likely deal a major blow to Japan.

### **President Trump, Prime Minister Abe discuss DPRK, trade at bilateral summit**

All national dailies on Saturday reported extensively on the summit held between President Trump and Prime Minister Abe in Washington on June 7, during which the two leaders reportedly discussed how to deal with North Korea and U.S.-Japan trade. Mainichi ran an editorial saying that it was appropriate for the two leaders to confirm their policies in dealing with North Korea, including the need to maintain sanctions and resolve the abduction issue. Yomiuri wrote in an editorial that the summit was appropriate and timely because the two leaders discussed the latest information on North Korea and coordinated their policies ahead of the Singapore summit. The paper wrote that LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Kishida welcomed the results of the summit by saying that it was timely and useful because President Trump delivered a strong message about North Korea. Komeito Secretary General Inoue stated that the summit produced major results because President Trump and PM Abe reconfirmed their commitment to cooperating closely in resolving the abduction issue. Nikkei pointed out that Abe avoided using the term "pressure" in the post-summit press conference to give priority to maintaining unity between Washington and Tokyo out of consideration for the President's policy of attaching importance to dialogue.

The national dailies also took up the President's remarks on U.S.-Japan trade. Asahi wrote that although the prime minister explained Japan's procurement of American defense equipment and Japanese firms' investment in the United States, the two leaders reportedly did not discuss the issue of U.S. tariffs. The paper speculated that Abe did not bring up the issue based on the view that it would be unhelpful to have a trade dispute with the United States ahead of the Singapore summit because Japan needs America's cooperation in resolving the abduction issue. Mainichi and Yomiuri expressed similar views, with Yomiuri adding that although the two nations agreed to convene the first session of the new "free, fair, and reciprocal" trade talks in July, Japan will probably maintain its position of not making concessions beyond the level of market opening agreed on in the TPP. Claiming that the President apparently indicated the possibility of calling on Japan to open its auto

market by reportedly saying that the American people are buying a lot of products from Japan, especially automobiles, Sankei speculated that the U.S. government may urge Japan to make concessions by hinting at the possibility of imposing restrictions on auto imports.

### **Secretary Mattis to visit Japan in late June**

Sunday's Yomiuri wrote that it has learned from multiple sources connected to U.S.-Japan relations that arrangements are being made for Secretary of Defense Mattis to visit Japan and South Korea after his planned trip to China in late June. The paper wrote that the Secretary will probably pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Abe in addition to meeting with Defense Minister Onodera.

### **Abe holds bilateral talks with British, German leaders**

Sunday's Yomiuri wrote that Prime Minister Abe held separate bilateral talks with British Prime Minister May and German Chancellor Merkel on Friday on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Canada. PM Abe agreed with both leaders to cooperate in persuading North Korea to denuclearize in a "complete, verifiable, and irreversible" manner. The Japanese and German leaders agreed that they will work together toward signing a Japan-EU EPA at an early date. Chancellor Merkel expressed her intention to visit Japan prior to her participation in the G20 summit to be held in Osaka in June 2019. Nikkei and Sankei ran similar reports.

### **Japan to send senior officials to Singapore for U.S.-DPRK summit**

Saturday's Asahi wrote that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga announced on Friday that Japan will send Secretary General Yachi of the National Security Council Secretariat and MOFA Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau Director General Kanasugi to Singapore on Sunday for the U.S.-DPRK summit to be held there on June 12. Suga said that Japan is dispatching the two officials who are well-versed in North Korean issues to collect information.

### **Japan planning informal working-level talks with DPRK in Mongolia**

Sunday's Asahi wrote that the GOJ is making arrangements to hold an informal working-level meeting with North Korean officials on the sidelines of an international security conference to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on June 14-15. The paper speculated that the GOJ plans to tell DPRK officials that the Japan is prepared to normalize its ties with North Korea and provide economic assistance if the abduction issue is resolved. Yomiuri ran a similar report.

### **U.S. makes request regarding Japan's plutonium stockpile**

Sunday's **Nikkei** led with a report saying that it learned from a source on Saturday that ahead of the expected extension of the U.S.-Japan bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement next month, the U.S. National Security Council has asked Japan to appropriately use and control its plutonium stockpile, including setting a cap on it and announcing plans for its reduction. The paper wrote that although plutonium production is banned in principle to prevent nations from producing nuclear weapons, under the bilateral pact energy-poor Japan has been allowed to extract the material when reprocessing spent nuclear fuel. The paper speculated that the United States may have made the

request ahead of its planned summit with the DPRK on June 12, during which it plans to urge North Korea to denuclearize completely, in response to the international community's firm position on nuclear nonproliferation. The daily wrote that Japan's energy policy may face a turning point if Washington urges Tokyo to review the bilateral accord due to Japan's failure to reduce its plutonium stockpile because that would make it difficult for Japan to continue reprocessing spent nuclear fuel.

### **Russia plans to lay optical fiber cable between Sakhalin and Northern Territories**

Sunday's Sankei front-paged a report saying that it learned from a GOJ source on Saturday that the Russian government has informed the GOJ that a Russian firm will begin work to lay optical fiber cables between Sakhalin Island and the Northern Territories on Sunday or later. The GOJ has lodged a protest with the Russian government in response to the move by saying that such a major infrastructure project runs counter to Japan's position on the Northern Territories. According to the source, the Russian authority on sea lane control notified the Japan Coast Guard on June 5 that work to lay the cable will be conducted between June 10 and November 15. According to the paper, a Chinese firm has been selected to perform the work.

## **SECURITY**

### **F-15 fighter crashes in waters off Naha**

NHK reported online that according to Defense Ministry officials, an F-15 fighter belonging to Kadena AB crashed in waters 80 km south of Naha around 6:30 this morning. The network said the pilot ejected and was rescued by an SDF aircraft. The broadcaster said the condition of the pilot is unknown. Kyodo ran a similar report on its website.

