



Morning Alert - Friday, July 6, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Morning news

All networks led with reports on the heavy rain in many parts of Japan, saying that more than 160,000 people in the Kansai region have been ordered to evacuate.

Top stories in national dailies included the planned imposition of reciprocal tariffs today by the United States and China (Nikkei), follow-up stories on the arrest of a senior education ministry official on a bribery charge (Asahi, Yomiuri, Sankei), and Suruga Bank's improper loans to people who rented share houses (Mainichi).

## INTERNATIONAL

### Secretary Pompeo leaves for Pyongyang

Yomiuri wrote that Secretary of State Pompeo left Washington early Thursday for Pyongyang. Speculating that the Secretary is probably planning to discuss the "complete denuclearization" of North Korea with senior DPRK officials during his planned stay in Pyongyang until Saturday, the paper wrote that attention will be focused on whether the two nations will discuss specific steps toward denuclearization. The paper noted that this will be the Secretary's first time to hold talks with the North Koreans since the June 12 U.S.-DPRK summit and his third visit to Pyongyang.

### DPRK, Chinese leaders allegedly discussed possible USFK withdrawal

Thursday evening's Asahi claimed that it has learned from a source connected to China-DPRK relations that Chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi agreed at their talks in Beijing on June 19-20 to strategically cooperate in urging the United States to

withdraw its troops from South Korea in the future. The paper asserted that the Chinese and DPRK leaders also agreed that the DPRK should not rush to hold talks with the United States. The paper wrote that the meeting was held at the request of North Korea, which is concerned the current regime could become unstable if it moves forward with denuclearization, reforms, and opening doors. The paper also wrote that according to the source, Kim and Xi shared the view that the U.S. troop deployment on the Korean Peninsula would become unnecessary if the existing armistice agreement were replaced by a peace accord. The paper added that Kim told Xi that he had the impression that President Trump is an open-minded and courageous person with whom he can communicate.

### **Foreign Minister Kono confirms cooperation with IAEA**

All national dailies reported on Foreign Minister Kono's meeting with IAEA Director General Amano in Vienna on Thursday, during which the two reportedly exchanged the latest information about North Korea and confirmed close cooperation. Kono reportedly expressed Japan's readiness to provide financial and technical assistance if Pyongyang allows the IAEA to inspect its facilities.

### **Former abductee asks Abe to resolve abduction issue through direct talks with DPRK leader**

All national dailies wrote that Prime Minister Abe met with Hitomi Soga, a former Japanese abductee, and the mayors of three Niigata and Fukui cities where repatriated abductees are currently living at the Kantei on Thursday. The group reportedly asked the prime minister to bring back all the abduction victims as soon as possible by holding direct talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Abe reportedly said in reply that it is necessary for Japan and the DPRK to break out of the shell of mutual mistrust and start a new phase of diplomacy to resolve the abduction issue.

### **French president to visit Japan in autumn**

Mainichi wrote that the governments of Japan and France are making arrangements for French President Macron to visit Japan in October for talks with Prime Minister Abe. The paper wrote that this will be Macron's first visit to Japan as president and that the Japanese and French leaders will formally agree on the visit when they meet in Paris next week. The paper speculated that the two leaders will seek to deepen the ties between their nations by cooperating on such issues as the denuclearization of North Korea and maritime security.

### **Japan, Russia to hold "2+2" meeting**

Sankei wrote that the governments of Japan and Russia decided on Thursday to hold a "2+2" meeting of foreign and defense ministers on July 28 or 29 in Moscow.

## **ECONOMY**

### **U.S., Japan may hold new trade talks in late July**

**Nikkei** claimed that the governments of the United States and Japan are making arrangements to hold cabinet-level trade talks in Washington at the end of July or later with the participation of USTR

Lighthizer and Economic and Fiscal Policy Minister Motegi. The paper conjectured that the higher auto tariffs planned by the United States will be the largest factor affecting the course of the talks on “free, fair and reciprocal” trade. The paper added that the USTR will likely ask Japan to discuss a bilateral FTA.

## **SECURITY**

### **U.S., Japan mull joint development of next-generation anti-missile radar**

**Nikkei** front-paged a report claiming that the governments of the United States and Japan are looking to jointly develop next-generation radar technology for Aegis ships, which play a key role in defense against ballistic missiles. According to the daily, the new technology will have double the detection range of the existing system by using semiconductor technology developed by Japanese firms. The paper speculated that the two nations will strengthen their missile defense system with North Korea and China in mind and that cooperation in developing the core interceptor system will bring the U.S.-Japan alliance to a new stage. The paper also wrote that this would mark the first major military technology collaboration between the United States and Japan since 2014, when Japan relaxed rules that essentially banned exports of weapons and related technologies and established new ones on equipment transfers that facilitate teaming up.

### **LDP Okinawa chapter decides to select Ginowan mayor as candidate in gubernatorial race**

Mainichi, Yomiuri, and Nikkei wrote that a committee comprising the LDP Okinawa chapter and local business leaders decided on Thursday to field Ginowan Mayor Sakima as its candidate for the gubernatorial election slated for Nov. 18 and make a formal request to him on July 13. Sakima reportedly told the press on Thursday that he will give the matter serious thought and make an early decision.

### **Naha court orders two U.S. servicemen to pay damages to family of deceased taxi driver**

TBS reported this morning that the Okinawa Office of the Naha District Court ordered two U.S. service members to pay a total of about 26.4 million yen in damages to the family of a deceased taxi driver in Okinawa over an assault incident ten years ago. The network said the two U.S. service members struck the taxi driver on the head with a bottle and fled without paying their taxi fare. According to the report, the victim later suffered PTSD and died from an illness four years later. The network added that the two U.S. service members have already completed their sentences and failed to appear in court. The network said that based on SACO, the GOJ will pay the difference between the total damages and the compensation paid by the U.S. military.

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