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# JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Morning Alert - Wednesday, August 15, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Morning news

All networks led with reports on Typhoon Leepi, which made landfall in Kyushu early this morning.

Top stories in national dailies included a decision by the GOJ to postpone landfill work at Henoko that had been scheduled to start on Aug. 17 (Sankei); a GOJ plan to expand subsidies for firms employing disabled people (Yomiuri); Suruga Bank's false reports on problematic loans to Tokyo Star Bank (Mainichi); the expansion of economic globalization in developing nations through digital technology (Nikkei); and an increase in illegal trading of Japanese cultural properties via the Internet (Asahi).

## INTERNATIONAL

### South Korean president comments on comfort women on national memorial day

All national dailies reported on a speech delivered by South Korean President Moon at an unveiling ceremony for a monument to the Korean comfort women that was held on Tuesday when the nation observed its first official "comfort women memorial day." South Korea enacted a law last year designating Aug. 14 as a day to honor the Korean comfort women. Moon, while saying he hopes the comfort women issue will not escalate into a diplomatic conflict with Japan, expressed the view that the comfort women issue is not a matter that can be resolved only through diplomatic dialogue between Seoul and Tokyo because it is not just a bilateral historical issue but a universal problem of women's rights. Moon added that the issue can only be settled when the entire world, including South Korea and Japan, reflects on the past. In response to the speech by President Moon, Japan's Foreign Ministry reiterated its position that it is important to follow through with the 2015 accord between Japan and South Korea via diplomatic channels.

Asahi wrote that the ROK leader expressed a position that runs counter to the Japanese government's position that the comfort women issue was resolved by the 2015 agreement between the two nations. Yomiuri wrote that while President Moon refrained from making new demands or directly criticizing Tokyo, he stressed his position that the comfort women issue was not settled by the 2015 agreement. However, Mainichi conjectured that since President Moon said he does not want the comfort women issue to escalate into a diplomatic conflict with Japan, he was expressing his government's position that it will seek neither nullification nor renegotiation of the 2015 agreement.

### **Comfort women statue installed in Taiwan for first time**

All national dailies wrote that a statue symbolizing the comfort women was unveiled on Tuesday in the southern Taiwanese city of Tainan, the first such memorial erected in the country. Former Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou of the main opposition Nationalist Party (KMT) spoke at the unveiling ceremony and said the Japanese government should apologize and offer compensation to the comfort women.

### **China to overtake Japan as second-largest contributor to UN**

Mainichi and Nikkei wrote that according to the latest report on contributions to the UN, China is expected to surpass Japan as the second largest contributor to the general UN budget in the 2019-2021 period. According to the report, China is expected to overtake Japan as its estimated contribution will rise to 12.01%, while Japan's will fall to 8.56%. Mainichi speculated that a decline in Japan's presence in the UN could undermine Tokyo's bid to become a permanent member of the Security Council.

### **New international intellectual property arbitration center to open in Tokyo**

Yomiuri wrote that a new international arbitration center specializing in intellectual property will be established in Tokyo as early as September with the cooperation of Japanese, European, U.S., and other experts. It will be called the "International Arbitration Center in Tokyo" and be based on the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (the New York Convention), to which more than 150 countries are signatories.

### **U.S. Olympic gold medalist gives swimming tips to Tokyo students**

Yomiuri and Sankei wrote that U.S. Olympic gold medalist Katie Ledecky provided swimming tips to about 110 elementary, middle, and high school students at a clinic held in Tokyo on Tuesday. The event was co-hosted by the U.S. Embassy Tokyo and Tokyo's Setagaya Ward, which will host the U.S. Olympic team for the 2020 games. Yomiuri quoted Ledecky as telling the children that she hopes they will work hard to achieve their goals. She also said she will train hard for the next two years so she can return to Tokyo for the 2020 Olympics. Sankei quoted one of the students as saying: "I was very surprised by how fast she swims. I would like to become a person like Katie who sets high goals." Jiji Press filed a similar story. AP also filed a story about the swimming clinic, saying that the event was part of the U.S. Embassy's "Go for Gold" campaign, which brings American athletes and diplomats to participating Tokyo schools.

### **Ginowan Mayor Sakima announces candidacy for Okinawa governor**

All national dailies wrote that at a press conference on Tuesday Ginowan Mayor Sakima officially announced his candidacy for the Okinawa gubernatorial election on Sept. 30, speculating that he will have the full support of the Abe administration. Nikkei and Sankei said Sakima remarked that the continuous clashes between the Onaga administration and the central government created schisms among the Okinawan people but that he will strive to contribute to the prefecture's development in a forward-looking manner. However, he stopped short of clarifying his position on Futenma relocation, only saying: "The most important thing is to remove the danger at Futenma and seek the return of the land used for the Futenma base."

### **Osprey makes emergency landing on island in Kagoshima**

Asahi wrote that an MV-22 Osprey stationed at MCAS Futenma made an emergency landing at Amami Airport in Kagoshima Prefecture at around 5:20 p.m. on Tuesday and took off from the airport at around 7:20 p.m. The paper wrote that no injuries were reported but the landing caused about 25 commercial flights to be delayed at the airport. The paper also wrote that the U.S. military explained that the aircraft landed in accordance with safety procedures after a warning light came on.

### **Governors' association calls for SOFA revision**

Ryukyu Shimpo reported that the National Governors' Association (NGA) on Tuesday submitted to MOFA, MOD, and the U.S. Embassy a request for amending the SOFA, noting that the NGA chairman, Saitama Governor Ueda, accompanied by Okinawa Vice Governor Jahana, visited the Embassy and briefed Deputy Chief of Mission Joseph Young on the request. This was reportedly the first time ever for the prefectural leaders' group to file such a request with the central government. The NGA reportedly demanded that Japanese statutes, such as the Aviation Law, be applied to the U.S. military in principle.

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