



Morning Alert - Tuesday, August 21, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Morning news

Most networks gave top play to reports on Typhoons Soulik and Cimaron, which are expected to approach Japan this week. TBS led with a report that Akita Prefecture's Kanaashi Nogyo High School has advanced to the final of the National High School Baseball Championship at Koshien Stadium for the first time.

Major front-page items in national papers included a report claiming that most of the nation's regional banks are concerned about the Bank of Japan's monetary easing policy, a plan by the Education Ministry to use artificial intelligence to provide lessons tailored to each student, and the Environment Ministry's decision to adopt the numerical goals set forth in the G7 ocean plastics charter.

## INTERNATIONAL

### DPRK reportedly asked Secretary Pompeo to visit before Sept. 9

Yomiuri claimed in a report from Seoul that when meeting with U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Harris at the DMZ on Aug. 12, North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui asked for Secretary of State Pompeo to visit Pyongyang again before Sept. 9, the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the DPRK. According to an informed source involved in U.S.-DPRK relations, the top U.S. diplomat is likely to visit the Pyongyang in late August or early September since the two sides have made progress on such issues as establishing a timeline for denuclearization and disclosing a list of North Korea's nuclear weapons and facilities.

The source reportedly disclosed that in response to Ambassador Harris's strong call for swift denuclearization, the North Korean diplomat explained that the Kim regime is ready to renew its commitment to denuclearization if Secretary Pompeo agrees to return to Pyongyang. Choe also reportedly suggested that the U.S. official may be given a chance to hold talks with Kim Jong Un. However, Choe reportedly called for the Secretary to be more forthcoming in issuing a declaration to end the Korean War. The article speculated that if the Secretary travels to Pyongyang and successfully negotiates a nuclear deal there, Chairman Kim might visit the U.S. in late September on the margins of the annual UN General Assembly conference.

In a related development, most papers took up remarks made by Foreign Minister Kono during a diplomatic reception in Tokyo yesterday. He reportedly criticized North Korea for insisting on the early declaration of an end to the Korea War and stressed that denuclearization must be given top priority.

### **Kim Jong Un to skip international conference in Russia**

Yomiuri reported from Moscow on the disclosure by a senior Russian government official on Monday that Kim Jong Un has declined President Putin's invitation to attend an international business forum to be held in Vladivostok in mid-September. Explaining that Japan has been trying to arrange a meeting between the DPRK leader and Prime Minister Abe in the Russian city as a first step toward resolving the abduction issue, the daily said the Abe administration will now need to review its approach to North Korea.

### **ROK President Moon likely to visit Japan in autumn**

Yomiuri speculated that South Korean President Moon is likely to visit Japan perhaps in October for talks with Prime Minister Abe. As this year marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the bilateral "Joint Declaration" in 1998, the daily wrote that the two leaders are anxious to improve mutual ties and confirm greater coordination in dealing with North Korea.

### **CDPJ leader Edano to visit U.S.**

Asahi wrote that arrangements are underway for Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan leader Edano to visit Washington from Sept. 11 through 15 for talks with Democratic Party officials, including Senator Sanders. The leader of the largest opposition party also plans to deliver a speech there.

### **Japan, UK to jointly monitor ship-to-ship transfers involving DPRK**

Monday evening's Yomiuri wrote that the governments of Japan and the UK are making arrangements to jointly monitor ship-to-ship transfers of cargo in international waters involving the DPRK when the British frigate Argyll visits Japan from November through December. This will be the third time for Japan and the UK to work together to monitor DPRK activities at sea following similar operations when the British frigate Sutherland and the amphibious transport ship Albion visited Japan earlier this year. The paper wrote that in carrying out surveillance operations, the Argyll will likely use U.S. bases in Japan in accordance with the status of forces agreement concluded by the United Nations Command at the time of the Korean War.

### **Japan, India to conclude ACSA**

All papers reported on a Japan-India defense ministerial meeting held in New Delhi on Monday, during which the participants agreed to accelerate discussions on a bilateral acquisition and cross-servicing agreement (ACSA) for the two militaries, speculating that Tokyo is anxious to conclude an ACSA with India

to rein in China's maritime advancement. Defense Minister Onodera and his Indian counterpart also agreed to expand the scope of joint exercises by all branches of the SDF and the Indian military.

### **Defense chief to visit Europe next month**

Asahi projected that Defense Minister Onodera will travel to the Netherlands and Italy from Sept. 4 to deepen mutual defense exchanges and technical cooperation in the security arena. The minister is also expected to visit the headquarters of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague.

### **Japan Coast Guard to send ship to Indian Ocean for joint training**

Yomiuri front-paged a plan by the Japan Coast Guard to deploy one of its patrol boats to Oman and Sri Lanka in FY2019 for joint drills with its local counterparts, speculating that the plan is in line with Prime Minister Abe's "free and open" Indo-Pacific initiative. While noting that the JCG has previously offered technical cooperation to the coast guards of the Philippines, Malaysia, and other Southeast Asian countries so as to enable them to better combat piracy in the South China Sea and the Malacca Strait, the daily projected that the Chinese are bound to react strongly to Japan's attempts to increase its naval presence in the region.

<b>SECURITY</b>
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### **Diet member Tamaki to seek Okinawa governorship**

All papers reported that Liberal Party Secretary General Denny Tamaki has accepted the "All Okinawa" coalition's request for him to seek the governorship. Tamaki is expected to face off with former Ginowan Mayor Sakima, who will be backed by the Abe administration and the ruling coalition, in the by-election on Sept. 30. Nikkei projected that Futenma relocation will once again be a major campaign issue.

### **Japan to launch satellites to monitor space debris**

Nikkei front-paged a plan by the Defense Ministry to launch satellites in FY2028 to monitor other nations' satellites and space debris in order to prevent collisions with Japanese satellites. The ministry also plans to start operating in FY2023 a ground-based radar system to monitor space at altitudes above 5,800 km. The daily claimed that Japan has been relying heavily on U.S. military data for monitoring space but that the U.S. does not necessarily share all of the information it collects.