



Afternoon Alert - Friday, August 26, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report that heavy rain is forecast for northern Japan today. The network also said another powerful typhoon is approaching Japan. NTV, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi led with reports that four minors were arrested this morning for their alleged involvement in the murder of a teenage boy in Saitama last Friday. TBS gave top play to a report that actress Junko Takahata held a press conference this morning to apologize for her son who was arrested on suspicion of sexual assault.

POLITICS

[Suga comments on conspiracy legislation](#)

NHK reported this afternoon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga stated at a press conference this morning that the GOJ will carefully examine the possibility of submitting a bill that would make conspiracy a crime in order to ratify the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Suga reportedly stressed that it is “extremely important” for Japan to ratify the convention, adding that the government is studying the bill and has not yet decided when to submit it to the Diet.

- [Maehara announces bid for DP presidency](#) (The Japan News)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on August 25](#) (Nikkei)
- [Koizumi questions talk of extending LDP president’s term](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP chief Nikai makes tactful appointments to party posts](#) (Nikkei)

- [Cartoon: Women come to the fore in politics](#) (Mainichi)

SECURITY

[Onaga criticizes “excessive” police presence at Northern Training Area](#)

Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged a report on a news conference on Aug. 25 by Okinawa Governor Onaga, during which he commented on the continued conflict between local protesters and riot police at the helipad construction site in the Northern Training Area by saying the mobilization of 500 to 800 riot police is “excessive.” When asked about the mobilization of riot police from outside Okinawa at the request of the Okinawa Public Safety Commission, the governor said it is regrettable. Onaga criticized the GOJ for resuming construction on the day after the Upper House election on July 10, saying that it runs counter to the GOJ’s policy of holding dialogue with the people of Okinawa. The governor reiterated the prefecture’s request for the cancellation of the deployment of Ospreys at the training area, saying that the relationship of trust with the GOJ will be questioned if Tokyo fails to provide a detailed explanation. NHK’s “News 7” and TV-Asahi’s “Hodo station” on Thursday evening briefly reported on Onaga’s remarks.

[GOJ to resume land-based work at Camp Schwab following court ruling](#)

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that it learned from a GOJ source on Aug. 25 that the GOJ has decided to postpone the resumption of land-based construction work at Camp Schwab until after Sep. 16 when the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court is expected to rule on the dispute between the GOJ and Okinawa Prefecture over landfill work at Henoko. According to the source, the central government had originally planned to resume the land-based work by the end of August on the grounds that it is not directly related to the landfill work at Henoko. The paper speculated that the postponement is intended to prevent the work from having an impact on the court ruling.

[Ospreys to participate in disaster preparedness drills in Sasebo](#)

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the city government of Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture, announced on Aug. 25 that two U.S. Marine Osprey aircraft will participate in disaster preparedness drills to be conducted at a GSDF camp and on a remote island in the prefecture on Sept. 1. This is the first time for U.S. Marine Ospreys to take part in a disaster exercise conducted by a municipal government in Kyushu. The move is probably intended to demonstrate the safety of the Osprey because the GSDF plans to deploy the aircraft at Saga Airport starting in fiscal 2019 and negotiations with the local government are underway.

- [Ministry to set up “white hat hacker” training center in FY17](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Commentary: Tense frontline of Senkaku defense](#) (Sankei)
- [MOFA requests increase of 23.4 billion yen for counterterrorism](#) (Yomiuri)

INTERNATIONAL

- [**Abe arrives in Kenya to attend Japan-led African development confab**](#) (The Mainichi)
- [**First TICAD held in Africa reflects rivalry with China**](#) (Mainichi)
- [**MOFA seeks to open additional posts, including three in Africa**](#) (Mainichi)
- [**Editorial: Japan's smaller businesses the key to long-term support of Africa**](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [**Japan to focus on quality in African investments**](#) (Mainichi)
- [**Trump aide: No Japan exit by U.S. military**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Japan readies 100bn yen in lending for Myanmar**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review Online)
- [**Editorial: Responsibility for crisis management in Northeast Asia**](#) (The Mainichi)
- [**Editorial: Despite tussles, Japan, S. Korea, China must learn to cooperate**](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [**Japan, China, S. Korea should work together to pressure North Korea**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Editorial: Close trilateral ties between Japan, China and ROK ensure regional security**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Cartoon: Trilateral diplomacy**](#) (Asahi)
- [**Cartoon: Foreign Minister Wang Yi**](#) (Sankei)

ECONOMY

U.S., Japan sign memorandum of cooperation on geothermal power generation in Africa

NHK reported this morning that ahead of the start of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Kenya, the governments of the U.S. and Japan signed [a memorandum of cooperation](#) on Thursday to promote investment in environmentally-friendly energy sources in Africa and jointly develop geothermal power generation especially in East Africa. Noting that it is urgently necessary for Africa to secure new energy sources in line with its economic growth, the network quoted USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa Linda Etim as saying that she looks forward to working with Japan, which has strong expertise in the field.

Kagoshima governor to request temporary suspension of Sendai NPP

All networks reported at noon that Kagoshima Governor Mitazono will ask Kyushu Electric Co. this afternoon to temporarily suspend the operation of the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant and re-examine the plant in light of growing concerns by local residents following the Kumamoto earthquakes. TV Asahi said the governor has no authority to shut down the power plant, adding that attention will be focused on how KEPCO responds to the governor's request.

- [Cabinet Office to make budget request of 2.9577 trillion yen](#) (Sankei)
- [MOFA asks for 12% increase in ODA budget](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [Mainichi Shimbun and others to create English proficiency test](#) (Mainichi)

TV PROGRAMS

Efforts to help people die peacefully

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on new efforts to have religious leaders such as monks and priests stay with dying patients at hospitals to ease their fear of death. The program said while there are currently about 200 certified clinical chaplains in about 40 prefectures in Japan, many more are needed to listen to the concerns of the dying and help them die peacefully.



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