



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, August 30, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave extensive top play to reports on Typhoon Lionrock, which is expected to make landfall in the Tohoku region this afternoon.

INTERNATIONAL

President Obama to visit Asia, demonstrate commitment to obtaining Congress's ratification of TPP

NHK reported online this afternoon that Deputy National Security Advisor Rhodes told reporters on Monday that President Obama will visit China and hold talks with President Xi on Sept. 3 and exchange views with him on bilateral cooperation against global warming and China's maritime advancement in the South China Sea. The senior White House official also disclosed that the President will deliver a speech on Asia in Laos, demonstrate his commitment to obtaining congressional approval for the TPP during his term, and call on Asian nations to work toward the effectuation of the deal. Noting that both U.S. presidential nominees have expressed opposition to the TPP, the network said attention will be focused on the President's remarks.

- **MOFA, JICA to help firms reduce financial costs for safety of ODA workers** (Nikkei)
- **METI to increase subsidies to firms' survey costs to promote infrastructure exports** (Nikkei)

- [CCS Suga: Japan-Russia summit to discuss concrete plans for economic cooperation](#) (Nikkei)
- [A review of Abe's China diplomacy](#) (Nikkei)
- [China not holding ceremonies to mark victory in war against Japan this year](#) (Nikkei)
- [Two contrasting theories about China's provocative actions](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: S. Korean foundation a vital bridge to solve 'comfort women' issue](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Rivals in Africa](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

SECURITY

[GOJ to begin helipad construction work at additional sites in Northern Training Area](#)

Okinawa Times front-paged a report saying that the Defense Ministry's Okinawa bureau plans to begin helipad construction work at the G and H areas in the Northern Training Area on Sept. 1 in addition to the ongoing work at the N1 area. Local protesters responded sharply to the plan and expressed readiness to step up their opposition.

In a related development, Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that three civic groups protesting the helipad construction at the Northern Training Area have decided to stage large-scale rallies every Wednesday and Saturday starting on Sept. 3. at the N1 gate, aiming to have as many as 300 people participate in each rally

- [Japan Coast Guard plans to build 9 new patrol ships](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Editorial: Linking Okinawa's promotion budget with U.S. bases is understandable](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Israeli exports of cyber-defense technology find Japanese market](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: SDF's new mission](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

EDUCATION

[Interview with new Education Minister Matsuno](#)

NHK reported this morning on its exclusive interview with newly appointed Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Matsuno. The network said Matsuno has been consistently engaged in education policy since he was first elected 16 years ago, adding that he is planning to introduce grant-type scholarships to reduce the financial burden on households. Matsuno was quoted as saying: “The government has already decided to formulate grant-type scholarships in the budget for FY2017. In order to realize these scholarships, we need to resolve the issue of financial resources, so we need to work with the Finance Ministry. We would like to work on reducing the financial burden on households of school tuition from kindergarten to university so that children will not be deprived of opportunities to receive education of account of their family situation.”

He also pointed out that the long hours teachers are forced to work are problematic from the viewpoint of sustainability and stressed the need to increase the number of teachers and have other school staff share the burden. Concerning the declining global competitiveness of Japanese universities, Matsuno stressed the need for improvement, saying it is necessary to promote the globalization of universities and improve their research environment. He said that his biggest task will be to improve the level of Japan’s educational institutions.

OPINION POLLS

- [55% say that Japan should take a “tougher stance” in relation to China, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on August 28-29](#) (Nikkei)
- [Furuya: No need to limit number of LDP president’s terms](#) (Sankei)
- [Interview with Justice Minister Katsutoshi Kaneda](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP factions aim to strengthen unity through workshops](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Amari to serve on LDP General Council](#) (Nikkei)
- [Nagashima to support Maehara in DP leadership race](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Defense budget](#) (Akahata)

ECONOMY

- [BOJ’s Kuroda hints at negative-rate bias](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Reconstruction Agency to request smallest budget since its establishment](#) (Mainichi)
- [Budget request for public works exceeds 6 trillion for the 3rd consecutive year](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan's ruling party eyes revamped tax break for couples](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [LDP policy chief Motegi to head special committee on labor reform](#) (Mainichi)
- [Ministry of Health to request record 31 trillion yen budget](#) (Mainichi)
- [17 local gov'ts set higher emission reduction targets than GOJ: Asahi survey](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Kyushu Electric in spotlight after governor calls for shutdown](#) (Asahi)
- [Running Monju reactor for 10 years would cost gov't 600 billion yen extra](#) (Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [MEXT to subsidize pioneering research](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Gov't mulling gift tax exemption on donations for poor children from philanthropists](#) (Asahi)

TV PROGRAMS

Threat of “unprecedented” typhoons

NHK's “Close-up Gendai Plus” reported that this year's typhoons are behaving in unprecedented ways and repeatedly hitting the Tohoku and Hokkaido regions. The program said the power of typhoons is sustained due to high sea temperatures, quoting an expert as saying that this is due to global climate change. The program also said this year's typhoons are bringing heavy rain to areas such as the Kansai region because of polar vortexes and called for caution.

