



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, August 31, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters gave extensive top play to reports that nine bodies were found this morning near a nursing home in Iwaizumi, Iwate Prefecture, following the flooding of a nearby river after powerful Typhoon Lionrock hit the region. According to NHK, a total of 11 people died in Iwate, and three people are missing in Hokkaido, which was also affected by the typhoon.

SECURITY

MOD officially decides on record budget request for FY2017

NHK reported online that the Defense Ministry officially decided this morning to request a record-high sum of 5.1685 trillion yen for the FY2017 budget in order to strengthen measures against North Korea's ballistic missile launches. The network said the budget includes funds for obtaining higher performance interceptor missiles to be mounted on Aegis-equipped vessels and introducing PAC3 missiles designed to intercept a broader spectrum of missiles. It also includes funds for developing surface-to-ship missiles and constructing new types of submarines in order to boost Japan's defense of remote islands and surrounding waters, with China's maritime advancement in mind. The budget request also includes increasing the number of defense attaches, in charge of collecting military and terrorist-related information overseas, in the Philippines and Vietnam.

Two U.S. Marines in Okinawa honored for extinguishing vehicle fire

Okinawa Times reported on Tuesday that the Urasoe Police Station presented letters of appreciation to two U.S. Marines stationed at Camp Kinser on Aug. 23 for putting out a vehicle fire on National Route 58 on April 16. The paper said Marine Cpl. Ian Burnham and Lance Cpl. Luis Rosas received

the letters from Urasoe Police Chief Sakihara, who expressed appreciation by saying they took “prompt action.” According to the daily, the two Marines put out the fire using extinguishers before the police arrived at the scene.

U.S. Marine arrested for alleged attempt to enter woman’s house in Okinawa

Jiji Press reported that the Kadena Police Station in Okinawa Prefecture arrested a U.S. Marine belonging to Camp Courtney in Uruma on suspicion of attempting to enter a woman’s residence in Yomitan at around 5:20 p.m. on Aug. 30. The suspect lives in an apartment across from her residence. He is denying the allegation by saying that he did not try to enter her apartment.

- **Editorial: Legislating laws to punish crime of preparing terrorist attacks needed** (Sankei)
- **Editorial: Is charge of preparing terrorist attacks really needed?** (The Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- **Poll: 70% of voters used newspapers as reference for Upper House election** (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

Tokyo Governor officially announces postponement of Tsukiji Fish Market’s relocation

All networks reported on a press conference held by Tokyo Governor Koike this afternoon, during which she officially announced the decision to postpone the relocation of Tsukiji Fish Market to the Toyosu waterfront originally planned for Nov. 7. Koike reportedly cited as reasons for the postponement that the results of the groundwater survey in Toyosu will not be ready until after Nov. 7 and the safety of the area still needs to be confirmed. She also stressed that the ballooning cost of the development of the Toyosu market needs to be scrutinized.

- **Prime minister’s schedule on August 30** (Nikkei)
- **Diet set to convene on Sept. 26 to smooth deliberations on TPP ratification, other key issues** (Yomiuri)
- **Editorial: Government still ignoring Japan’s fiscal woes at budget time** (The Asahi Shimbun)
- **Yamao to support Maehara in DP presidential race** (Asahi)

- [Interview with LDP chief Nikai on political issues, constitution, Okinawa](#) (Shukan Asahi)
- [Interview with LDP Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai](#) (Yomiuri)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Japan eyes utility stake to strengthen Russian ties](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [A review of Abe's diplomacy toward the U.S.](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Differentiate Japan's aid to Africa from China's in terms of quality](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

- [Vast amounts of manganese nodules discovered in seafloor around Marcus Island](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Spousal tax deduction system up for review](#) (The Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [90% of coral in Sekisei Reef bleached, MOE survey](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)

EDUCATION

- [Bring English immersion to Japanese classrooms](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

- [Shared homes offer respite for Japan's struggling single mothers](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Increasing female assistant public prosecutors](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [Nonprofits step up help for school-shy students at time when suicide numbers rise](#) (The Japan Times)

