



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, September 13, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NTV gave top play to reports that the Abe cabinet decided this morning to confer the People's Honor Award on Kaori Icho, the first female wrestler to win four consecutive Olympic gold medals. NHK and TBS led with follow-up reports on issues related to the relocation of Tsukiji Fish Market. Fuji TV reported that DP presidential candidate Renho told reporters that despite her earlier remarks, she still maintains her Taiwanese citizenship.

SECURITY

MOD uses GSDF helicopter to transport heavy machinery into Northern Training Area

TBS reported at noon that the Ministry of Defense began transporting heavy machinery to a helipad construction site in the Northern Training Area using a GSDF helicopter this morning. The network said a GSDF CH-47 helicopter was seen carrying heavy machinery several times today.

- **LDP Secretary General Nikai to meet with Okinawa Governor Onaga** (Sankei)
- **Commentary: Japan can only rely on U.S. due to inability to attack DPRK military bases** (Sankei)

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador meets with Tokyo Governor Koike

Nikkei reported online this morning that Tokyo Governor Koike met with Ambassador Kennedy earlier in the day at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. In response to the Ambassador's congratulatory remarks on Koike's assuming the governorship, Governor Koike reportedly thanked

the Ambassador for her efforts to promote the bilateral relationship. The Governor also reportedly touched on the Ambassador's trip to the earthquake zone in Kumamoto. The paper noted that the Ambassador congratulated Koike when she was elected governor by saying on social media that she "made history" as the first female Tokyo governor. Jiji carried a similar story.

INTERNATIONAL

Father of 9/11 victim translates commission report

NHK's website reported on Sept. 12 on how Kazusada Sumiyama, whose son worked at the World Trade Center and was killed in 9/11, spent eight years translating the 567-page 9/11 Commission Report because he wanted to understand why his son had to die. Sumiyama expressed his hope for the international community, including Japan, to convey the lessons it learned from 9/11 to the next generation and hold serious discussions on how to eliminate terrorism.

- [Fifth nuclear test targeted U.S., N. Korea tells Japanese lawmaker](#) (Kyodo News)
- [North Korea provided prior explanation to China on fifth nuclear test](#) (Asahi)
- [China accused of undermining North Korean sanctions](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe orders coordination with China, Russia on UN resolution against North Korea](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Sanctions must be powerful enough to threaten North Korea](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: 15 years after 9/11, U.S. must forge new sense of global solidarity](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Interview: Time to be prepared to bargain with North Korea on nuclear issue](#) (Asahi)
- [Iran would welcome Japanese supply of reactors: nuclear chief](#) (Kyodo News)
- [METI Minister Seko says Japan to support new industries in ASEAN](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

GOJ mulls decommissioning Monju reactor in Fukui

NTV reported that the GOJ is considering decommissioning the Monju fast-breeder reactor in Tsuruga, Fukui. While noting that the reactor used to be viewed as a key facility for Japan's nuclear energy policy, the network said it has not been in operation for the past 22 years due to a number of accidents since 1994. The network pointed out that the Nuclear Regulation Authority has been urging the government to find a new operator for Monju due to the inadequate safety measures taken by the Japan Atomic Energy Agency and that about 20 billion yen is spent annually just to maintain the facility.

- [Japan kicks off renewed campaign for structural reform](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [METI to set up renewable energy market](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Gov't to support overseas registration of new varieties of agricultural products](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan aims to make 20% of autos driverless by 2030](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Gov't making final arrangements to scrap Monju reactor: sources](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japanese currency think tank to get new chief](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on September 12](#) (Nikkei)
- [Renho, Maehara, Tamaki vie to differentiate their positions in DP presidential race](#) (Nikkei)
- [Yasuoka to continue to lead Lower House constitution commission](#) (Sankei)

SOCIETY

- [Key Justice Ministry panel backs changes to Meiji Era sex crime laws](#) (The Japan Times)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet support rate rises to 62%, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [67% say abdication should be approved for all emperors from now on, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)
- [91% support emperor's abdication and 72% support female emperors, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)

TV PROGRAMS

Former U.S. soldiers compete in Paralympics

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on Monday that there are many former U.S. service members who are competing in the Rio Paralympics, featuring Navy veteran Brad Snyder, who became visually-impaired after stepping on a landmine set by the Taliban. Snyder won his second gold medal in the men's 400-meter freestyle. The program reported that the U.S. is making nationwide efforts to support wounded soldiers through sports and encouraging them to compete in the Paralympics by building a high-tech rehabilitation center.