



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, September 21, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK and NTV led with reports that the body of a six-year-old boy was found in a river in Takarazuka, Hyogo, this morning. The river was swollen after Typhoon Malakas passed through the region. TBS and Fuji TV also reported on damage caused by the powerful typhoon. TV Asahi gave top play to a report that a cabinet meeting will be held today to discuss what to do with the Monju fast-breeder reactor.

## INTERNATIONAL

### PM Abe pledges 10 billion yen in aid for refugees

Most networks reported that PM Abe pledged 10 billion yen in aid for refugees during the Leaders Summit on Refugees in New York on Tuesday, saying that Japan's new aid will be extended to a humanitarian fund through the World Bank. PM Abe also reportedly disclosed a plan to accept up to 150 students from Syria over the next five years starting next year.

### G7 foreign ministers condemn North Korea

All networks reported at noon on a meeting of G7 foreign ministers held in New York on Tuesday, saying that the ministers said in a joint statement released after the meeting that "further significant measures" will be taken to effectively deal with North Korea's provocations. The foreign ministers also welcomed the ruling by the arbitration court in the Hague that invalidated China's claims to the South China Sea, saying that the ruling is a "useful basis for further efforts to peacefully resolve disputes."

## **President Obama, PM Abe reaffirm close cooperation over DPRK**

TBS reported at noon that President Obama and PM Abe held a brief conversation during the Leaders Summit on Refugees in New York on Tuesday, saying that the two leaders reaffirmed close bilateral cooperation toward a new UNSC sanctions resolution against the DPRK. The network also said PM Abe told UN Secretary General Ban that the only way to change North Korea's behavior is to ratchet up the pressure and called on Ban to issue a strong message. Several other networks reported on the brief meeting between President Obama and PM Abe.

- [Japan pledges \\$2.8bn in aid for refugees over 3 years](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Britain to conduct joint military exercise](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan-Russia foreign ministerial to take place on Sept. 22](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [Japan-Australia 2-plus-2 meeting to be held this year](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [Japan, EU reaffirm goal to reach trade deal by year-end](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Business delegation to China to meet with Viet Premier Zhang](#) (Nikkei)
- [Seoul requests letter of apology by Abe to former 'comfort women'](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Earth ponders human behavior](#) (Asahi)
- [PM Abe not hiding distrust of Donald Trump](#) (Sankei)

## **SECURITY**

### **Residents file lawsuit against GOJ over helipad construction**

TV Asahi reported at noon that a group of 33 local residents who are opposed to the construction of helipads at the Northern Training Area filed a lawsuit against the government this morning, calling for the cancellation of the work. According to the network, the plaintiffs claimed that their living conditions will deteriorate further if the helipads are constructed at a time when their rights are already being violated by the noise pollution caused by Ospreys.

### **Cargo planes at Yokota to be replaced**

Sunday's Mainichi reported on the disclosure by 374 Airlift Wing commander Kenneth Moss that all 14 C-130H cargo planes at Yokota AB will be replaced with state-of-the-art C-130J aircraft in about 18 months beginning in December. The colonel stressed that the new plane generates almost 80% less noise than the current one.

- [Interview with top uniformed officer Kawano one year after security laws](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Beef up JCG to deter China's entry into waters around Senkaku Islands](#) (The Japan News)

## POLITICS

### [Komeito chief dismisses need to discuss casino legislation](#)

NHK reported online on press remarks this morning by Komeito Chief Representative Yamaguchi, who expressed a negative view about starting parliamentary discussions on LDP-sponsored legislation on legalizing casinos in Japan by saying that most members of the junior ruling party are taking a cautious stance toward the bill, which has not been acted on since it was submitted to the Diet about 18 months ago. Yamaguchi underscored that there is no need to legalize gambling and there are many ways to attract foreign tourists other than casinos.

- [Prime minister's schedule on September 19 and 20](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP moves closer to extending Abe's term as party head](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Gov't and business aim for Northern Territories return through economic cooperation](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: : Renho and Shii](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Detailed debate needed over Emperor's possible abdication](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Toyosu scandal](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

## SCIENCE

### [Japan to join international framework for reducing aircraft emissions](#)

Asahi wrote that Minister of Transport Ishii announced at a news conference on Tuesday that Japan will participate in an international framework for controlling carbon dioxide emissions from aircraft by saying that Japan will play a responsible role. The United States, China, and European nations have already expressed their intention to join the framework. Japan was no longer able to delay expressing its readiness to join the framework because the matter will likely be discussed at the upcoming G7 Transport Ministers' meeting in Nagano starting on Sept. 23. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is currently discussing the details of the regulations for the framework and is hoping that an agreement will be reached at its general meeting starting on Sept. 27 in Canada based on the discussions at the G7 meeting. The ICAO plans to set regulations with the aim

of halting the increase in total emissions in 2020. Both JAL and ANA have already begun implementing measures to reduce their emissions, but the ministry is concerned that the regulations will cost Japan's aviation industry more than 1 billion yen.

- [METI creates guidelines to beef up information control at universities](#) (Nikkei)

## ECONOMY

- [Gov't approves new organization for spent fuel reprocessing](#) (Asahi)
- [Anti-TPP statements made by current cabinet ministers](#) (Akahata)

## TV PROGRAMS

### Report from Somalia and South Sudan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Tuesday carried a report from war-ravaged Somalia, which has become a hotbed for Al-Shabaab terrorists. The network aired video of the capital city, Mogadishu, where houses and buildings have been destroyed by bombs and orphans are being kidnapped by terrorists and trained to become suicide bombers. An expert warned that Al-Shabaab is expanding its operations beyond Somalia and poses a major threat to the region. The program also reported on South Sudan, where a power struggle broke out between President Kiir and his former deputy Riek Machar.

