



Afternoon Alert - Friday, September 23, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

PM Abe meets with President Castro

All networks gave top play to reports on PM Abe's historic visit to Cuba on Thursday. The networks said the premier held a meeting with Cuban President Castro for about 45 minutes and confirmed Japan's increased investment in the country and called for Cuba's cooperation in dealing with North Korea. Fuji TV also reported that the two nations agreed that Japan will provide about 1.3 billion yen worth of medical equipment in grant aid to major hospitals in Cuba. TV Asahi said there were two purposes for the premier's visit to Cuba: to ask for cooperation on North Korea since Cuba has friendly relations with the nation and to strengthen economic cooperation with Cuba. Noting that Abe's visit came days before Chinese PM Li's planned visit to Cuba, TV Asahi said the premier's visit is also aimed at keeping China in check as it is increasing its influence in the region.

INTERNATIONAL

President Obama calls for international cooperation in last UNGA address

Asahi, Yomiuri, Nikkei, and Sankei reported in their international news sections on Sept. 21 on President Obama's address to the UN General Assembly on Sept. 20. Yomiuri wrote that although President Obama stressed in his last speech as president at the UNGA the importance of rejecting the extremism of organizations like ISIL, the recent bombing in New York highlighted the continued threat of terrorism in the United States. The paper added that President Obama will bequeath the difficult task of combating terrorism to his successor. Sankei wrote that the President expressed his concern over the deep "fault lines" in the international community over such issues as Middle East

peace and refugees. Asahi wrote that the President expressed concern about the spread of aggressive nationalism and crude populism on the issues of refugees and the global economy and stressed the need for tolerance. Sankei wrote that the President stressed his administration's achievements in "diplomacy with dialogue" on such issues as the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Iranian nuclear agreement. Asahi and Sankei wrote that the President stressed the importance of the TPP and stated that nuclear powers have a responsibility not to conduct nuclear tests to seek a world without nuclear weapons.

President Obama calls for greater support for refugees

Nikkei, Mainichi, and Tokyo Shimbun gave inside-page coverage on Sept. 21 to the Leaders' Summit on Refugees hosted by President Obama on Tuesday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. In response to the President's passionate call for stronger support for addressing the refugee crisis that he said tests "our common humanity," the participants pledged an additional \$4.5 billion in aid and agreed to double the number of refugees that they intend to accept to over 360,000. Mainichi highlighted the President's remarks on a six-year-old boy in New York who wrote him a letter expressing his willingness to help a wounded Syrian boy that he saw on TV. The President was quoted as saying: "We can all learn from the humanity that this young child can display.... We spend, so many of us in politics and in leadership, so much time devoted to ascending the ladders of power. We spend time maintaining it; we spend time trying to win over public opinion. And maybe sometimes we forget that the only rationale for doing it is to help that little boy."

- [Japan business chiefs seek better Chinese antitrust, exit rules](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japanese business delegation urges China to rein in overproduction of steel](#) (Mainichi)
- [Business delegation calls for early realization of FTA with Japan, China and South Korea](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan, Turkey to strengthen economic and academic cooperation](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan, Caribbean Community to cooperate on disaster management](#) (Sankei)
- ["Seiron" column: Defeat North Korea in competition over defense capabilities](#) (Sankei)
- [Former Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan to visit Japan](#) (Asahi)
- [A conduit to China, Japan dodges pressure to ban ivory sales](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Cartoon: Female leaders](#) (Mainichi)

SECURITY

[Governor Onaga to file protest with DM Inada over U.S. military plane crash](#)

NHK and TBS reported at noon that in response to the crash of a U.S. Marine AV-8 Harrier in waters off Okinawa on Thursday, Okinawa Governor Onaga told reporters that he will file a protest with Defense Minister Inada when she visits Okinawa today. He was quoted as telling reporters: "These things happen and we protest repeatedly, but nothing changes." In addition, NHK reported that Okinawa Vice Governor Ageda summoned Ambassador in charge of Okinawan Affairs Kawada this morning and lodged a protest. Ambassador Kawada reportedly told Ageda: "We will strongly call on the U.S. military to take preventive measures and investigate the cause of the incident. We will make efforts so that incidents like this never happen again." DM Inada was quoted as telling reporters this morning: "We have conveyed our discontent to the U.S. side and strongly asked them to investigate the cause, take preventive measures, and swiftly provide information on the accident."

[USMC clarifies arrival of Ospreys at Futenma](#)

Ryukyu Shimpo reported on Thursday on an explanation given to the daily by U.S. Marine Corps authorities in Okinawa regarding the arrival at MCAS Futenma of two Ospreys from California via MCAS Iwakuni. The authorities noted that they are not additions to the existing fleet of tilt-rotor aircraft by saying that the aircraft are intended to "complement the specialized maintenance program to be performed at [the GSDF's] Camp Kisarazu in Chiba Prefecture." According to the authorities, all Futenma-based Ospreys will undergo in turn special maintenance in Kisarazu in the next five years. They underscored that there will be no increase in personnel or flight hours as a result of the arrival of the two Ospreys.

- **[More SDF personnel to be trained in life-saving field medicine](#)** (Kyodo)

SCIENCE

[Minister Yamamoto pledges all-out effort to conclude Paris Agreement](#)

NHK reported online this afternoon that Minister for the Environment Yamamoto told reporters today that following the signing of the Paris Agreement by 60 countries and regions so far, he will make all-out efforts to enact a bill in the extraordinary Diet session to be convened next week in order to swiftly sign the agreement. He reportedly said: "I feel frustrated that Japan will be in a disadvantageous position in the international arena."

- **[Japan tapping AI to revolutionize drug development](#)** (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- **[Prime minister's schedule on September 21 and 22](#)** (Nikkei)

- [Prime minister's schedule on September 20 and 21](#) (Nikkei)
- [Minor opposition party to change Japanese name](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan gov't launches panel on emperor's abdication](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Lineup of DP executive members](#) (Mainichi)
- [Democratic Party approves new leader Renho's fresh leadership picks](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Gov't to give top priority to passing TPP and related bills before U.S. election](#) (Sankei)
- [Main bills to be discussed during extraordinary Diet session this fall](#) (Sankei)
- [Ruling parties at loggerheads over casino bill](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Doubts linger about extending LDP leader's term](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Discuss extending LDP leader's term for sake of political stability](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

- ["Apple, Google may be eliminating competition," METI report](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Japan must rethink long-term nuclear power strategy](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan to put 1-trillion-yen Monju reactor out of its misery](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Ministries spar as Japan focuses on fast reactor project in France](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Scrap not only Monju but also 'structure of irresponsibility'](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Monju](#) (Asahi)
- [Most companies ignore MEXT request regarding recruiting season, MEXT survey](#) (Mainichi)
- [Number of foreign visitors to Japan sets August record of 2.04m](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Structural reforms a must to support BOJ policy](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: BOJ's new policy phase highlights failure of monetary easing experiment](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Keidanren chairman says BOJ decision will rectify negative aspects of negative interest rates](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [50% of teachers opposed to English as formal subject in elementary school, Mainichi survey](#) (Mainichi)
- [Expanding scope of "special certificate" to teach English in grade school](#) (Yomiuri)

TV PROGRAMS

Changing trends in mortuary services

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Wednesday reported on new services in Japan that collect or temporarily store the remains of the dead on behalf of family members. The program said a growing number of people can't afford to maintain graves and use these new services instead, adding that some people refuse to take care of the remains of their relatives because they were estranged. One reason people can't afford to care for graves is that with longer life spans children of people who die in their 90s are themselves old and often financially challenged.

