



Afternoon Alert - Monday, October 3, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK and all other broadcasters led with reports on Typhoon Chaba, which is approaching Okinawa.

## INTERNATIONAL

### **[Abe confirms Japan's position on Northern Territories unchanged](#)**

NHK reported that Prime Minister Abe stated during a Lower House Budget Committee meeting on Monday that there has been no change in Japan's position of seeking the return of all four islands of the Northern Territories. "They are integral part of Japan," said Abe. "We will seek to resolve the issue of the sovereignty of the four islands and conclude a peace treaty with Russia by maintaining a consistent stance. President Putin and I share the view that it is unnatural for Japan and Russia to have no peace treaty for the past 70 years. Resolving this issue is the right decision for the future of both nations." Concerning Russia's annexation of Crimea, the premier said he will not take up the issue during his territorial talks with Putin, adding: "Japan will make a decision on the Northern Territories on its own initiative. But it makes sense for Tokyo to explain its basic position on the issue to the U.S., Japan's ally. I have explained my ideas to the U.S., and I believe that they understand my views. After the U.S. presidential election, we will tell the transition team what Japan has been doing with regard to the Northern Territories."

- **[Japan to dangle aid in front of Russia in territorial talks](#)** (Nikkei Asian Review)
- **[Japan-Russia space projects being explored](#)** (The Japan News)
- **[Putin aides visiting Japan to pave way for talks](#)** (The Japan News)
- **[Obama's hometown of Chicago holds exhibit on the atomic bomb](#)** (Mainichi)
- **[Logbooks reveal details of freedom of navigation ops](#)** (Kanagawa Shimbun)

## SECURITY

### **Sasebo sailor arrested for DUI**

Kyodo reported on Sunday that the Sasebo police arrested a 27-year-old service member belonging to the Sasebo Naval Base on Saturday on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. He was apprehended on the spot after the car he was driving struck the center divider of a public road on Saturday night. He has reportedly admitted the charge.

- [Video on Okinawa base issues posted on YouTube](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Gov't to recruit IT-savvy college graduates to brace for cyberattacks](#) (Nikkei)
- [MOFA sets up ODA Office for safety measures](#) (Yomiuri)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on October 2](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on October 1](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on September 30](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Sept. 30](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Analysis: LDP tax commission losing control of tax reform process as Kantei tightens grip](#) (Nikkei)
- [Defense minister on verge of tears when grilled on failure to attend war memorial ceremony](#) (Sankei)
- [Edano to serve as chairman of DP research commission on Constitution](#) (Mainichi)
- [Amari policy group starts up again](#) (Mainichi)

## ECONOMY

- [Japan desperate for foreign farmers](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan to blunt TPP's toll on farmers with income insurance](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe hopes wage hikes lead to exit from deflation](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Public pension system to cover more part-timers in Japan](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Diversity gaining ground at Japan Inc.'s top levels](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [About 60% of workers prefer lifetime employment: MHLW report](#) (Asahi)
- [Interview: Belgian minister says Japan-EU trade deal this year is possible](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [MRJ delivery may be pushed back again](#) (The Japan News)
- [Utilities may get caps on liability in time of serious nuke accidents](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## EDUCATION

- [Scholars create liaison council to oppose military-academia joint research](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Use results of academic achievement test to improve teaching methods](#) (The Japan News)
- [Commentary: Universities' failing grades](#) (The Japan Times)

## TV PROGRAMS

### Experts discuss spousal tax deduction

Six experts discussed the pros and cons of a GOJ plan to abolish the spousal tax deduction. Under the existing system, the taxable annual income of the head of household is reduced by 380,000 yen if their dependent spouse earns 1.03 million yen or less a year. By reducing the taxable income, the household pays less tax overall. The system was introduced in 1961 when Japan was undergoing rapid economic growth. Wives at that time were expected to stay home, perform household chores, and raise children while their husbands worked. The tax break was designed to help support the “typical” Japanese family in those days that subsisted on a single income. However, the tax benefit today is discouraging many women from seeking jobs for which they would earn more than 1.03 million yen. The government explains that the reform is aimed at unlocking the dormant potential of Japanese women. Motoshige Ito, a member of the GOJ Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, supported the plan during the discussion as part of the GOJ's efforts to reform work styles in Japan. However, economic journalist Hiroko Ogiwara argued that what impedes women from going to work is not the spousal tax deduction but other factors, including the need to take care of senior members of the family.

### Trail running in Patagonia

NHK's “NHK Special” on Sunday highlighted an “ultra trail running” event held in Patagonia, a region at the southern end of South America, this April, in which a total of 91 men and women from 18 nations, including one Japanese athlete, covered 141 kilometers of untouched mountainous wilderness without sleep or rest. The runners struggle to combat the fear of the mental and physical exhaustion that comes toward the end of the race, which they refer to as the “Domain of the Gods.” The program followed Tsuyoshi Kaburaki, Japan's number one trail runner, to find out his strategy for dealing with the “Domain of the Gods.”