
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, October 5, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports on Typhoon Chaba, which is heading north along the Sea of Japan coast.

INTERNATIONAL

Suga denies report on two DPRK officials seeking asylum in Japan

Most networks reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga denied a media report by a major South Korean daily that two senior DPRK officials belonging to a representative office of North Korea in Beijing are seeking asylum in Japan together with their families and have contacted the Japanese Embassy in Beijing. Suga reportedly said: "The reports claiming that 'North Korean nationals seeking asylum in Japan have contacted the Japanese Embassy in Beijing' are not true. We are not aware of any North Korean nationals seeking asylum in Japan."

- **Gov't concerned about suspended U.S.-Russia talks' impact on Japan's peace treaty with Russia** (Yomiuri)
- **Editorial: Deny Chinese firms loopholes in international encirclement of N. Korea** (The Japan News)
- **Commentary: Do not lose opportunity to conclude EPA** (Sankei)
- **Editorial: Hasty ratification of Paris Agreement questionable** (Sankei)

SECURITY

U.S. Marines to resume AV-8 Harrier flights on Oct. 7

NTV reported at noon that Lt. Gen. Nicholson, the commanding general of the III Marine Expeditionary Force in Japan, announced today the resumption of AV-8 Harrier flight operations in Okinawa and its vicinity starting on Oct. 7. The network said the operations have been suspended since Sept. 22 when an AV-8 Harrier crashed off the coast of Okinawa. The network said while Lt. Gen. Nicholson said the cause of the crash was not identified in the initial investigation, the aircraft has been in operation outside Okinawa and that there are no safety concerns. Noting that Okinawa Governor Onaga is calling for the suspension of flight operations until the cause of the crash is identified, the network said the resumption is expected to face opposition.

- [Gov't to enable SDF to provide U.S. military with ammunition](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Rate of mishaps involving Ospreys doubles over three years](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Lower House member makes proposal for provisional use of Futenma base](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [PM Abe says government will take measures against foreign purchases of Japanese lands](#) (Sankei)
- [Okinawa opposes SDF's joint use of Northern Training Area with U.S. forces](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Cabinet decides SDF in South Sudan not expected to become POWs](#) (Asahi)

POLITICS

Kishida says legislation on Paris accord to be approved by Cabinet early next week

Nikkei reported online on remarks made at the Diet this morning by Foreign Minister Kishida, who projected that the Cabinet is likely to approve on Oct. 11 legislation to ratify the Paris agreement on global warming for submission to the parliament. LDP Vice President Komura told the press that it is important for Japan to pass the bill during the current Diet session.

- [Prime minister's schedule on October 4](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Oct. 4](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan's lower house OKs extra budget to support economy](#) (The Mainichi)

- [Roundtable discussion by journalists on first round of Diet deliberations](#) (Nikkei)
- [Analysis: DP should shift right to gain more support](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

- [Gov't drafts proposal to require country-of-origin labeling for all processed foods](#) (Asahi)
- [Gov't, industry, academia join hands to train marine development experts](#) (Yomiuri)
- [No work for humans in age of AI? Expert panel discussion at Asahi World Forum](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan eyes opening farm work, in-home care to foreign workers](#) (Kyodo News)
- [65% desire to work after age 65, MHLW annual report](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Diet debate on TPP to start on Oct. 14](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Making new power suppliers pay for reactor decommissioning costs unacceptable](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on decommissioning the Monju reactor](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan's fast-breeder reactor panel to hold first meeting on Oct. 7](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cost of solar power generation to drop to one-third of current level by 2030](#) (Mainichi)

SCIENCE

Nobel laureates fear “hollowing out” of Japan’s scientific community

TV-Asahi “Hodo Station” highlighted remarks made on Tuesday by Professor Yoshinori Ohsumi of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, who was awarded this year’s Nobel Prize in medicine for his pioneering work on autophagy, a fundamental process for degrading and recycling cellular components. He expressed deep concern that young Japanese scientists may not be able to produce accomplishments that are recognized by the Nobel committee in the future. “It is very wrong for Japan to be complacent about winning Nobel prizes one after another in recent years. I am extremely worried that Japan's scientific community will be hollowed out unless a system is built

expeditiously to train young researchers in large numbers.” The professor warned against the country’s “neglect” of basic science research that provides the foundation for applied science. Ohsumi explained that he focused on "autophagy" decades ago because nobody else was paying attention to such a “minor” phenomenon.

According to the show, annual central government grants for national universities have been slashed steadily by some 150 billion yen to about 1.1 trillion yen over the past 10 years. The GOJ has increased temporary subsidies for selected areas of applied science to prioritize the swift development of technology and techniques. As a result, many university laboratories have had difficulty procuring research equipment for basic science and young researchers are leaving the field on account of low job security. Ohsumi stressed that basic science will cease to exist if government grants are provided primarily based on whether projects are expected to be useful in the short run. The scholar called for public understanding that basic science is indispensable for human society. His concerns are reportedly shared by many other Japanese Nobel laureates, including Professor Hiroshi Amano, who won the prize in physics two years ago.

SOCIETY

- [SoftBank jumps on bandwagon in recognizing same-sex partners as “spouses”](#) (Sankei)

TV PROGRAMS

Nobel laureate Yoshinori Ohsumi

Japanese biologist Yoshinori Ohsumi, who won this year’s Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, appeared live on NHK’s “Close-up Gendai Plus” on Tuesday. Ohsumi explained in detail the mechanism of autophagy, a process in which cells in the body break down and recycle themselves. Ohsumi stressed that he began his research by focusing on the function of vacuoles in cells.

AMBASSADOR

Hokkaido woman who sent hina dolls to JFK dies

Asahi and Sankei reported online that Ambassador Kennedy on Tuesday posted on her Twitter account a condolence message for the family of Tsuyako Matsumoto, a Hokkaido woman who received a doll and letter of appreciation in March 2015 from the Ambassador in return for a set of hina dolls that she sent to President John F. Kennedy in the early 1960s. The 94-year-old woman passed away last week. The Ambassador said in the tweet: “So glad I had the chance to thank Matsumoto san for her gift of friendship years ago. Our sympathies to her family & those who cared for her.”

- Women should lead fight to protect the environment (Asahi)