



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, October 6, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks gave top play to reports on the Toyosu issue, saying that former Tokyo Governor Ishihara has refused to cooperate with the Tokyo government's investigation into soil problems at the new fish market in Toyosu. NHK led with a report that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government will begin holding hearings with sports organizations starting Oct. 7 in relation to a review of three sports facilities for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

SCIENCE

UN announces Paris accord to take effect on Nov. 4

NHK reported at noon that the United Nations announced on Wednesday that the Paris Agreement on global warming will enter into force on Nov. 4 since the agreement has been ratified by 73 nations, making up 56.87% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The network said the GOJ is planning to obtain cabinet endorsement of a bill seeking Diet approval of the agreement as early as Oct. 11 and submit the bill to the Diet for swift approval. Japan has been lagging behind other nations in the ratification process and is unlikely to be able to participate in COP22 in Morocco next month. The network quoted an expert as saying that the countries involved in the rulemaking will establish rules that are convenient for their industries. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga reportedly said in a press briefing this morning: "Negotiations on the guidelines of the Paris Agreement are being held by all of the participating nations, including Japan. Even after the agreement enters into force, having the same group participate in the negotiations is being considered." When asked whether Japan's absence at the inaugural meeting will have a negative impact on Japan, Suga reportedly said "no."

SOCIETY

Former U.S. senator speaks on disability legislation

Asahi reported on a speech delivered last month in Tokyo by former Senator Harkin, the chief sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He offered advice on how Japan can address discrimination against people with disabilities in the workplace and elsewhere. He stressed the importance of seeking input from people with disabilities when formulating measures to remove societal barriers. While recalling complaints in the past that retrofitting school buildings to accommodate wheelchair-bound students would cost an exorbitant amount of money, Harkin said: "Spending lots of money on facilities is not necessarily a good thing.... You may find that a simple step is the best solution if you listen to the stories of people with disabilities."

- [Cabinet Office to provide 23 million yen for child poverty measures in Okinawa](#) (Nikkei)
- [Top court to judge on unwarranted police investigation using GPS](#) (Kyodo News)
- [FAQ on "Guidelines on Measures to Combat Childhood Poverty"](#) (Mainichi)

SECURITY

Okinawa leaders criticize planned resumption of Harrier flights

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo ran front- and inside-page reports on local reactions to the announcement on Wednesday by Okinawa Area Coordinator Nicholson that the U.S. Marines will restart flights of AV-8 Harriers on Oct. 7. The papers quoted Governor Onaga, municipality leaders, and prefectural assembly members as criticizing the planned resumption as "unilateral." Local fishermen also expressed anger and concern in response to the plan to resume the flights. The papers wrote that Nicholson neither disclosed the cause of the September crash nor offered an apology for the incident. Ryukyu Shimpo ran an editorial criticizing the decision to resume the flights as irresponsible.

Okinawan Diet members call for cancellation of Henoko plan

Okinawa Times wrote that Upper House members Keiko Itokazu and Yoichi Iha visited the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo on Wednesday to submit to Ambassador Kennedy a written request calling for the suspension of the FRF construction at Henoko and the helipad construction at the Northern Training Area, and the cancellation of the planned resumption of flights of AV-8 Harriers. Embassy Pol/Mil chief Aaron Snipe received the request and told the visitors that he would forward it to the Ambassador and the Departments of State and Defense. During the meeting Itokazu said that the implementation of the FRF construction without local consent is undemocratic, while Iha insisted that the land taken by the U.S. military through war should be returned unconditionally.

Kevin Maher calls Onaga “irresponsible”

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on a speech delivered by former Director of the DOS Office of Japanese Affairs Kevin Maher at a study meeting hosted by lawmaker Mikio Shioji in Tokyo on Wednesday. The papers quoted Maher as saying that Governor Onaga is not fulfilling his responsibility to the people of Okinawa because blocking the FRF construction at Henoko prevents reducing the base-hosting burden on Okinawa. He rejected the possibility of relocating the Futenma base out of Okinawa, saying that the only options are relocation to Henoko and the continued use of Futenma, and that the U.S. military could accept either option.

- [**Editorial: Defense chief should explain why she softened stand on policies**](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [**Man arrested for injuring defense bureau worker at Okinawa helipad site**](#) (Sankei)
- [**Director of Okinawa governor’s office calls for return of training areas**](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [**Strengthening public-private cooperation in cybersecurity for 2020 Olympics**](#) (Mainichi)
- [**Four U.S. military facilities in Kanagawa to undergo large-scale refurbishment**](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [**Panel on supporting remote islands holds first meeting**](#) (Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [**Prime minister’s schedule on October 5**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Gist of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee, Oct. 5**](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [**DM Inada makes gaffes in Diet interpellations**](#) (Asahi)
- [**Ministers rely on Abe during Lower House interpellations**](#) (Sankei)
- [**Editorial: Abe should prioritize implementing policy measures over election**](#) (The Mainichi)
- [**Cartoon: Abe and Renho**](#) (Asahi)
- [**Abe, Koike may make “joint appearance” in campaigning for LDP candidate in Tokyo by-election**](#) (Sankei)

- [Cartoon: Governor Koike](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Hiroshima gives flowery expression of thanks to President Obama](#) (Mainichi)
- [Column: Japan emerges as point of contention in U.S. presidential election](#) (Nikkei)
- [Rev. Jesse Jackson: “President Trump” would harm U.S.-Japan relationship](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ex-USTR official: “Window open” for U.S. Congressional approval of TPP by year-end](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Working group meets to discuss economic cooperation with Russia](#) (Mainichi)
- [N. Korean scientists accepted at nuclear institute in Russia: Japanese expert](#) (Jiji Press)

ECONOMY

- [Strong likelihood that spousal tax deduction will remain in place](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan Inc. cautiously taking steps to export infrastructure to Iran](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan grapples with cost of scrapping Fukushima plant](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Another aging reactor passes safety checks to operate beyond 40 yrs](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: 2025 Universal Exposition](#) (Asahi)
- [Canon readies miniature satellite for March launch](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cartoon: : Osumi’s Nobel](#) (Asahi)

EDUCATION

- [College entrance by AO and recommendation will be highest in 2017](#) (Yomiuri)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [New Godzilla poses questions on Japan's bureaucracy, nuclear power](#) (Asahi)
- [Women's work at Calbee is crisp and efficient](#) (Asahi)
- [Reading books is about to become more "convenient"](#) (Asahi)

TV PROGRAMS

[**Poisoning incident at Hospital in Kanagawa**](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Wednesday reported on an incident in which two patients died after apparently being poisoned through intravenous drips at Oguchi Hospital in Kanagawa, saying that it was found that the hospital's IV solution bags were stored in a public area. The program said someone connected with the hospital was probably responsible, and a total of six patients died there on the same day in late August. Following the incident, many hospitals in Japan are reportedly storing their IV bags in secure locations and evaluating safety measures.

