



Afternoon Alert - Friday, October 7, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks led with reports that 88 Japanese medalists from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics and Paralympics participated in a parade in the Ginza district of Tokyo today. TV Asahi gave top play to a report that the first snowfall of the season was recorded in the mountains of Hokkaido this morning.

INTERNATIONAL

Kishida denies reports of informal talks with DPRK on abductions

NHK reported at noon that FM Kishida denied media reports that officials of Tokyo and Pyongyang met last month in China to discuss the abduction issue. Kishida also reportedly said: "When considering the return of all of the abductees, we need to hold dialogue. We would like to apply strong pressure and deal with the issue based on the principles of dialogue and pressure and action for action."

Suga says GOJ to reinforce surveillance of North Korea

NHK reported at noon that concerning growing speculation that North Korea may carry out another provocation ahead of the anniversary of the Korean Workers' Party on Oct. 10, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning that Tokyo will work closely with Washington to urge North Korea to exercise restraint and reinforce surveillance. He was quoted as saying: "We will work closely with the United States and South Korea to increase pressure on North Korea and call on it to refrain from provocations and abide by the UNSC resolutions and the joint statement of the Six-Party Talks. We are taking all possible measures to collect information and increase surveillance with a sense of urgency in order to respond to any contingencies."

DM Inada to leave for South Sudan today

TV Asahi reported at noon that Defense Minister Inada will leave for South Sudan this afternoon and spend the weekend there, saying that after inspecting local conditions, she is expected to make a decision on whether to allow the ASDF troops stationed in the nation to protect the troops of other nations that come under attack starting in November.

- [Gist of interview with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gov't seeks to strengthen maritime, economic ties with Taiwan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Interview with Muneo Suzuki on Northern Territories issue](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [China using Emperor's abdication to sow discord in Imperial family](#) (THEMIS)

ECONOMY

PM Abe's adviser says Tokyo will not renegotiate TPP

NHK reported this morning that since both U.S. presidential candidates have expressed opposition to the TPP, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister Katsuyuki Kawai visited Washington and met with former members of Congress and senior USG officials from both the Republican and Democratic parties to tell them that PM Abe has no intention to renegotiate the TPP and to ask for their understanding for the early effectuation of the accord. Kawai also reportedly explained that Prime Minister Abe is making all-out efforts to obtain parliamentary approval for the TPP at the current extraordinary Diet session. In addition, Kawai expressed hope that the TPP will be approved by Congress by telling reporters that the stance of PM Abe will help support efforts in the U.S.

- [Japan losing chance to influence Paris climate accord](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Mandatory dues for "check-off" system will meet strong opposition from farmers](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Hasten Diet deliberations on TPP to help boost ratification by U.S.](#) (The Japan News)
- [Kyushu Electric begins scheduled checkup of nuclear reactor](#) (The Mainichi)
- [8 trillion yen in public funds sought for post-Fukushima disaster costs](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Commentary: Is Abe's pledge on women's advancement a lie?](#) (Nikkei)

SECURITY

U.S. military collecting personal information on protesters in Okinawa

Okinawa Times gave top play to a report by Jon Mitchell, a Welsh journalist based in Japan, saying that he has learned that the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa has been collecting the personal information of citizens participating in activities to protest the FRF construction at Henoko and sharing the information internally. Mitchell learned about this practice through documents he obtained in response to a request for the disclosure of public information. The journalist wrote that the U.S. military's monitoring of citizens on Japanese territory, which is outside U.S. jurisdiction, may arouse controversy. He also wrote that the public affairs section of the U.S. Marines in Okinawa had not responded as of Oct. 6 to his question on the legality of the monitoring and possibility of information leakage. The documents Mitchell obtained included regular reports sent via email by the Camp Schwab Military Police Office from May through July and daily reports on protest activities created by the U.S. military's investigation authority. According to these reports, the U.S. military has been monitoring protest activities in front of the gates not only at Camp Schwab but also at the Northern Training Area and Kadena AB. Although the names of individual protesters other than Mitchell are blacked out in the documents, they indicate information about Hiroji Yamashiro, director of the Okinawa Peace Movement Center, and Ann Wright, a former U.S. Army colonel and diplomat. The disclosed information includes photos taken by the U.S. military and images from social media and TV reports.

The paper ran additional inside-page reports in which Mitchell wrote that the documents demonstrate the U.S. military's frustration over Okinawans' worsening feelings toward the U.S. The paper quoted Yamashiro as saying: "The U.S. military did whatever it liked, including shadowing and torturing people, before Okinawa's reversion to Japanese administration. It is a serious problem if they are still doing this after the reversion."

Okinawa lodges protest against planned resumption of Harrier flights

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Okinawa Vice Governor Ageda visited Camp Zukeran on Thursday to lodge a protest against the U.S. Marines' decision to resume AV-8B Harrier flights. Ageda submitted to Maj. Gen. Malavet, commanding general of the Marine Corps Installations Pacific, a letter of protest addressed to the commander of the III Marine Expeditionary Force. The letter expresses difficulty understanding whether the aircraft is safe because no explanation of the cause of the crash in September has been provided.

- [Japan, U.S. to sign pact limiting SOFA coverage of 'civilian component' base workers](#) (The Japan Times)
- [The SDF's changing image on silver screen](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Helipad construction in Okinawa](#) (Akahata)
- [Carton: Toyosu scandal](#) (Sankei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on October 6](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee, Oct. 6](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP factions review their post-Abe strategies](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP's Nikai tells Abe everyone is "expecting" Lower House dissolution](#) (Mainichi)
- [Suga, Inada habitually receive empty receipts at fundraising parties](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Defense Minister Inada](#) (Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [Gov't panel proposes new R&D budget category](#) (Mainichi)

TV PROGRAMS

[Will the new social insurance system help part-time workers?](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Thursday reported on the new social insurance system, which makes it possible for part-time workers who work short hours to join employees' pension and health insurance programs starting this month. While the new system is welcomed by some as it improves the work environment, others are opposed to it because those who did not have to pay any social insurance premiums under their husbands' spousal deduction now need to pay the premiums.