



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, October 11, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK, NTV, and Fuji TV led with reports on the start of the official campaign for the by-elections in Tokyo and Fukuoka, with NTV speculating that PM Abe may decide to dissolve the Lower House for a snap election in January if the LDP wins both races. Other top news included a report that the supplementary budget will be approved by the Diet this afternoon.

## SCIENCE

### **Cabinet endorses bill requesting Diet approval for Paris Agreement**

NHK reported at noon that the Abe cabinet endorsed this morning a bill requesting Diet approval for the Paris Agreement. Noting that the Paris Agreement has already been ratified by 75 nations and is expected to enter into force on November 4, the network said Japan is unlikely to be able to participate in the inaugural meeting of the Paris Agreement next month as a signatory nation. FM Kishida reportedly said that the GOJ will make an all-out effort to obtain Diet approval. Environment Minister Yamamoto reportedly reiterated this morning that Japan's delay in the ratification of the agreement will not have a negative impact on its standing in international negotiations.

- [Japan to launch space cargo ship Dec. 9 after postponement](#) (Kyodo News)

## INTERNATIONAL

**Russian official says Japan, Russia to reach agreement on Northern Territories “sooner or later”**

TV Asahi reported at noon that according to the Russian news agency Interfax, Russian Presidential Press Secretary Peskov said on Monday that Russia will be able to reach an agreement with Japan on the Northern Territories "sooner or later." The senior Russian government official also reportedly said that the Japan-Russia relationship has improved greatly and that the Japanese side is taking a "very constructive approach." The network added that the two nations are expected to hold a strategic dialogue between top diplomats on Oct. 13 to discuss the eight-point economic cooperation plan proposed by Japan and the territorial issue ahead of the planned visit to Japan by President Putin in December.

### **DPRK provocation might occur before U.S. presidential election**

NHK "News Watch 9" reported on the absence of provocations by North Korea on the 71st anniversary of the foundation of the North Korean Workers' Party on Monday. Kwansei Gakuin University Korea specialist Hiraiwa projected that the Kim regime may conduct a nuclear test or fire a ballistic missile after the international community relaxes its surveillance in order to amplify the impact of the provocation. He conjectured that such a provocation may be carried out before the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 8 so as to prompt the next American leader to take North Korea's nuclear ambitions more seriously.

### **Senior DOS official calls for change in "strategic patience" toward DPRK**

TV-Asahi's "Hodo Station" reported on Monday on an emerging consensus in Washington that North Korea is about to acquire nuclear capabilities that would pose a direct threat to the U.S. mainland and that the next administration may have to abandon the "strategic patience" policy of not holding dialogue unless North Korea takes steps toward denuclearization. An unnamed high-ranking State Department official reportedly said: "The Obama administration has continued to practice strategic patience. However, Pyongyang is on the verge of being capable of launching a nuclear attack on the U.S. mainland in the near future. We may have to negotiate a deal with the DPRK so as not to allow any additional nuclear development in exchange for accepting its existing nuclear stockpile."

On the DPRK Foreign Ministry statement issued last week warning that the U.S. "will sooner or later face a shuddering reality," the network quoted a North Korean Army intelligence officer as saying: "Kim Jong Un has instructed the military to conclude within this year the development of an ICBM that can fly over 15,000 km and an SLBM that can fly over 5,000 km." The program speculated that the launch of the three medium-range missiles that landed in Japan's EEZ west of Hokkaido on Sept. 5 was intended to demonstrate the ability to neutralize the U.S. military's X-band radar installed in Aomori Prefecture and the F-16s deployed at Misawa AB, both of which are key tools for deterring DPRK nuclear-armed missile attacks on the continental U.S. According to a North Korean academic, Kim Jong Un is determined to acquire nuclear capabilities at all costs because his regime's survival is at stake.

- [\*\*Aso, Lew vow to cooperate for strong UN sanctions on N. Korea\*\*](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Freer travel to northern territories eyed for top-level talks](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan mulling participation in Russian natural gas project in Arctic](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Russia to hold strategic talks](#) (The Japan News)
- [Column: Merits of discussing administrative issues for “returning two islands”](#) (Sankei)
- [Column: Mutual interests important for Japan-China ties](#) (The Japan News)
- [Abe, Indonesian minister share common concerns toward China’s maritime aggression](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, Saudi Arabia to cooperate on Internet of Things, renewables](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Working groups established to build Japan-Saudi Arabia cooperation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [METI minister calls for listing Saudi state oil firm on Tokyo Stock Exchange](#) (Nikkei)

## **SECURITY**

### **Onaga’s supporters perplexed by his remark welcoming NTA reversion**

Okinawa Times reported on Monday that Governor Onaga’s comment on Saturday “welcoming” Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga’s explanation that the GOJ will negotiate with the U.S. to realize the return of the Northern Training Area this year has caused a stir. Base opponents, most of whom are strong supporters of Onaga, think that he may have been endorsing the construction of helipads, which is a prerequisite for the agreed-upon reversion. One Onaga supporter said: “This remark may contradict his position on relocation to Henoko.” LDP officials are anxious to capitalize on the apparent schism between Onaga and his supporters, with one of them saying: “The remark welcoming the return indicates that the governor may make concessions on base issues other than Futenma relocation. By driving a wedge between the governor and his supporters, we may be able to gain the upper hand in moving forward with the Henoko plan.”

### **U.S. allows Japan to arrest protestors at Northern Training Area**

Saturday morning’s Ryukyu Shimpo claimed in its lead story that the USG has agreed that the Japanese police should exercise investigative authority at the Northern Training Area in order to crack down on protestors and ensure that the helipad construction goes smoothly. The U.S. side is reportedly set to allow the local police to arrest base opponents inside the NTA if necessary on the charge of forcible obstruction of business based on the judgment that the U.S. military police alone

will be insufficient to prevent the sabotage carried out by the protestors. The daily criticized the U.S. for exercising “discretion” regarding Japanese access to military installations, pointing out that U.S. military authorities have frequently turned down Japanese requests for access to conduct criminal investigations or environmental surveys.

- [Suga trying to put brakes on Okinawa governor over base](#) (The Japan News)
- [U.S. sailor in Okinawa nabbed for failing to report alleged traffic accident](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Tritium researcher at univ. of Toyama suffers cyberattacks](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Philippines still mulling visiting forces agreement with Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Firms develop security tech to make Olympics safer](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan’s defense minister Inada to make first visit to South Sudan](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Top U.S., Japanese generals meet in Washington over N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ishin to submit bill on regulating transaction of security-sensitive land](#) (Sankei)

## OPINION POLLS

- [Pollees split on whether quick or careful talks are necessary to decide abdication, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [85% “in favor” of review of facilities for Olympics, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on October 9](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on October 8](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on October 7](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP temporarily shelves 2012 constitutional draft to realize revision](#) (The Mainichi)

- [DP's Mabuchi says about a dozen" Diet members have dual citizenship](#) (Sankei)
- [Nippon Ishin no Kai may join ruling camp](#) (Sankei)
- [DP Chief Renho plans to field united opposition candidates in next Lower House election](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan's opposition party promises alternative to Abenomics: Interview with Noda](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Bar society calls for abolition of death penalty](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Bar federation's call to end death penalty reflects global trend](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Blank receipts](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: : Defense Minister Inada](#) (Asahi)

## ECONOMY

- [Opposition refuses to start TPP deliberations](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan walking on tight rope until COP 22](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Paris Agreement ratification delay would be embarrassment for Japan](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Japan blunders in not speedily ratifying Paris climate pact](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Gov't panel launches discussion on fast-breeder reactor development](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Nuclear reactors decommissioning costs must be shared by all power users](#) (The Japan News)
- [Yokohama to become LNG supply base for marine fuel](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Govt releases white paper on overwork](#) (The Japan News)

## SOCIETY

## **Ambassador Kennedy, Senator Harkin speak on supporting people with disabilities**

Saturday's Mainichi ran a recent interview with Ambassador Kennedy and former Senator Harkin, both of whom have been deeply involved in supporting people with disabilities. The paper wrote that the Ambassador has visited facilities for the disabled in such places as Sendai in Miyagi Prefecture and Nihonmatsu in Fukushima Prefecture since she arrived in Japan as ambassador three years ago. Senator Harkin, who led the effort to enact the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, welcomed the recent coming into force of the Act on the Promotion of the Elimination of Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in Japan. Ambassador Kennedy praised Japanese athletes' participation in the Special Olympics and Paralympics for helping to deepen public understanding for people with disabilities.

- [\*\*Ambassador Kennedy, former U.S. Senator Harkin call for support for the disabled\*\*](#) (Mainichi)
- [\*\*98% of companies already have action plan to promote women\*\*](#) (The Japan News)

## **TV PROGRAMS**

### **Countdown to Tokyo 2020**

NHK's "NHK Special" carried a report on Monday on the upcoming Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2020. The program said the Tokyo Olympics should create a positive "legacy" for future generations by, for example, building facilities that can be easily converted to schools or put to other uses instead of creating expensive permanent sports facilities that become a negative legacy, as in the case of Athens. NHK anchor Kensuke Okoshi reported from Athens, London, and Rio, hosts of previous Olympics, and shed light on both the positive and negative ways in which the Olympic games had an impact on those cities. The program also interviewed Tokyo Governor Koike and former PM Yoshiro Mori, who heads the organizing committee for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

### **Lessons learned from Kumamoto Earthquakes**

NHK's "NHK Special" on Sunday reported on the Kumamoto Earthquakes in April, saying that it was found that even houses and apartments built according to the latest quake-resistance standards suffered extensive damage. The program also reported that high-rise buildings in cities could crash into other buildings, causing extensive damage, due to the extended ground motion caused by major earthquakes.

## **AMBASSADOR**

## **Ambassador enjoys Kunchi Festival in Nagasaki**

Nagasaki Shimbun reported online on Saturday that Ambassador Kennedy visited Nagasaki on Friday and enjoyed watching local children perform traditional Japanese dances during the annual Kunchi festival. The Ambassador and her husband Edwin Schlossberg were reportedly invited to the festival by Nagasaki Mayor Taue. She was quoted as saying afterward: "I now understand why this vibrant event that embodies the history of Japanese culture has been carried on for over 380 years." According to the daily, the Ambassador later interacted with students at Nagasaki Higashi High School.

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