



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, October 12, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report that North Korea's Korean Central News Agency announced that the DPRK will designate Kim Jong Un's birthday on Jan. 8 as an official memorial day and fully celebrate the day starting next year, saying that there is speculation that Pyongyang is planning to idolize the North Korean leader like his predecessors Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung. NTV led with a report that police are planning to arrest a couple this afternoon in connection with the disappearance of a woman in Aichi. Fuji TV gave top play to cool temperatures throughout Japan today. TBS and TV Asahi led with reports that the dismembered body parts of a man were found in Itami, Hyogo, on Tuesday.

INTERNATIONAL

Russia expresses view that concluding peace treaty is most important thing

TV Asahi reported at noon that MOFA European Affairs Bureau Ambassador Aiki met with a member of the Russian parliament for talks on fishing in waters around the Northern Territories on Tuesday in Russia. Russian Defense and Security Committee Chairman Ozerov reportedly said: "The most important thing in the negotiations between the two leaders is the conclusion of a peace treaty." The network also said the Russian side expressed the view that security cooperation between Japan and Russia is deepening due to close economic cooperation as well as measures against fish poaching. The Russian official also reportedly announced that Federal Council Chairwoman Matviyenko will visit Japan on Oct. 31 ahead of President Putin's planned visit to Japan.

- [Kremlin says progress in Japan isles row will come “sooner or later”](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Russia requests Japan’s cooperation in exporting agricultural products](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

Ambassador Power calls for swift adoption of sanctions resolution on DPRK

NHK aired its one-on-one interview with U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power that was held in Tokyo on Oct. 8 on its BS1 satellite channel's weekday evening program “Kokusai Hodo 2016” as part of a report on North Korea. Ambassador Power was quoted as saying that it is necessary to expedite discussions by the UN Security Council on additional sanctions on the DPRK because a few weeks have already passed since it conducted a nuclear test last month. The Ambassador also commented that it would be difficult to hold serious negotiations with a nation that has conducted more than 20 nuclear and ballistic missile tests and that pressure is important to complement diplomacy. The U.S. envoy also said that it is necessary to fully implement the toughest sanctions imposed by the United Nations in March and swiftly come up with measures to firmly close the loopholes in the sanctions. She added that it is necessary to stop the cash flow to the DPRK because the nation is using coal exports as a source of funding for its nuclear development. Concerning China, the Ambassador expressed the view that how tough China can be on North Korea through the United Nations is important because Beijing is striking a balance between maintaining the Kim regime and preventing further nuclear development by Pyongyang. Noting that it is rare for a U.S. ambassador to the UN to visit Japan, the program's anchor Tanaka commented that Ambassador Power's visit to Japan demonstrates the importance that the U.S. attaches to additional sanctions on the DPRK.

- [Brazilian president, other foreign leaders to visit Japan this month](#) (Mainichi)
- [Commentary: JCG will need more patrol boats to deal with China](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Trump](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

Onaga says remark “welcoming” return of Northern Training Area was “inappropriate”

Okinawa Times gave top play to a report on Governor Onaga's remarks to the press on Tuesday, during which he stated that his comment on Oct. 8 “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 was “not appropriate.” The governor said his earlier remarks were meant to express his “acknowledgement” of the GOJ plan and that there has been no change in his position of opposing the construction of helipads for Ospreys. Chief of the governor's office Shahana stated at

an assembly committee meeting on Tuesday that the governor said he “welcomed” the plan but did not say he “approved” of it. The paper wrote that the governor basically withdrew his remarks that the GOJ had apparently taken as his approval of the helipad construction.

Ryukyu Shimpo also reported on Onaga’s remarks on Tuesday, saying that the governor cited the plan for MV -22 Ospreys to use the helipads and the GOJ’s use of SDF helicopters and mobilization of riot police from outside the prefecture as reasons why the construction project is inappropriate.

Protesters enter Northern Training Area despite risk of arrest

Okinawa Times reported on protesters’ activities inside the Northern Training Area to block the helipad construct there, saying that they are determined to enter the U.S. military facility despite the risk of arrest. However, the leader of a local citizens’ group opposing the helipad construction expressed doubts about entering the U.S. military facility without permission by saying that he is not sure whether such an act will help win public understanding.

GOJ says removal of reporters at helipad construction site was “appropriate”

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that concerning the removal by riot police in August of two local reporters covering protests against the helipad construction at the Northern Training Area, the GOJ confirmed its position that “the Okinawa police are conducting operations appropriately to fulfill their responsibilities” and that “freedom of press is being respected fully.” The cabinet approved this position as an official response to a question from a Lower House lawmaker from Okinawa. Ryukyu Shimpo ran an editorial criticizing the cabinet position for “infringing on freedom of the press and the people’s right to know.”

Kadena contract worker arrested for DUI

Okinawa Times wrote that the Okinawa police arrested a contract worker belonging to Kadena AB on Oct. 10 on suspicion of violating the Road Traffic Law by driving under the influence of alcohol early in the morning on Oct. 10 in Chatan. According to the police, the suspect has admitted the charge, and alcohol three times the admissible level was detected on his breath.

- [Commentary: Cyber defense should be a top priority of universities](#) (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

DP chief Renho to visit U.S. after presidential election

Jiji Press reported this afternoon that DP leader Renho met with Ambassador Kennedy in Tokyo this morning and conveyed her wish to visit the U.S. after the presidential election on November 8. Jiji said the meeting was held at the request of Renho.

- [Prime minister’s schedule on October 10–11](#) (Nikkei)

- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee, Oct. 11](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Tough confrontation expected in TPP deliberations starting Oct. 14](#) (Mainichi)
- [Keidanren releases evaluation of political parties' economic policies, performance](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Shinto community gaining influence with Abe government](#) (SAPIO)
- [Japan Conference's policymaker talks of the group's objective, influence on Abe government](#) (Nikkei)
- [Interview with JCP chief Shii on opposition united front, Lower House election, other issues](#) (Sande Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [Lack of government and company experience cause delays in MRJ project](#) (Mainichi)
- [Diet enacts 2nd extra budget](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Imported rice may affect Diet deliberations on TPP](#) (Nikkei)
- [Interviews on labor reform with Japan's union and industry leaders](#) (Nikkei)
- [Move out of male-dominated workplace, act as a bridge between people](#) (Nikkei)
- [Confronting overtime head on](#) (Nikkei)
- [Attracted to new workplace that cherishes diversity in intelligence](#) (Nikkei)
- [Women's empowerment is not only a women issue](#) (Nikkei)