



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, October 13, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, NTV, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi led with reports on the major power outage in parts of Tokyo on Wednesday caused by a fire at a TEPCO facility in Niiza, Saitama, saying that TEPCO President Hirose visited METI Minister Seko and apologized for the incident. TBS gave top play to a report that Tokyo Governor Koike has decided to replace the head of the new fish market in Toyosu over the soil problem.

SECURITY

Okinawa politicians lodge protest over Harrier crash

Okinawa Times reported that Okinawa prefectural assembly members met with Naha ConGen Joel Ehrendreich on Wednesday and filed a protest over the recent crash of a Harrier off the coast of the main island. In response, the U.S. diplomat reportedly mentioned the need to make additional efforts to reduce such accidents because they could trigger local calls for removing all U.S. military installations from Okinawa.

Academic urges GOJ to stop “playing with semantics”

TBS “News 23” on Wednesday highlighted a recent parliamentary debate on South Sudan, during which PM Abe and DM Inada stressed the safety of the capital city of Juba where an SDF engineering division is currently engaged in UN peacekeeping operations. In view of the possibility of assigning the SDF troops the additional mission of going to the defense of foreign troops, the two GOJ officials called a major fatal incident that took place there in July a “clash,” and dismissed an opposition politician’s description of the incident as “combat,” which under the nation’s five principles

on PKO participation might have forced the GOJ to withdraw the SDF troops. Tokyo University of Foreign Studies Professor Isezaki, who has extensive experience in a number of UN operations, criticized the GOJ for “playing with semantics.” While explaining that what is happening in the African nation is a “civil war” between two armed groups, the scholar said the five principles on PKO, including adherence to strict neutrality, are no longer relevant since UN troops in any PKO operation are direct parties to conflict as they are authorized to use arms to carry out their “foremost mission” of defending civilians.

- [Interview: Okinawa chief mulling withdrawing landfill approval](#) (Jiji Press)
- [All five key NSC members not in Tokyo on Oct. 8](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Inada’s S. Sudan visit an appropriate step for authorizing new SDF tasks](#) (The Japan News)

POLITICS

[Abe says he has “no obligation” to explain LDP draft on constitutional revision](#)

TV-Asahi’s “Hodo Station” on Wednesday took up the day’s Diet debate, during which an opposition lawmaker took issue with PM Abe’s choosing not to make any substantive comments on constitutional amendment, including the controversial draft constitution that the LDP put together in 2012, even though he had frequently underscored the importance of updating the nation’s supreme law in the past. The premier said in reply: “I am not in a position to make comments on the LDP draft because I’m here as the chief of the executive branch. I have no obligation to answer questions on constitutional amendment.... Discussions on constitutional revision should be conducted at a special parliamentary panel, as the prospects for constitutional amendment are growing.” The show speculated that the premier was trying to “play it safe” to prevent his remarks from dampening the mounting momentum for amendment, as evidenced by the fact that pro-revision forces won a two-thirds majority in the July Upper House election.

- [Prime minister’s schedule on October 12](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Oct. 12](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Name of PLP changed to “Liberal Party”](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Blank receipts](#) (Akahata)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Ex-Russian envoy to Japan says Tokyo should propose the return of two islands](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Government calls on tourism industry to promote tours to Russian Far East](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Philippines commissions first of 10 new patrol ships from Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Nippon Sport Science U. raises alarm with repeated visits to N. Korea](#) (Sentaku)
- [Editorial: Trump has stained quality of U.S. presidential election](#) (The Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [Aims and main projects of FY 2016 second supplementary budget](#) (Yomiuri)
- [“Seiron” column: Why Japan must ratify the TPP agreement](#) (Sankei)
- [LDP-Nippon Ishin cooperation on IR promotion bill, gaps between ruling parties](#) (Sankei)
- [Reflation advocates have ear of prime minister](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

- [Column: Go, Girls! You will change and save the world!](#) (Asahi)
- [Working moms struggle to keep careers without reduced work hours](#) (Kyodo News)

TV PROGRAMS

Illegal ticket resale

NHK’s “Close-up Gendai Plus” on Wednesday evening reported on the growing problem of ticket resale, saying that an increasing number of tickets for musical or sporting events are being bought up in blocks and resold at much higher prices. Although it is against the law for people without licenses to purchase tickets for the purpose of reselling them, it is not against the law to resell unneeded tickets, so ticket resale is a “gray zone.” The program said these tickets are resold on special websites, adding that not just scalpers but also ordinary citizens, including teenagers, are making money from reselling tickets through such sites. The program said some musicians and entertainment facilities are beginning to take measures against illegal ticket resale.

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