



Afternoon Alert - Friday, October 14, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK led with a report on the death of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej on Thursday. All commercial networks gave top play to reports that this morning a 77-year-old man was struck by a lead pipe that fell from a building being demolished in Roppongi, Tokyo. The networks later reported that the man died in the hospital from his injuries.

## SECURITY

### Abe cabinet approves bill to seek Diet approval of updated ACSA

NHK reported this afternoon that following the signing of the new Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between Japan and the U.S. last month, the GOJ endorsed at a cabinet meeting today a bill to seek Diet approval of the new treaty. The network said the new agreement will allow Japan to provide the U.S. with logistical support, including providing ammunition, even when Japan is not under direct attack. The network added that the GOJ is hoping to obtain early Diet approval of the bill since the updated ACSA is an important agreement from the viewpoint of enhancing the deterrence of the U.S.-Japan alliance amid the increasingly severe security environment surrounding Japan.

### MSDF to move one ship from Somalia to Sea of Japan

NHK reported this afternoon that the Ministry of Defense is making final arrangements to send one of the two MSDF vessels currently stationed in waters off Somalia for anti-piracy measures to the Sea of Japan in order to strengthen surveillance against North Korea. The network added that the decision was based on the assessment that the number of piracy-related incidents in waters off

Somalia dropped significantly this year while domestic missions are expanding as North Korea is repeatedly launching ballistic missiles and China is expanding its maritime activities in the region. The ministry is hoping to realize the plan by the end of this year.

### **Onaga vows no new base**

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on Governor Onaga's remarks at a news conference on Thursday, which marked one year since he cancelled his predecessor's permission for landfill work at Henoko. Onaga stated that he will stand up to the central government with full determination not to allow the construction of a new base at Henoko and that he is considering the possibility of nullifying the permission if the prefecture loses in the lawsuit with the central government at the Supreme Court. The governor said that he may exercise his authority to reject future requests from the GOJ for permission to change the construction plan or reef work.

- [Editorial: Deep debate needed to clarify new duties for SDF troops in S. Sudan](#) (The Mainichi)

## **ECONOMY**

### **TPP Minister Ishihara pledges to swiftly ratify TPP**

Jiji Press reported that deliberations on the TPP-related bills began this morning at the Lower House Special TPP committee today. TPP Minister Ishihara was quoted as saying: "We can expect to achieve further growth. Japan's position of seeking early ratification remains unchanged." Ishihara also reportedly said: "In order to realize the benefits of the TPP as early as possible, we will take the initiative and lead the U.S. so as to boost momentum for the early effectuation of the accord." He also expressed the view that Japan will not renegotiate the deal with the participating nations, including the U.S.

- [Government approves corporate ownership of farmland](#) (Nikkei)
- [Administration revises GDP calculation method](#) (Sankei)
- [Labor reform bill to be submitted to next regular Diet session](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP subcommittee compiles social security reform proposals](#) (Nikkei)
- ["Seiron" column: Seize the opportunity to release the third arrow speedily](#) (Sankei)

## **POLITICS**

- [Prime minister's schedule on October 13](#) (Nikkei)

- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee, Oct. 13](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe to forgo visiting Yasukuni Shrine](#) (Sankei)

## TV PROGRAMS

### **Infectious diseases reemerging in Japan**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Thursday reported on the spread of measles in Japan, saying that although it was once contained in Japan, the number of patients suffering from the disease surged to 145 in October this year. The program said the measles virus was probably brought to Japan by visitors from Asian nations, stressing the importance of undergoing the appropriate number of vaccinations. The program also reported on an increase in the number of tuberculosis and syphilis patients in Japan.

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