



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, October 19, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports that a 24-year-old man was arrested on charges of attacking a family in Kadoma, Osaka, early this morning, killing the father and injuring three others.

SECURITY

Okinawa leader may use administrative authority to block base construction

Okinawa Times gave top coverage to the finding that Governor Onaga is seriously looking into the possibility of using his administrative authority with the goal of thwarting base construction off Camp Schwab by not renewing an existing permit to destroy rock reefs, not allowing the central government to transplant coral reefs, and refusing to approve changes to the original construction design. The prefectural government has reportedly concluded that these steps would have a considerable impact on the construction work. The local government has also examined other options, such as the governor refusing to accept a GOJ notification on transporting materials and equipment to be used for landfill from the Japanese mainland. However, these options were reportedly judged ineffective in thwarting the construction.

In an accompanying piece, the daily said the governor is determined to block the present relocation plan at all costs even if the Supreme Court rules against him in the ongoing lawsuit with the central government regarding the landfill permit. The paper added that some prefectural government officials are calling for a local referendum to remind Tokyo of the strong opposition to the current relocation plan.

Riot policeman uses abusive language toward base opponents in Okinawa

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo both front-paged reports claiming that a riot policeman hurled insults at local residents protesting against the helipad construction at the Northern Training Area on Tuesday. According to the articles, the policeman, who was apparently dispatched from Osaka, said to the demonstrators: "Don't touch (the fence). Idiots. *Dojin!*" Although the word *dojin* originally means "native" in Japanese, it is rarely used today because of its derogatory connotations. One of the protesters involved was award-winning writer Shun Medoruma. The Okinawa police have insisted that they cannot confirm whether or not the language was used, but Ryukyu Shimpo explained that the remark was filmed by one of the protestors. The papers said riot police at the scene have been shouting abusive language at base opponents and that the latest episode reflects their prejudice against local people.

Asahi ran a similar story online this afternoon, noting that the Okinawa police have confirmed that the policeman in question used the abusive language and said it was extremely regrettable.

- [Ex-SDF brass discuss China's actions in East, South China Seas, North Korea, other issues](#) (Chuokoron)
- [GSDF to participate in PKO in South Sudan through March 2017](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

Farm Minister Yamamoto apologizes for remarks on TPP

NHK reported this afternoon that Farm Minister Yamamoto attended a meeting of a special Lower House committee on the TPP and apologized and retracted his earlier remarks hinting at steamrolling TPP-related bills on Tuesday. He reportedly said: "It was inappropriate to suggest government intervention into Diet affairs. I apologize for causing trouble." The network said the Democratic Party and other opposition parties are calling for Yamamoto to resign to take responsibility for his remarks.

Suga comments on Farm Minister Yamamoto's remarks on TPP

All networks reported at noon on remarks made during a party on Tuesday evening by Agriculture Minister Yamamoto, who hinted at "steamrolling" the TPP-related bills. NHK said Yamamoto's remarks have been heavily criticized by senior ruling party members as well as opposition parties. The network quoted Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga as telling reporters this morning: "He apparently made such remarks based on the idea that the Diet should decide Diet matters. The government is by no means thinking of steamrolling the bills. Minister Yamamoto has said he will retract his remarks and offer an apology."

- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House special committee on TPP, Oct. 18](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Two camps fail to reach consensus in second Lower House TPP deliberation](#) (Asahi)
- [Parties dig in heels over schedule of public hearings on TPP](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP proposes convening Upper House committee on TPP](#) (Akahata)
- [Farm Minister Yamamoto says Diet steering committee to decide whether to steamroll TPP](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe says TPP marks turning point for world free trade system](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Analysis: If elected, Clinton will ratify TPP eventually without renegotiation](#) (Shukan Ekonomisuto)
- [Job interviews for new graduates to start in June of fourth year of university for third time](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Government, Keidanren plan 'Premium Friday' campaign to boost consumption](#) (The Japan Times)
- [JAEA to shut down 10 facilities](#) (Mainichi)
- [JAEA mulls submitting screening application for Joyo in March 2017](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Niigata governor election shows anxiety about nuclear power](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [MAFF to join hands with three business lobbies](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

Internal Affairs Minister Takaichi visits Yasukuni Shrine

Jiji Press reported that Internal Affairs Minister Takaichi paid homage at Yasukuni Shrine this afternoon, saying that she is the first cabinet member to visit the shrine during this year's autumn festival. Takaichi visits the shrine during every spring and autumn festival as well as on Aug. 15. PM Abe's adviser Seiichi Eto also went to the shrine today.

- [**Prime minister's schedule on October 18**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**LDP draft will not be used in Diet debates on constitutional revisions**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Editorial: Discuss Emperor's abdication in panel without prejudgments**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Courts rule July national upper house election constitutional**](#) (The Mainichi)

INTERNATIONAL

- [**Commentary: Habomai and Shikotan Islands unlikely to be returned**](#) (Yomiuri)
- [**Russian scholar: If Japan insists on return of four Northern Islands, it will get none**](#) (Yomiuri)
- [**Cartoon: Duterte arrives in China**](#) (Sankei)
- [**Cartoon: Xi Jinping**](#) (Asahi)

SCIENCE

- [**Japan lagging behind global move to restrict microbeads**](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

- [**Editorial: Newspapers more important than ever in age of division, discord**](#) (The Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [**93% say they are concerned about social security, Yomiuri poll**](#) (Yomiuri)

TV PROGRAMS

[**Ballooning budget for Tokyo Olympics**](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Tuesday reported on the ballooning budget for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, saying that the Tokyo metropolitan government's investigative team has estimated that the overall cost for the event would exceed three trillion yen and proposed reviewing the present plan. The program looked into how the budget swelled so much, reporting on the budget for the boat facility through interviews with Tokyo Governor Koike and relevant officials.

