



Afternoon Alert - Friday, October 21, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi led with reports that a hole was found in the drip bag of a patient at a hospital in Kitakyushu and that several pieces of medical equipment were found missing. TBS reported that the dismembered head of a man was found in Ayase River in Saitama. NTV gave top play to a report on a car accident in Akita early this morning in which the driver and the two passengers died.

INTERNATIONAL

Senior diplomats of U.S., Japan, ROK to meet next week over North Korea

NHK reported online this afternoon that FM Kishida announced at a press conference today that the U.S., Japan, and South Korea will hold a trilateral vice foreign ministers' meeting on Oct. 27 in Tokyo in order to discuss ways to respond to North Korea which is repeatedly launching ballistic missiles. The network said MOFA Vice Foreign Minister Sugiyama, Deputy Secretary of State Blinken, and South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Lim Sung-nam will attend the meeting to confirm trilateral cooperation in order to increase pressure against North Korea. FM Kishida also reportedly said Tokyo is considering imposing tougher unilateral sanctions against North Korea.

Tokyo perplexed by Philippine President Duterte

Fuji TV reported at noon that the GOJ is concerned about Philippine President Duterte's expected visit to Japan next week, saying that MOFA convened a senior staff meeting early Friday morning to analyze the intention behind the president's recent comments and actions and his new ties with China. The network quoted FM Kishida as telling reporters: "I would like to communicate effectively

by talking to him face-to-face." FM Kishida has invited President Duterte to dinner and is hoping to confirm what he meant when he announced China the Philippines military "separation" from the U.S. One senior MOFA official was quoted as saying: "He tends to pay excessive lip service, but if he is serious about breaking with the U.S. militarily, it is a serious matter." Noting that the president is expected to also meet with the Emperor during his visit, MOFA is worried that he might do something not in keeping with protocol.

U.S. Embassy hosts debate viewing event

Yomiuri, Sankei, Asahi, and Tokyo Shimbun reported that some 120 students took part in a U.S. presidential debate viewing event held at the U.S. Embassy yesterday. Many of the students thought Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump. One participant said: "This type of open discussion forum is ideal." Tokyo Shimbun wrote that before the start of the debate, Ambassador Kennedy noted that Hillary Clinton is the first female presidential candidate. "This is a historic race," she said. "I want you to learn what the two candidates are hoping to accomplish." According to Yomiuri, Ambassador Kennedy mentioned the first-televised presidential debate in 1960 between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon, explaining that those who listened to the debate on radio thought the Republican candidate won whereas people who watched it on TV thought Kennedy prevailed. She said: "If more people had had radios, I wouldn't be standing here." TV-Tokyo broadcast a two-minute report on the event yesterday afternoon, and TBS and TV Asahi aired brief stories in the evening.

The Wall Street Journal posted a Reuters photo on its Photos of the Day page of its website with a caption saying that Caroline Kennedy, U.S. ambassador to Japan and the daughter of former President John F. Kennedy, puts on a hat during an event with students at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to watch the televised presidential debate between Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican candidate Donald Trump.

- [Myanmar's Suu Kyi to visit Japan Nov. 1-5](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ishigaki City councilors asked CCS Suga to bring Senkaku issue to arbitration court](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan seeks opportunities to help Saudis diversify economy](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japanese experts to offer next US leader advice on bilateral ties](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Japan-Soviet joint declaration still serves as basis for territorial talks](#) (The Japan News)

SECURITY

Governor renews call for Futenma's relocation out of Okinawa in response to Komeito's alternative proposal

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Governor Onaga commented during a regular news conference on Thursday on the Komeito party's reported discussion of the idea of relocating the Futenma Air Station not by building runways on reclaimed land in waters off Henoko but by constructing helipads on land in Camp Schwab or Camp Hansen. Onaga stressed that he will uphold his call for the Futenma base's relocation to outside Okinawa or Japan but stated that he welcomes a wide range of discussions on Futenma relocation because discussions may help more people understand the reality of the base issues in the prefecture.

LDP policy chief to visit Okinawa

Okinawa Times wrote that LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Motegi has decided to visit Okinawa on Nov. 8-9. Motegi is making arrangements for meeting with Governor Onaga to discuss such issues related to the prefecture as the reduction of the base-hosting burden, stimulus measures for remote islands, and employment.

Case against Okinawa Marine for DUI in Shizuoka sent to prosecutors

Okinawa Times wrote that the Gotemba Station of the Shizuoka Police on Thursday sent papers to prosecutors against a Marine stationed in Okinawa on charges of theft and violating the Road Traffic Law by driving under the influence. The Marine is suspected of stealing a car and while driving the vehicle under the influence of alcohol crashing into a wall in Gotemba on Sept. 17. The suspect fled the scene, and there were no injuries. According to the Minami Kanto office of the Ministry of Defense, the Marine was visiting the city for training at Camp Fuji but was not on duty at the time of the incident. The Okinawa Marines issued a comment saying that they take the incident seriously. Gotemba Mayor Wakabayashi issued a statement saying that the incident is very regrettable and he would like U.S. military personnel to enforce discipline to prevent a similar incident from happening again.

- **Financial Services Agency to conduct cybersecurity training with financial institutions** (Mainichi)
- **Prepare for hidden cyberattack by joint efforts between gov't and private sector** (Nikkei)
- **Expert on court ruling on Okinawa governor's cancellation of Henoko landfill permit** (Mainichi)

POLITICS

- **Prime minister's schedule on October 20** (Nikkei)

- [Nikai faction becomes fourth largest in LDP](#) (Mainichi)
- [Ruling parties and Ishin prepare bill seeking gender equality in number of Diet and prefectural assembly candidates](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Gov't subsidies provided to political parties](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Interview with LDP constitutional revision headquarters chief](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- ["Japan Conference" wields limited influence over politics](#) (Nikkei)
- [Adding SDF provision to Article 9 of constitution suddenly emerges as an option](#) (FACTA)

ECONOMY

- [Yoshimasa Hayashi tapped as Upper House TPP special committee chairman](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Will the U.S. ratify the TPP at the last minute?](#) (FACTA)
- [TEPCO to construct two coal-fired power plants in Fukushima](#) (Mainichi)

EDUCATION

- [Needy students to receive 30,000 yen monthly starting in 2017](#) (Yomiuri)

SOCIETY

- [Thousands protest SDF deployment to South Sudan](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Internal document reveals Asahi Shimbun's financial difficulties](#) (Shukan Posuto)
- [Editorial: Racist slurs by police at protest in Okinawa sign of social ills](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

TV PROGRAMS

Chinese tourists

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Thursday reported on the increasing number of tourists from China, saying that their interest has shifted from buying many Japan-made goods at department stores and electronics retail stores to visiting regional tourist sites in Japan. The program said illegal,

unqualified tour guides are targeting Chinese tourists, squeezing the profits of Japanese travel agencies. The program also said incidents stemming from differences in culture and customs are increasing. The program looked into the case of South Korea, which created a police unit to deal with issues related to foreign tourists.

