



Afternoon Alert - Monday, October 24, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All noon news programs gave top coverage to the ongoing police investigation into a series of explosions that occurred in Utsunomiya City yesterday. The explosions were allegedly set off by a 72-year-old retired SDF member who apparently died in one of the blasts.

SECURITY

Ospreys fly over Kisarazu for first time

Several broadcasters reported that two USMC Ospreys flew over the vicinity of GSDF Camp Kisarazu this morning to compare the noise generated by the Osprey with that of the GSDF CH-47 helicopters currently deployed at the base. The GOJ plans to use the installation as a regular maintenance hub for the U.S. tilt-rotor aircraft beginning next January. The results of the noise test will be published on the official website of the Defense Ministry in November.

In a related development, NHK said Ambassador Kennedy met with Kisarazu Mayor Watanabe at the GSDF camp and told him that the U.S. is very appreciative of the community's support and assistance in allowing the Ospreys to undergo maintenance there. In reply, the mayor asked the Ambassador for "maximum consideration" in order to reassure the local citizens of the Osprey's safety. TV-Asahi said some 150 local residents gathered at a park nearby to protest the Osprey flight. The participants reportedly expressed concern about the noise and the safety of the Osprey, especially because there are schools and daycare centers near the GSDF camp.

DM Inada, USFJ Commander Martinez agree to move forward with helipad construction

Ryukyu Shimpo reported on Saturday that Defense Minister Inada met with newly appointed USFJ Commander Martinez and Ambassador Kennedy at MOD on Friday, saying that the officials agreed on continued bilateral cooperation in moving forward with the construction of helipads at the Northern Training Area and a Futenma replacement facility in Henoko, Nago. The daily said this was the first time for DM Inada and Lt. Gen. Martinez to hold an official meeting.

Rally against helipad construction held in front of U.S. Consulate in Naha

Okinawa Times wrote that about 40 citizens rallied in front of the U.S. Consulate in Naha on Oct. 21 in protest of the helipad construction at Takae. The protesters called for the construction to be halted immediately.

Okinawa governor plans to visit U.S. early next year

Okinawa Times wrote that Governor Onaga is making arrangements to visit Washington sometime between mid-January and mid-February in 2017 to hold talks with U.S. lawmakers and experts concerning the FRF construction at Henoko. The governor is also hoping to visit Guam, where some 9,000 Marines are scheduled to be relocated from Okinawa. Onaga had originally planned to visit the U.S. in November, but he changed his schedule in view of the presidential election.

Journalists' organization expresses concern over violation of press freedom in Okinawa

Okinawa Times front-paged a report on a [statement](#) issued on Oct. 22 by Reporters Without Borders, an international NPO that promotes and defends freedom of information. The statement expressed concern about possible violation of freedom of the press in Okinawa in connection with the riot police's detention of two Okinawa reporters while they were covering protests against the helipad construction at Takae. The statement also took up the issue of the U.S. Marines' surveillance of Welsh journalist Jon Mitchell and other citizens. In a separate inside-page report, Mitchell wrote that the U.S. Air Force has been blocking his access to its website.

Young Okinawans not aware of meaning of "dojin"

Okinawa Times wrote that although middle-aged and older people reacted strongly to an Osaka riot police officer's remarks to protesters in Okinawa calling them "dojin," many Okinawans in their 20s are unaware of the derogatory implications of "dojin." A senior at Okinawa University said: "What is 'dojin?' An alien? Never heard of the word." A 23-year-old man said: "I don't know the meaning of 'dojin.'" He said that the policeman seem to be looking down on Okinawa, adding that in his daily life he has never experienced discrimination but the policeman's remarks may indicate the mainlanders' true feelings toward Okinawa.

- [U.K. fighters arrive for drill with ASDF](#) (The Japan News)
- [Defense Minister Inada slaps down Komeito's U.S. base proposal](#) (Kyodo News)

- [SDF to use helmet cams on missions](#) (The Japan News)
- [National exam for cybersecurity experts set for spring](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Lack of understanding about Okinawa causing divisions](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Okinawa Prefecture to launch English-language website on U.S. base issues](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)

INTERNATIONAL

USG official pins hope on Japanese technological support for “Power Africa”

Jiji filed an interview with USAID “Power Africa” Coordinator Andy Herscowitz on Friday, during which he expressed strong hope for Japanese assistance in improving the energy situation in Africa, especially in the areas of energy conservation, geothermal power generation, and electricity transmission because Japanese firms have “innovative technological expertise.” On the Obama administration’s “Power Africa” initiative meant to increase the number of people in Africa with access to electricity, the USAID official said: “If Japanese companies become partners of Power Africa, it will enhance the quality of our projects.” He added that when participating in Power Africa projects, Japanese enterprises would be able to “obtain financial, legal, and political support” from other partners, many of whom are very familiar with the African market.

- [Mitsui may invest in Russian drugmaker](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe to offer 5 bil. yen in loans in talks with Philippine president](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan keen to hear Duterte’s new foreign policy during Tokyo visit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe handles diplomacy with an eye on three objectives](#) (Nikkei)
- [Duterte ready to discuss South China Sea issue with Japan](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan wary of shelving international court’s decision on South China Sea](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: China, Philippines must not lay aside rule of law](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Duterte must not make “wastepaper” of intl court of arbitration’s ruling](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: China, Philippines must not lay aside rule of law](#) (The Mainichi)

- [Editorial: Beijing's gas development in East China Sea damages trust with Japan](#) (The Japan News)
- [MOFA changes position on disclosure of Japan-U.S. Joint Committee meeting minutes](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [France wants Japan to share 570 billion yen ASTRID reactor development cost](#) (The Mainichi)
- [China gobbling up Japanese government bonds](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Trump's presidential campaign shrouded in delusional beliefs](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: U.S presidential campaign](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on October 23](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on October 22](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on October 21](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP-aligned candidates set to win 2 lower house by-elections](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Renho may top DP lower house list](#) (The Japan News)
- [Abe agrees to allow Watanuki to rejoin LDP](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Ishiba](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Abe](#) (Sankei)

ECONOMY

- [Newcomers avoid N-plant decommissions / Cost burden shouldered by major power companies](#) (The Japan News)
- [BOJ's Kuroda urges reform of Japan's labor market](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Diet panel approves bill to penalize employers exploiting foreign trainees](#) (The Mainichi)

- [Diet to enact bills on foreign trainees, caregivers](#) (The Japan News)
- [LDP may lose next election if nuclear exit becomes main issue: ex-PM Koizumi](#) (Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Japan should torch hopes of fast reactor to recycle nuke fuel](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

SCIENCE

- [Taiji's dolphin hunters have a new voice](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

[Legislation drafted to help people with intellectual disabilities create art](#)

Friday evening's Mainichi wrote that a supra-partisan group of lawmakers has put together a draft bill intended to help people with intellectual disabilities create art. The draft legislation to be submitted to the Diet in the near future holds the central and local governments responsible for promoting cultural and artistic activities by people with intellectual disabilities and called for spending to make "art brut" (a French term that translates as "raw art" by those with intellectual disabilities) more popular in Japan ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. With this legislation, the bill sponsors hope to help people with intellectual disabilities make a living by putting their artwork on the market.

- [69.6% say they "read the news on the Internet," Japan Press Research Institute poll](#) (Mainichi)

TV PROGRAMS

["Future of Capitalism" – Part 2: States vs. mega-conglomerates](#)

"NHK Special" reported on the growing phenomenon of nations losing control over their economies due to the business practices of global conglomerates. For example, Ecuador is worried about the possibility of going bankrupt if it has to pay huge amounts of compensation for a spill at an oilfield developed by Texaco. However, Patri Friedman, the grandson of Milton Friedman, is advocating the idea of creating a floating island nation to realize libertarian ideas.

["Future of Capitalism" – Part 3: Widening disparities](#)

"NHK Special" reported on widening socioeconomic disparities in the United States and elsewhere in the world, highlighting billionaires' influence over politics through financial contributions. Former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich warned that the disparities are becoming too extreme. Morris Pearl, chairman of the Patriotic Millionaires, a group of wealthy advocates for a more inclusive society in

which people can participate equally, stressed the need to increase taxes for the wealthy and raise the minimum wage.

Experts discuss post-election U.S.-Japan relations

NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday morning debate show aired a discussion by former Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. Ichiro Fujisaki, University of Tokyo Professor Fumiaki Kubo, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress Glen Fukushima, and Keio University Professor Yoshihide Soeya. While predicting that Hillary Clinton will win the U.S. presidential election, the discussants expressed their views about the American public's dissatisfaction over growing socioeconomic disparities and their distrust of "inside-the-Beltway" politics. Fukushima stated that America will not take a protectionist approach because there is steady support among the American public, especially the young generation, for free trade, and Hillary Clinton believes in the benefits of free trade despite her campaign rhetoric opposing the TPP. Soeya speculated that the U.S. may seek revisions to the TPP agreement under the leadership of Clinton. Fujisaki argued that it is likely that the U.S. will ask its allies to make additional contributions to global security and that Japan should be prepared for this. Fukushima commented that America will not become "inward-looking" and that the administration led by Clinton will instead increase its involvement in international affairs. Fujisaki welcomed shifting changes in the focus of dialogue between the U.S. and Japan from bilateral issues to global challenges.

