



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, November 2, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report on the postponement of the vote on the TPP legislation in the Lower House Special Committee scheduled for this afternoon, while all commercial networks led with reports on a traffic accident in Chiba that injured four elementary school children.

ECONOMY

Committee voting on TPP legislation postponed over another gaffe by farm minister

NHK's noon news led with a report saying that the ruling coalition decided this morning to postpone the planned voting on the TPP ratification bill and other related legislation this afternoon at the Lower House Special Committee in response to the opposition bloc's call for the postponement of the voting over a comment made by Agriculture Minister Yamamoto last night. Yamamoto reportedly said at a party of LDP Diet members on Tuesday evening: "I almost lost my job for making a joke." He was referring to his statement last month indicating the possibility of railroading the TPP bills. He later retracted the statement. The opposition parties reacted strongly to his latest comment, and the Diet affairs committee chairmen of the Democratic Party, the Japanese Communist Party, the Liberal Party, and the Social Democratic Party agreed to boycott the final committee discussion and voting on the TPP legislation scheduled for this afternoon. LDP Diet Affairs Committee chairman Takeshita told his DP counterpart that he will convey the opposition bloc's call for Yamamoto's resignation to

the Kantei. However, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told a regular press briefing this morning that he instructed the farm minister to mind what he says, adding that this is not something requiring his resignation because Yamamoto deeply regrets his careless remarks. All commercial networks aired similar reports in their noon news programs.

- [Another gaffe by farm minister jeopardizes passage of TPP ratification bill on Nov. 4](#) (Sankei)
- [“What’s the hurry?” A NZ professor urges caution against hasty ratification of TPP](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: TPP](#) (Akahata)
- [Editorial: Cultivating ‘Japan fans’ key to attracting repeat foreign visitors](#) (The Mainichi)
- [BOJ calls for backup in getting to 2% inflation](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

INTERNATIONAL

[Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Burmese living in Japan](#)

NHK reported on a speech delivered by Myanmar State Counselor and Foreign Minister Aung San Suu Kyi in Tokyo on Wednesday to some 1,000 Burmese living in Japan. She asked the participants to support the democratization and economic development of their nation. One of the participants said she was very moved by Suu Kyi's speech. Myanmar's de facto leader is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Abe on Wednesday and visit Kyoto University on Thursday to hold discussions with students there.

[Japanese woman named UN chief’s special adviser on refugees](#)

NHK reported online that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced on Tuesday that he has appointed Izumi Nakamitsu as his special adviser in order to steadily implement the New York Declaration adopted at the UN summit for refugees and migrants in September. Nakamitsu has worked on issues related to refugees at the UN Development Program.

- [Gov’t floating Sakhalin-Tokyo Bay pipeline project as part of economic cooperation with Russia](#) (Sankei)
- [Tokyo encouraging banks to lend more in Russia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan to help Russia upgrade airport](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japanese, Chinese top corporate execs discuss ways of deepening ties](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Japanese college students voted Clinton debate winner](#) (Asahi)
- [100 university students watch the U.S. presidential debate live on TV](#) (Sankei)
- [Ambassador Kennedy: “My father won the race thanks to TV”](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Students experience excitement of “political show” as they watch presidential debate live](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on Nov. 1](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ruling parties’ outlook for Diet deliberations](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Upper House Commission on the Constitution to convene on Nov. 16](#) (Mainichi)
- [Labor group Rengo “double-dealing” between DP, LDP](#) (Sankei)
- [Nikai-style international diplomacy](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Koike](#) (Sankei)

SECURITY

- [Editorial: Train a cohort of IT security experts to fight cyberterrorism ahead of 2020](#) (The Japan News)
- [Integration of U.S. military with SDF crosses redline](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on SDF’s new duties in South Sudan](#) (Sankei)
- [Defense Ministry designates FY16 recipients of USFJ realignment subsidies in Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpō)
- [An interview with Atsugi Base commander Bushey](#) (Asahi)
- [At Yokosuka lockup, U.S. military inmates sleep on beds, shoot hoops](#) (Yomiuri)

SCIENCE

- [Editorial: It’s time for Japan to change its controversial whaling strategy](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

EDUCATION

- [MOF to propose relying on outside personnel for education of foreign children](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

- [More than 20% of men in their 20s say they “do not want to marry,” NIYE poll](#) (Yomiuri)

OPINION POLLS

- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

TV PROGRAMS

[Secrets behind Nippon Ham Fighters’ victory](#)

NHK’s “Close-up Gendai Plus” on Tuesday reported on the Nippon Ham Fighters’ victory in the Japan Series baseball championship for the first time since 2006. The program said the Fighters’ manager Kuriyama is known for his flexible strategy and there is a strong relationship of trust between Kuriyama and the team’s players. During an interview with the program, Shohei Otani, Japan’s fastest pitcher and a great hitter, expressed gratitude to Kuriyama for his guidance.

