



Afternoon Alert - Monday, November 7, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TBS led with reports that MHLW officials conducted an investigation of Dentsu's offices in Tokyo and elsewhere this morning in relation to the suicides of its employees due to overwork. Dentsu is suspected of violating the Labor Standards Act. NTV and Fuji TV gave top play to follow-up reports on a fire that broke out inside an art installation at an exhibition in the outer garden of Meiji Jingu Shrine on Sunday, killing a 5-year-old boy.

SECURITY

Gov't spokesman pledges efforts to realize NTA return this year

NHK's website took up press remarks this morning by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, who commented on the agreed-upon reversion of the Northern Training Area in Okinawa by saying: "Local municipalities are calling for a swift reversion....The central government is doing its utmost to make sure it can be returned this year. If this can be done, it will help reduce the burden on Okinawa because the land area occupied by the U.S. military will be reduced by 20%."

Japan, U.S. conduct first training based on new security legislation

In an online report, Yomiuri highlighted a U.S.-Japan joint rescue drill that took place today off the coast of Okinawa, explaining that it was the first joint training based on Japan's comprehensive security laws that allow the SDF to offer logistics support to the militaries of the U.S. and other

foreign nations irrespective of geographical location depending on the nature of the contingency. A total of 12 U.S. and Japanese troops on an ASDF CH-47 helicopter carried out training that was disclosed to the press, based on the scenario of rescuing crew members of a U.S. military plane that crashed in international waters.

Defense Ministry plans to cut down 4,000 trees for trail in NTA

Saturday's Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that they have learned from documents submitted by the MOD Okinawa bureau to Okinawa forest management authorities that the Defense Ministry plans to cut down as many as 4,694 trees to construct a 2,570-meter walking trail connecting the G Area in the Northern Training Area (NTA) with the estuary of Uka River in Kunigami Village. Okinawa Times wrote that the functions of the NTA are expected to be strengthened through joint training between infantry forces that use the Uka shore for landing and air units using helipads in the G Area. The paper also wrote that there is concern that the plan to cut down a total of more than 24,300 trees in connection with the construction of four helipads in the area will affect the conservation of rare species in the forests of the region.

U.S. Air Force chief says early morning noise at Kadena was “unavoidable”

Sunday's Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff David Goldfein commented on Saturday at Kadena AB on 100-decibel-level noise generated early in the morning on Oct. 19 and 20 by F-16 fighters leaving Kadena AB by saying that although the Air Force tried to change the schedule in order to avoid making noise in the morning, there was no other option. Gen. Goldfein added that the Air Force will make all possible efforts to avoid noise. Highlighting the Air Force chief's statement that he notified the local communities of plans for late-night and early-morning flights in Germany. Ryukyu Shimpo argued that the remarks demonstrated the U.S. Air Force's use of a “double standard” for Japan and Germany.

- **Cabinet decides that Osprey has no impact on environment** (Okinawa Times)
- **Arms development plans behind joint Japan-UK military exercise** (Sentaku)

POLITICS

Opposition determined to block plenary vote on TPP bills on Tuesday

Several broadcasters reported that the opposition camp is trying to prevent the Abe administration from passing the TPP legislation in the Lower House tomorrow, noting that it may submit a no-confidence motion against Agriculture Minister Yamamoto to hold him accountable for his “gaffes” in an attempt to thwart the ruling coalition's plan to convene a plenary session to put the bills to a vote. DPJ Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Yamanoi reiterated today that Yamamoto must step down or face a no-confidence motion. TV-Asahi reported, however, that because the ruling side would vote down such a motion without fail, some opposition officials are insisting on not submitting it at least

for now and instead stepping up criticism of the embattled minister even after the bills are sent to the upper chamber for further deliberation. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told the press this morning: "Mr. Yamamoto is deeply apologetic about his remarks.... We believe this legislation should be enacted as soon as possible."

- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 6](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 5](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 4](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opposition united front could have defeated ruling parties in 47 districts in 2014](#) (Sankei)
- [Abe to ask companies to raise wages to beat deflation](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Kishida begins visiting local areas to strengthen political presence](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Farm minister Yamamoto unqualified to oversee TPP bills](#) (The Mainichi)
- [JCP Secretary General Koike speaks on opposition united front, Article 9, other issues](#) (Sankei)

INTERNATIONAL

GOJ to allow SDF troops in South Sudan to engage in "rush-to-the-rescue" operations

NHK reported that the GOJ has decided to allow SDF troops to be sent to South Sudan starting on Nov. 20 to perform new missions, including "rush-to-the-rescue" operations for UN officials and other aid workers, if the security situation in the nation does not deteriorate. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Shibayama described at a National Security Council meeting on Monday his firsthand observations of the security situation in South Sudan. Based on the understanding that the security situation in the capital city of Juba, where the SDF troops are operating, is relatively stable, the GOJ plans to give Cabinet approval for its decision by mid-November following discussions with the ruling parties.

President of Kazakhstan to visit Hiroshima

Yomiuri reported online on an announcement made today by Hiroshima City that President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan will make a formal visit to the city from Nov. 6 through 9 and offer a wreath to the victims of the atomic bombing at the Peace Memorial Park. Hiroshima maintains strong

bonds with Kazakhstan in the area of medical cooperation since more than 1.2 million people there were reportedly exposed to radiation from repeated nuclear testing by the former Soviet Union.

- [Hiroshima, Nagasaki visits by foreign dignitaries on rise](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japanese CFOs see a President Trump as top risk to U.S. economy](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Suu Kyi calls on Japanese companies for investment](#) (The Japan News)
- [Suu Kyi remains dedicated to Myanmar constitutional amendment](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan to offer training as part of Indian bullet train bid](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, India to ink nuclear co-op deal](#) (The Japan News)
- [Mitsui & Co. in wind farm talks with Russia's RAO ES Vostoka](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Seko tours Japanese firms operating in Russia](#) (NHK Online)
- [Tokyo, Moscow discuss joint projects in Russia's Far East](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Prefectural govts set differing climate goals](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan facing fallout from delay on Paris climate pact](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Japan should support development of Myanmar's young democracy](#) (The Japan News)
- [List of Japan's support for Myanmar](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Suu Kyi's Japan visit underscored commitment to democratic nation-building](#) (The Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [New U.S. pres' TPP stance interests 42% of Japan firms with U.S. ops](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, U.S. business leaders urge swift ratification of TPP](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't to set up a new organization on "sharing economy"](#) (Mainichi)

- [Govt might put highly skilled foreign nationals on fast track](#) (The Japan News)
- [Projects in the works to build offshore wind farms inside ports](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Zero-nuclear policy can lead opposition to victory: Koizumi](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [U.S. joining UN effort to boost autonomous cars' cybersecurity](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's farm co-op group to buy UK food wholesaler](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Lower house panel OK's TPP bills](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: TPP bills pushed without proper debate on issues, farm minister](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Care must be taken in how to accept foreigners to work as caregivers](#) (The Japan News)
- [New electric suppliers oppose burden sharing of nuclear power generation](#) (Nikkei)
- [Country of origin labeling to be required for all food products](#) (Nikkei)

SCIENCE

- [Advanced care robot will debut after 2030 to help take care of senior citizens](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

Kadena AB hosts Special Olympics event

Sunday's Okinawa Times wrote that the Kadena Special Olympics was held at Kadena AB on Saturday with the participation of some 900 children and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities from Okinawa. A total of 5,000 people, including the families of the participating athletes and volunteers, attended the event. This was the 17th Special Olympics hosted by the 18th Wing and NPOs at Kadena. The athletes played basketball, badminton, and other sports with the help of American escorts.

OPINION POLLS

- [57% say “Japan should not insist on return of four Northern Territories islands,” Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cabinet support rating remains steady at 58%, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Views divided on approving TPP legislation during current Diet session, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Views are split on constitutional amendment, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)

AMBASSADOR

- [Readers’ reaction to “Front Runner” column on Ambassador Kennedy](#) (Asahi be)

TV PROGRAMS

Ruling, opposition lawmakers discuss Diet deliberations on TPP

During NHK’s “Nichiyo Toron” debate show on Sunday, LDP Deputy Secretary General Shimomura and Komeito Deputy Secretary General Saito called on the opposition parties to cooperate in passing the TPP legislation at a Lower House plenary meeting on Nov. 8. They also said it is not necessary for Agriculture Minister Yamamoto to step down over his recent gaffes about Diet deliberations on the TPP because he officially apologized for the remarks. However, Democratic Party Deputy Secretary General Fukuyama and other opposition panelists rejected the call by saying that the Lower House has not yet held sufficient discussions. They strongly called for Yamamoto’s resignation by saying that his remarks “making light of Diet deliberations” were unacceptable. While calling on the farm minister to reflect on his careless statements, Secretary General Baba of Nippon Ishin stressed his party’s position of supporting the TPP. Deputy Secretary General Wada of the Party for Japanese Kokoro said the Japanese public wants the Diet to hold meaningful discussions rather than engaging in a partisan tug of war.

Decommissioning Fukushima Daiichi

"NHK Special" on Sunday reported on the ongoing process to decommission the reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, saying that in addition to technical difficulties, increasing costs are becoming a major issue. It has reportedly become extremely difficult to sustain the process under the existing system. Costs for decontamination and damage compensation are increasing in addition to labor and technological development. The program said the overall cost will be more than 13.3 trillion yen, the bulk of which will be funded by taxpayers.

U.S. presidential election

"NHK Special" on Saturday reported on the U.S. presidential race, looking at the reasons behind "Trump fever." NHK's Okoshi reported from Ohio and other parts of the U.S., saying that he feels many people are hoping for "change" since society is divided between the extremely rich and poor and there is no middle class. The program said Trump is popular among white working-class voters who feel their jobs have been taken away by illegal immigrants. According to the program, the mortality rate is increasing among white working-class people, who often become addicted to drugs and alcohol after losing their jobs. The program also reported on young Americans, saying that many of them are having difficulty paying back their student loans and are disappointed in the current democratic system. The program added that Clinton has been unable to gain the support of youths, especially black youths. The program quoted one U.S. citizen as saying that Trump has opened a "Pandora's box" of racism in U.S. society and given momentum to the ultra-right wing.

