
JM JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Friday, November 18, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports on the meeting between Prime Minister Abe and President-elect Trump in New York on Thursday evening.



INTERNATIONAL

PM Abe meets with President-elect Trump

NHK as well as all commercial networks reported on a 90-minute meeting between Prime Minister Abe and President-elect Trump at the Trump Tower in New York on Thursday evening. NTV said the premier was invited to Trump's home and only the interpreter accompanied PM Abe to the meeting. TV Asahi said Trump introduced Abe to his daughter Ivanka and her husband. The premier was quoted as telling reporters after the meeting: "We were able to hold heart-to-heart, candid discussions in a very warm atmosphere. The meeting gave me the conviction that we will be

able to build a relationship of trust. We discussed various things, but I would like to refrain from disclosing the details since the President-elect has not officially been inaugurated as president yet and the meeting was informal. We agreed to meet again at a mutually convenient time for deeper discussions to cover a wider range of issues." The premier also reportedly said: "Without trust, the alliance will not function. I am convinced that President-elect Trump is a leader I can trust."

NHK said it is extremely rare for a Japanese prime minister to meet with a President-elect, adding that according to MOFA, this was the first such meeting since 2000. The network also said PM Abe was the first leader in the world to meet in person with the President-elect. A senior MOFA official reportedly said: "Since the major purpose of the meeting was for Prime Minister Abe to meet with President-elect Trump and build a relationship of trust, it was a success. Since Prime Minister Abe conveyed his views at the meeting, the two nations will continue to discuss specific policies." NTV said Trump posted a message on his Facebook account saying it was a pleasure to "begin a great friendship."

Meanwhile, TV Asahi reported that American political scientist Ian Bremmer said the meeting was a "win" for Trump, as he successfully elicited a remark from Abe calling him a leader who can be trusted. Noting that the U.S. media have been reporting on Abe's remark, the network said while there have been concerns about Trump's words and actions up until now, Trump has successfully earned a "seal of approval" from a foreign leader, which will improve his image.

Ivanka Trump, Michael Flynn present during Trump's meeting with Abe

Commercial networks' noontime infotainment shows gave extensive coverage to the Abe-Trump meeting in New York, paying special attention to several official photos of Abe's visit to Trump Tower that were released by the Kantei afterward. The images showed that Ivanka Trump, who some media outlets reported might be tapped as ambassador to Japan, and Michael Flynn, who was allegedly offered the post of national security adviser at the White House, were present during part of the session perhaps at the onset. Former Kyodo News writer Mikio Haruna said on TV-Asahi that Flynn's attendance was an encouraging sign for Japan since the retired general visited Tokyo only last month and held talks with several Japanese politicians, including Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga. TBS claimed that Abe managed to be the first foreign leader to meet with the President-elect thanks to intense lobbying by Japanese diplomats in Washington who have successfully established a good rapport with Ivanka's husband Jared Kushner.

As for the contents of the meeting, the commentators speculated that the two did not discuss specific issues such as the TPP and Japan's host nation support for the U.S. military and instead reaffirmed the importance of free trade and a stronger trans-Pacific alliance. A TBS reporter explained that the fact that Trump apparently did not have his own interpreter showed that he had little intention to hold substantive discussions on concrete topics.

- [Gist of Abe's remarks after meeting with U.S. President-elect Trump](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe: 'I have full confidence' in Trump](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe Cabinet hails Trump talks, others in Japan remain uneasy](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe readies TPP trump cards for meeting with US president-elect](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [FM Kishida skips APEC meeting to meet with Trump's foreign affairs adviser in NY](#) (Yomiuri)

Japanese Consulate General to host Pearl Harbor ceremony for first time

NHK reported this afternoon that the Japanese Consulate General in Honolulu will host a ceremony in Hawaii in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack to honor both the Japanese and American service members who perished in the war. The network said that while the U.S. holds a ceremony every December to honor the American victims of the Pearl Harbor attack, the Japanese Consul General decided to host a ceremony to honor both the Japanese and American service members for the 75th anniversary this year. The network said the ceremony will be held on Dec. 8 and will be attended by U.S. military personnel. The Japanese Consulate General is reportedly hoping that the ceremony will be an opportunity to further develop friendly ties between the two nations. According to the broadcaster, this will be the first time for the Consulate General to hold such a ceremony.

- [Putin's aide confirms Japan-Russia summit in Peru to discuss territorial issue](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [US, Japan can aid Asia's infrastructure boom, CSIS says](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [LDP to send international bureau chief to U.S.](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Analysis: Trump gives the BOJ exactly what it needs](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Trump policy could short-circuit automakers' green strategy](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Trump](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Trump shock](#) (Sankei)
- [Commentary: defense equipment cooperation will benefit both UK and Japan](#) (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on November 17](#) (Nikkei)
- [JCP's Shii invites fellow opposition leaders to party congress](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Legislation on gender equality for candidates stalled due to LDP discord](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

["Sympathy budget" being used to enhance U.S. base functions](#)

TV-Asahi's "Hodo Station" broadcast a 10-minute report on the "sympathy budget" that the GOJ has offered to the U.S. military for almost four decades, noting that although the budget was disbursed initially for improving the welfare of American soldiers and their dependents, such as constructing movie theaters and housing facilities, recently some of the money has been used for enhancing base functions. The program took up repair work performed on a berth at Yokosuka Naval Base that can accommodate a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and the construction of shelters to shield fighter jets at Kadena AB. Former PM Hatoyama noted that although his administration tried very hard to cut the budget, it was reduced only by 2% from the previous level. Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow Morton Halperin said it's not unreasonable for the U.S. to ask Japan to help pay for the U.S. forces in Japan in light of the fact that the SDF is not contributing to the defense of the U.S. even though Washington is fully committed to the defense of Japan. However, a Japanese lawyer who is familiar with the matter underscored the importance of increasing transparency in negotiations between the USG and the GOJ on how the sympathy budget is used.

[Father of woman killed by U.S. base worker jots down his feelings](#)

NHK reported at noon that on Nov. 19, six months will have passed since the murder of a Japanese woman by a U.S. base worker in Uruma, Okinawa. The victim's father reportedly described his feelings in writing and sent the document to the network. The father wrote: "I remember the days when I was desperately looking for her, believing that she was still alive. Every morning when I sit in front of the altar to pray, tears start to fall from my eyes. Why did it have to be my daughter? Why did she have to be murdered? I still don't know how to feel when I think about her." Concerning the suspect, he wrote: "I want him to get the death penalty. No excuse is acceptable." He reportedly concluded by expressing hope for the removal of U.S. bases in Okinawa as soon as possible.

[GOJ, developer reach agreement on purchase of Mageshima](#)

Fuji TV reported at noon that the GOJ and a land development company have concluded a deal on the GOJ's purchase of Mageshima island in Kagoshima, which is cited in a June 2011 joint U.S.-Japan document as a relocation site for field carrier landing practice by U.S. military aircraft. The network said that the GOJ and the firm signed the agreement on Thursday after five years of

negotiations. The network quoted the president of the company as saying: "It took a really long time, but I hope the agreement will be utilized for the benefit of the local people." The network said both sides will now conduct a land assessment and finalize the price.

- [**SDF chief of staff welcomes assignment of new duties to GSDF in South Sudan**](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [**Written opinion submitted on past Okinawa promotion and development measures**](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [**Metropolitan police training cybersecurity savvy personnel**](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

Secretary Kerry, FM Kishida agree to make efforts to put TPP into force

Fuji TV reported that Secretary of State Kerry and FM Kishida held talks in Lima, Peru, on Thursday on the sidelines of the APEC ministerial meeting, and agreed to make efforts toward the swift effectuation of the TPP. Kishida told reporters after the meeting: "Amid growing calls for protectionism, I stressed the importance of free trade and the need to steadily promote the TPP and RCEP." According to the network, Secretary Kerry told Kishida that he has not given up on the TPP and that business leaders in the U.S. also have high expectations for the TPP.

Economic Minister Seko meets with USTR Froman

NHK reported this morning that Economic Minister Seko met with USTR Froman on Thursday in Peru. According to the network, Seko stressed to Froman the importance of trade liberalization by saying that expanding the TPP in the Asia Pacific region is "significant" and that Japan is moving forward with Diet deliberations in order to complete the necessary domestic procedures. In response, the USTR reportedly said that although some members of Congress are making harsh comments on the TPP, the Obama administration is making efforts to enact the related bills. The network said, however, that since a senior Republican politician has announced that the TPP-related bills will not be submitted to Congress during Obama's presidency, the GOJ is poised to urge President-elect Trump and his transition team to complete the domestic procedures.

Iowa governor pessimistic about TPP

TV-Tokyo on Thursday evening took up a press conference by Iowa Governor Branstad in Tokyo earlier in the day, in which he offered a pessimistic view of the effectuation of the TPP under the next U.S. administration. Asked about the prospects for the TPP, under which Japanese tariffs on U.S. beef, including Iowa products, will be gradually reduced from the present 38.5% to 9% in 16 years, the governor said: "I don't think the new president will support [the TPP]. What's more, the Democrats are even more opposed to the TPP than the Republicans. Both parties, both the Democratic Party and President-elect Trump, are opposed to the pact. I just don't think that's likely

to change.” The network said the governor is currently visiting Japan to promote Angus beef and was described as a proponent of the TPP and supporter of President-elect Trump’s agricultural policy

- [U.S. has not given up hope for TPP, Kerry tells Kishida](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Post office sale of U.S. insurance products is foretaste of TPP, Diet member](#) (Akahata)
- [Farmers voice anxiety and hope at local hearings on TPP](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP agriculture division in disarray over JA reform](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Oversight of TITP to be tightened by new legislations](#) (Mainichi)
- [Brazilian gov’t calls for restraint on ads seeking foreign workers for Fukushima work](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Spread wage hikes among workers in smaller firms, nonregular employees](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Sakakibara](#) (Asahi)

SCIENCE

- [Japan vessels leave for whaling in Antarctic through March](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov’t considers classifying smart AI as “trade secrets”](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [64,988 Japanese studied abroad in fiscal 2014, JAOS survey](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

- [Mayors’ association proposes measures to combat child poverty](#) (Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [47% opposed to assigning rush-to-the-rescue missions to SDF, Jiji Press poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

TV PROGRAMS

Convenience store owners in dire straits

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported that convenience store owners are becoming exhausted due to fierce competition, saying that some of them are working 365 days a year for salaries of less than 3 million yen. The program said although the parent companies of convenience stores are doing exceptionally well, the franchise owners are in dire straits as they need to pay high royalty fees to the parent companies. The program said the Labor Relations Commission has ordered convenience store chains to conduct collective bargaining with franchise owners.

