
JMH JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Monday, November 21, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TBS led with reports on the conclusion of the APEC summit on Sunday, saying that the leaders vowed to "fight against all forms of protectionism." TV Asahi gave top play to a report that Russian President Putin held a press conference after his meeting with PM Abe on Sunday and expressed willingness to conclude a peace treaty with Japan. The network said Putin reiterated the position that the Northern Territories are Russia's territory and that all four islands are subject to negotiations with Japan. Other top news included a report that South Korean prosecutors said that President Park conspired in criminal activity with her personal confidant and two former aides who were indicted on Sunday.



INTERNATIONAL

Suga says Japan's position on Northern Territories remains unchanged

NHK reported this afternoon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga expressed the view that the GOJ's basic position to resolve the issue of the sovereignty of the four islands of the Northern Territories and conclude a peace treaty with Russia remains unchanged, in response to Russian President Putin's remarks that he talked to PM Abe about joint economic activities in the Northern Territories. Suga reportedly commented on the Abe-Putin summit: "Based on the trust relationship between the two leaders, they exchanged views mainly on bilateral relations, including the issue of the Northern Territories, in a relaxed atmosphere. They also exchanged candid views on the peace treaty issue with only their interpreters present. It was a meaningful meeting."

Putin acknowledges difficulty in concluding peace treaty with Japan

All papers reported online on press remarks in Lima on Sunday by Russian President Putin, who acknowledged the paramount difficulties in resolving the Northern Territories dispute to sign a bilateral peace treaty with Japan. He also disclosed that in his meeting with Prime Minister Abe on Saturday, he proposed "joint economic activities" on the contested islands by saying: "The prime minister and I discussed activities we can do together on the islands. The activities offer solutions to economic and humanitarian problems." On this proposal, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told the press this morning that such joint activities are unacceptable unless Russia recognizes Japan's sovereignty over the islets.

Japan, ROK to sign GSOMIA soon

Nikkei's website claimed in a report from Seoul that Japan and South Korea are likely to sign a bilateral general security of military information agreement (GSOMIA) as early as Nov. 23. According to a South Korean Defense Ministry source, the Park administration plans to approve it tomorrow for signing by the defense minister and the Japanese ambassador to South Korea on Wednesday. A corresponding signing ceremony will be held in Tokyo on the same day.

Pence calls Abe-Trump meeting "very meaningful"

Saturday morning's Okinawa Times front-paged remarks made to the daily on Friday by Vice President-elect Pence, who said the recent meeting between Prime Minister Abe and President-elect Trump was "very meaningful." Pence reportedly took part in the meeting part way through. According to a source close to the Trump team, Abe underscored the importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance in maintaining stability in the Asia-Pacific region and mentioned the planned reversion of the Northern Training Area next month. The premier also voiced hope for forging a cooperative relationship with Trump by saying to him: "I hope bilateral relations will become even stronger after you are sworn in."

- [Japan, Vietnam affirm coordination in S. China Sea row](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Putin maintains staunch stance on Japan-Russia island row](#) (Kyodo News)

- [PM Abe felt good response from Trump in building trust relations](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Japan-ASEAN defense cooperation should be deepened on multiple levels](#) (The Japan News)
- [Ruling, opposition parties' reaction to Abe-Trump meeting](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Ex-Deputy Secretary of State Armitage: Early Abe-Trump meeting of great significance](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Abe's meeting with Trump a first step in building mutual trust](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Abe urged to build relationship of trust with Trump for future benefits](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Abe-Trump meeting only 1st step for building real trust](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Analysis: With Trump, Japan could pivot away from U.S.-centric policy](#) (Kyodo News)
- [DP secretary general says Abe jumped the gun in meeting with Trump](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan, Russia to ease visa rules, push tourism under cooperation plan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe's advisor says Trump has refused to meet foreign leaders other than Abe](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan, Russia map out economic plan](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Trump and Abe in NY](#) (Asahi)
- [Gist of Abe-Putin meeting on APEC sidelines](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of PM Abe's remarks to reporters after meeting with Putin](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Putin maintains staunch stance on Japan-Russia island row](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe eyes talks with Putin Dec. 16 in Tokyo during his Japan trip](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Kishida to visit Russia in early Dec. ahead of Putin's Japan trip](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Analysis: Trump likely to nod Abe's dealings with Putin](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to give Colombia 1 bil. yen for mine clearance](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japanese trading firms to sign economic cooperation with Argentina](#) (Sankei)
- [Japanese firms to undertake thermal power plant project in Uzbekistan](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan, Peru vow to cooperate for U.N. resolution on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

President Obama urges Trump to reconsider position on TPP

NHK reported at noon that President Obama held a press conference after attending the APEC summit in Lima on Sunday, during which he expressed hope that President-elect Trump will change his attitude toward the TPP by voicing concern that Japan or China will move forward with the RCEP without the U.S. and stressing that the TPP serves U.S. national interests. The President was quoted as saying: "We are already hearing calls for a less ambitious trade agreement in the region with lower standards...That kind of agreement will exclude U.S. businesses."

- [TPP nations grapple with Trump threat as China sees opening](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Peru agree to seek implementation of TPP as soon as possible](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan eyes tax break for spinoffs](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SECURITY

Okinawa encouraged by GOJ's planned purchase of Mageshima

Sunday's Okinawa Times reported on the conclusion of a basic agreement between the central government and a Tokyo-based real estate company that owns Mageshima in Kagoshima, which has been designated a relocation site for field carrier landing practice (FCLP) by U.S. military aircraft, on the purchase of the islet by the government. The paper noted that some Okinawa officials are hoping that the island can be used as a training platform for the Futenma-based Ospreys. The Japan Innovation Party's Shimoji, a Diet member elected from Okinawa who has been lobbying hard behind the scenes to help arrange the deal, claims that the island can also host some of the Osprey training currently performed in the southernmost prefecture. He argues that the use of the island by the Ospreys may make the construction of the FRF off Henoko unnecessary. The paper

added, however, that the municipalities around the island are strongly opposed to the proposed relocation of FCLP training there.

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on November 19–20](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on November 18–19](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on November 17–18](#) (Nikkei)
- [Upper House member Wada leaves Party for Japanese Kokoro](#) (Asahi)
- [Signs of factional strife in the LDP](#) (Sankei)
- [Japanese Communist Party scrambles to pick candidates for next election](#) (The Mainichi)
- [“Renho effect” falls short, DP suffers shortage of candidates](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Diet panels on top law shouldn't be forum for condemning administration](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Keep constitutional revision debate civil, constructive](#) (The Mainichi)
- [New webpage created on Kantei website to explain GSDF's new duties](#) (Yomiuri)
- [GSDF headquarters to be jointly used with U.S. forces](#) (Akahata)

SCIENCE

- [Editorial: Participation of all countries vital to ensure success of Paris accord](#) (The Japan News)

OPINION POLLS

- [Poll results on TPP and security legislation differ depending on phrasing of questions](#) (Nikkei)
- [Why cabinet support rate in Nikkei poll tends to be high](#) (Nikkei)

TV PROGRAMS

China must shift to venture businesses to spur growth

Saturday evening's "NHK Special" reported on China, whose economic growth has dropped to the 6% level for the first time in 25 years. The program said the challenge for China is to shift its focus from being the "world's factory" to a country of innovative venture businesses. The program focused on internet financing, which is expected to support a successful industrial transformation.

“Precision Medicine” revolutionizes cancer treatment

Sunday evening's "NHK Special" reported on how "precision medicine" is revolutionizing cancer treatment. The network said precision medicine makes it possible to diagnose and treat cancer based on patients' genetic information. While conventional medicine uses anti-cancer drugs based on the type of cancer without really knowing whether they will be effective, precision medicine looks at the genetic information of cancer cells for more effective treatment. More than 200 hospitals and 10 pharmaceutical companies in Japan launched a project called "SCRUM-Japan" last year to find effective cancer treatment drugs mainly for advanced lung and bowel cancer patients. Nearly 7,000 patients have been involved in the project so far, and about 100 of them are already participating in clinical trials. The program showed how precision medicine has helped extend patients' life expectancy and given them hope.

