



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, November 29, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and Fuji TV gave top play to reports that H5 avian influenza was detected at a poultry farm in Niigata and a duck farm in Aomori. NTV led with a follow-up report on the arrest of pop singer ASKA on Monday. TBS and TV Asahi gave top play to reports that a climber was seriously injured in an avalanche on Mt. Tateyama in Toyama this morning.

SECURITY

Onaga approves helipad construction at NTA

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo gave prominent top play to Okinawa Governor Onaga's press conference on Monday. Concerning the ongoing helipad construction at the Northern Training Area, Onaga said it is difficult for him to oppose construction that will result in the return of a large portion of a U.S. military facility by saying: "This is the most agonizing choice. It is difficult to oppose construction that will result in the return of some 4,000 hectares of land." However, the governor added: "If the Ospreys are completely withdrawn, it will be difficult to operate the helipads. The cancellation of the Osprey deployment would probably settle the matter." Okinawa Times interpreted this remark to mean that Onaga is hoping that a call for the cancellation of the aircraft's deployment would facilitate removal of the helipads. The papers wrote that although Onaga had refrained from expressing his position on the helipad construction in the past, he expressed his

approval for the first time at Monday's press conference. However, the papers wrote that the consistency of Onaga's position on the helipad construction will likely be questioned because he stated in his policy platform for the 2014 gubernatorial election that he would oppose the helipad construction at Takae along with requesting the removal of the Ospreys and the relocation of the Futenma base out of Okinawa. Several anti-U.S. base activists expressed disappointment and dissatisfaction with the governor's approval of the helipad construction. Concerning Futenma relocation, Onaga reiterated his readiness to exercise his authority as governor to block the ongoing FRF construction at Henoko. TV-Asahi's "Hodo Station" also reported on Onaga's press conference.

- [Data breach from reported cyberattack not found: defense chief](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't conveys to Okinawa it won't redo environmental assessment on NTA](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Kyogamisaki radar site on the front line of defending CONUS](#) (Akahata)

INTERNATIONAL

[President Park to resign before her term ends](#)

NHK reported this afternoon that embattled South Korean President Park announced in a nationally televised address her readiness to step down before her term ends in February 2018. The South Korean president reportedly asked the national assembly to come up with a way for her to relinquish power and decide when she should step down. An NHK reporter said that this will be the first time for a South Korean president to fail to complete a term since the democratization of South Korea in 1987.

[Kremlin spokesman says conclusion of peace treaty requires "patient efforts"](#)

NHK reported this morning that Kremlin spokesman Peskov told a Russian news agency on Monday ahead of President Putin's visit to Japan on Dec. 15-16 that concluding a peace treaty with Japan, including resolving the Northern Territories issue, will require "a considerable degree of patient efforts" on the part of the two nations. The spokesperson also reportedly said that concluding a peace treaty is a major topic for political dialogue between Japan and Russia and that "this subject is being scrutinized at the experts' level." Peskov also reportedly stressed that economic cooperation between the two nations will not be affected by the recent indictment of Economic Development Minister Ulyukayev and that "substantial work is being carried out based on the eight-point economic cooperation plan proposed by Japan." He also reportedly expressed expectations for the development of Japan-Russia relations in economy, trade, and investment by saying that preparations are being made for a series of documents to be signed during President Putin's visit.

- [Gov't to export technical college know-how](#) (The Japan News)

- [Cartoon: Abe and Trump](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Putin](#) (Asahi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on November 28](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe readies now-or-never push for TPP, pension change in extended Diet session](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Analysis of political parties' and politicians' income in 2015](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Common opposition candidates could have resulted in ruling bloc losing 2/3 majority in Lower House in 2014](#) (Yomiuri)

ECONOMY

- [Main points of agricultural reform plan](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's Forex policy will not change with the next U.S. president](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Proposed alternative for spousal tax deductions needs further adjustment](#) (The Japan News)
- [Recruiter criticized over list ranking foreign trainees by nationality](#) (The Japan Times Online)
- [Editorial: Prevent abuses of foreign trainee program](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Sendai No. 1 reactor will resume operation on schedule](#) (Asahi)
- [Gov't, ruling parties plan to award tax break to companies that raise wages more than 2%](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan to flesh out equal-pay rules for 'irregular' workers](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Opinion: Despite legislation, danger of exploiting foreign workers remains](#) (The Japan Times)

SCIENCE

- [Monju to be used for research during its dismantling](#) (Yomiuri)

- [MEXT to conduct impact analysis on temperature rise](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [Japan tech giants double down on AI](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SOCIETY

- [Tax break mulled for aid to poor children](#) (Asahi)
- [Survey: A fifth of public shelters for women see little use](#) (The Japan Times)

OPINION POLLS

- [60% approve of negotiating for “partial” return of Northern Territories, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [63 companies say economy is “stagnant,” Asahi poll of 100 major companies](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

TV PROGRAMS

Analyzing the box office success of “Your Name”

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Monday reported on an animated film called "Your Name," which became a megahit in Japan this year. One in ten Japanese have reportedly seen the film and it is set to reach 20 billion yen in box office revenue shortly. The program looked into the reasons behind the unexpected popularity of the film, saying that although director Makoto Shinkai has a core group of fans, the box office revenue of his past films was 130 million yen at best. In addition to the fact that the theme song was performed by a popular band and released prior to the film's opening, the movie's fast-moving story, realistic and beautiful scenery, depiction of Japanese traditions, and theme of human connections apparently struck a chord with people of all ages.

