



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, February 1, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TBS gave top play to reports that President Trump selected Judge Neil Gorsuch as his Supreme Court nominee on Tuesday. NTV, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi led with reports that President Trump criticized Japan's foreign exchange policy during a meeting with pharmaceutical executives at the White House on Tuesday.

INTERNATIONAL

Suga responds to President Trump's criticism of Japan's exchange policy

NHK reported that in response to President Trump's criticism of Japan's currency policy on Tuesday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga made a rebuttal by saying: "I don't think that is true at all.... I don't think it will affect Japan.... Stability in currency is important and we will continue to carefully monitor developments in the currency market." The network said Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs Asakawa also said the President's criticism was unfounded, saying: "If (President Trump) was talking about intervention in the foreign exchange market to sell the yen and buy the dollar, Japan hasn't done that for some time."

Expert says Abe should use summit as opportunity to seek new vision for alliance

On the upcoming U.S.-Japan summit on Feb. 10, Japan Research Institute President Jitsuro Terashima argued on TV-Asahi's nightly "Hodo Station" news show on Tuesday that instead of simply bracing for the possibility of President Trump making "unreasonable" demands on auto trade and host nation support for the U.S. military, Prime Minister Abe should capitalize on the U.S.

leader's inclination to take a fresh approach toward America's traditional partners so as to change what he called the existing bilateral paradigm of Japan as a U.S. "follower." Terashima said Abe should press the President to remove the 2.5% tariff on Japanese auto imports if the U.S. leader calls for fair trade in the auto sector. Projecting that under the Trump administration, U.S. experts who for many years have shaped Japan's military reliance on America will lose their influence, he also called for Abe to bring up the SOFA and Japan's generous host nation support so that U.S. facilities can be reduced gradually. Terashima speculated that President Trump would probably be willing to conduct a review of the trans-Pacific alliance.

- [**GOJ having trouble making arrangements for Abe-Trump summit on Feb. 10**](#) (Yomiuri)
- [**Editorial: Abe must not use Trump 'pressure' to push for rapid defense buildup**](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [**BOJ chief aims a thinly veiled dig at Trump**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**U.S. policy risks raining on Japan Inc.'s parade**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Comments from corporate executives on economic prospects**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Japanese auto exports to U.S. rose in 2016 to reach eight-year high**](#) (Mainichi)
- [**Trump's entry ban order meets opposition from key U.S. departments**](#) (Asahi)
- [**Editorial: Three branches of government should exercise power to stop Trump's reckless actions**](#) (Sankei)
- [**Editorial: Trump's dictatorial immigration edict reeks of discrimination**](#) (The Mainichi)
- [**Editorial: Trump's push for U.S.-Russia ties focused on "rule of force" problematic**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**Steve Bannon exercises influence in U.S. administration**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**PM Abe invites Pope Francis to Japan**](#) (Mainichi)

SECURITY

Sea-based FRF construction to start next week

Wednesday's Okinawa Times led with a GOJ plan to begin preparations for bank protection work off the coast of Camp Schwab next week, explaining that some 230 concrete blocks will be placed

on the seabed to install fences designed to prevent the flow of sand and dirt into the ocean. According to the article, environmental experts assembled by the Okinawa Defense Bureau on Tuesday gave the green light to the operation on the grounds that it will not have adverse effects on the marine ecosystem in the area.

The daily wrote in an accompanying article that the installation of the underwater fences is critical to the commencement of bank protection and other work for reclaiming waters off the U.S. base, explaining that the planned operation next week represents the central government's resolve to move ahead with the FRF construction work in an "irrevocable manner" ahead of Governor Onaga's anticipated moves to thwart the Henoko relocation, such as refusing to renew a permit for rock reef destruction that expires in late March.

- [Fortifying missile defense framework with eye on N. Korea and China](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 31](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee, Jan. 31](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [What's behind PM Abe's confidence in responding to questions in the Diet?](#) (Nikkei)
- [Three LDP factions moving toward merger?](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan Diet enacts FY 2016 extra budget for disaster relief, defense](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Regional Immigration Bureaus to handle applications for refugee status](#) (Asahi)
- [Gov't seeks to criminalize conspiracy, join international anti-crime treaty](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

- [Nuclear watchdog asks JAEA to speed up Monju decommissioning process](#) (Mainichi)
- [Keidanren Chairman Sakakibara to head committee to bring 2025 World Expo to Osaka](#) (Mainichi)

- [New MEXT study aims at building research reactor near Monju](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan should take command of “12-1+α” initiative](#) (Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [Opdivo price halved today](#) (Asahi)
- [JFCR to develop new system using “AI doctors” to help select best treatments for lung, breast cancer](#) (Asahi)

TV PROGRAMS

[How to scold young people](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Tuesday reported on how today's young generation in Japan tends to have been raised on praise. Although it was common in the past for coaches, bosses, and parents to scold their children or subordinates like "drill sergeants," the young generation is not used to being scolded. The program said that since many young people quit their jobs after they are scolded, companies are having their staff participate in special seminars to learn how to praise and train new employees. The program said, however, that some people are voicing concerns about this trend, claiming that parents and teachers should be more strict toward children so that they can develop resilience.