



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, February 9, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

TBS led with a report that President Trump posted a message on Twitter criticizing a department store for dropping Ivanka Trump's clothing line last week, saying that the President is being criticized for taking advantage of his presidency to support his daughter's business. Most networks led with the forecast for heavy snow in western Japan starting this evening.

INTERNATIONAL

Suga stresses importance of demonstrating strong alliance at summit

NHK reported at noon that Prime Minister Abe will leave for Washington this evening for his summit with President Trump. The network quoted Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga as telling reporters this morning: "It is extremely important to demonstrate at home and abroad that the U.S.-Japan alliance remains firm. This will be the biggest theme of the summit....It is important to hold constructive discussions on how to build a win-win relationship through enhancing the bilateral economic relationship and cooperation."

Upcoming U.S.-Japan summit

Fuji TV reported at noon on the upcoming summit between Prime Minister Abe and President Trump on Feb. 10 in Washington. A Fuji TV reporter said the fact that the President will be spending two full days with the premier shows that President is hoping to have the Japanese premier on his side amid increasing criticism from his European counterparts on such issues as the travel ban. He said that the President is expected to announce at the summit his intention to begin bilateral trade talks with Japan on automobiles and other sectors, and to welcome Japan's measures to create jobs and

invest in infrastructure in the U.S. According to the reporter, the White House has instructed relevant agencies to create a two-page memo for each topic starting with "good news" for the President in preparation for the summit. The reporter speculated that "good news" refers to policies that will lead to an increase in jobs or support the America First policy, and that the President is hoping to discuss these items first at the upcoming summit. He added that there is a possibility that the President will directly ask Japan to increase its defense spending, saying that he is also hoping to assess whether PM Abe is someone he can have heart-to-heart talks with by playing golf with him.

- [**Abe's summit strategy has one goal — dodging free trade talks**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Japan pins hopes on Aso-Pence meeting**](#) (Jiji Press)
- [**Abe to confirm G7, G20 positions on protectionism, exchange rates at summit**](#) (Yomiuri)
- [**Japanese Communist Party general secretary on how to deal with the Trump administration**](#) (Mainichi)
- [**Matchmaker for Abe and Trump**](#) (El Neos)
- [**US protectionism concerns dim Japanese consumer sentiment**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Japan marks 2nd-biggest current account surplus in 2016**](#) (Kyodo News)
- [**SoftBank's Son says Trump's promised deregulation will help his business**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Nisshinbo nixes plan for Mexican auto-parts factory**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Editorial: Don't give up on the TPP**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**N.Z. trade chief says "too soon" to give up on TPP after U.S. pullout**](#) (Kyodo News)
- [**Editorial: Public support needed for Japan-Russia talks on Northern Territories**](#) (The Mainichi)
- [**San Francisco approves installation of "comfort women" memorial**](#) (Kyodo News)
- [**Japanese who've studied in U.S. see nation changing for the worse under Trump**](#) (The Japan Times)

- [Cartoon: Travel ban](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 8](#) (Nikkei)
- [Lower House Budget Committee to hold intensive session on Japan-U.S. summit on Feb. 14](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opposition to urge minister to quit for anti-conspiracy bill furor](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Opposition to take offensive on justice minister, GSDF logs, amakudari](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Justice Minister and conspiracy bill](#) (Asahi)
- [Four reasons the Abe administration may collapse from within](#) (Weekly Diamond Online)

SECURITY

Onaga to appoint new base-issue coordinator

Ryukyu Shimpo gave top play to a report saying that Governor Onaga has decided to appoint Moritake Tomikawa, an advisor to the Okinawa Prefectural Government and former Okinawa International University president, to replace former Vice Governor Ageda, who resigned last month over his alleged involvement in an influence peddling scandal. The governor also decided to appoint a new policy coordinator to work exclusively on base issues and tap Katsuhiro Yoshida, who has served as a prefectural assembly member and the mayor of the town of Kin, to the new post. The paper speculated that the appointment of Tomikawa, who has supported Onaga's economic strategy to take advantage of the growing economy in Asia, is intended to restore public trust in the prefectural government that has been eroded by the scandal involving Ageda by moving forward with his policy of expanding the economy and creating jobs. The governor plans to propose the appointments at a prefectural assembly session to be convened later this month.

- [Okinawa municipalities fear F-35 drills will cause more noise, accidents](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Nationwide network for cyberattack countermeasures training](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [Government to expand SDF base in Djibouti despite decrease in piracy incidents](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

- [Numerous websites hacked across Japan](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: SDF's PKO log reveals cover-up of 'fighting' risk in South Sudan](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Proposal to form council of base-hosting municipalities voted down](#) (Okinawa Times)

ECONOMY

- [Trade rules face biggest crisis since the end of World War II](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Shimazu Corporation enters cancer diagnostic business](#) (Nikkei)
- [Drug price to reflect its effectiveness; another try for curtailing healthcare cost](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Sharp interested in buying Toshiba's operations](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Merck cancer drug brings cost competition to Japanese rival](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Transport minister opposes ride-sharing services](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Eliminate violations of bluefin tuna fishing regulations](#) (Nikkei)

SCIENCE

- [Specific Japanese research fields targeted by U.S. military](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Scientists should not be tied down by regulations on security research](#) (The Japan News)

EDUCATION

- [College admission procedures being updated to attract more applicants](#) (Nikkei)
- [U.S. interest in studying Japanese is on the decline](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

TV PROGRAMS

[Health food labeling](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on the labeling of health food products, such as items that claim to "burn visceral fat" or "reduce stress." The program said the health food market is worth 1 trillion yen in Japan and growing. Government approval is not required for companies to label certain food products with nutrient function claims and the number of such products is on the rise. The program said, however, that many of these products do not actually have any health benefits, cautioning consumers not to be deceived by them.

