



Afternoon Alert - Friday, February 10, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TBS led with the unanimous ruling reached by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rejecting President Trump's argument for reinstating his executive order barring travelers from seven predominantly Muslim nations from entering the U.S., noting that the decision dealt a heavy blow to the Trump administration. Other broadcasters gave top coverage to the summit between President Trump and Prime Minister Abe planned for later today.

INTERNATIONAL

White House official says President to state Senkakus covered by Security Treaty

NHK reported this morning that a senior White House official said during a telephone press briefing on Thursday that President Trump is expected to clarify at his summit with Prime Minister Abe that the Senkaku Islands fall under the scope of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. According to the network, the senior official pointed out that the Senkakus "are under the administration of Japan" and that "the standing U.S. policy has been that the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, Article 5 of that treaty does apply to the Senkaku Islands." The official also reportedly stressed that the U.S. "opposes any unilateral actions that would seek to undermine Japan's administration of the islands."

On the economic issue, the official reportedly said automobiles will be an important agenda at the summit, saying that "automobiles are such an iconic and critical part of the Japanese economy" and that they are "of high interest to President Trump." In addition, the official reportedly said the President believes that bilateral agreements are necessary for the U.S. and that he will pursue that

possibility at the summit. On the President's criticism of Japan's currency manipulation, the official reportedly said it is not at the top of the list of the items to be discussed. Meanwhile, the network said PM Abe is expected to propose creating a cabinet-level framework to discuss joint projects on such issues as macroeconomic and trade policies and infrastructure development, and confirm the goal of building a mutually beneficial economic relationship.

Abe to propose “2+2” security meeting

NHK claimed that during his planned summit with President Trump today, Prime Minister Abe is likely to put forward the idea of holding a bilateral foreign and defense ministerial meeting at an early date to discuss the division of labor between the U.S. military and the SDF with the goal of further strengthening the defense alliance. The network also projected that the two leaders will probably issue a joint statement afterward reaffirming that the Senkaku Islands fall under the scope of the bilateral security treaty.

Other broadcasters ran stories related to the summit, with some of them highlighting the President's remarks to U.S. airline executives on Thursday praising Japan's high-speed rail technology. Pointing out that the U.S. leader made the comment while referring to the importance of rebuilding the nation's outdated transportation infrastructure, the networks said the President is perhaps keen to hear PM Abe's proposals on Japan's contributions to U.S. economic growth.

Meanwhile, Fuji-TV reported that Ivanka Trump will be joining the two leaders and their wives when they play golf in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Saturday, adding that media access may be denied as the Japanese side appears to be anxious to downplay this aspect of the trip so as not to widely give the impression that Abe is becoming too cordial with the “controversial” U.S. leader.

Abe hopes to delink economy, security in summit with President Trump

On the U.S.-Japan summit in Washington today, former Kyodo News managing editor Goto explained on TV-Asahi's “Hodo Station” news show last night that Prime Minister Abe's foremost goals for the meeting are to elicit statements from President Trump confirming his administration's commitment to the defense of Japan, including the U.S. military's support in the event of a Senkaku contingency, and prevent the U.S. leader from linking security to the economy. According to the journalist, the premier will propose the launch of a discussion venue for economic issues to be co-chaired by Vice President Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Aso in a bid to preempt any remarks from the President on specific economic issues such as auto trade. With this suggestion, Abe is reportedly hoping that President Trump will agree to defer to the Vice President and other lower-ranking officials the authority to deal with “minor” economic items so that the top leaders can discuss “big picture” issues, such as the bilateral alliance's contributions to global peace and prosperity.

- [Cartoon: Flight to Palm Beach](#) (Sankei)

- [**Abe under pressure to perform difficult task of building trust with U.S. President**](#) (Yomiuri)
- [**Commentary: What's wrong with playing golf?**](#) (Sankei)
- [**Cartoon: Golf diplomacy**](#) (Mainichi)
- [**Cartoon: Golf diplomacy**](#) (Asahi)
- [**BOJ deputy governor rebuts Trump's accusation of currency manipulation**](#) (Yomiuri)
- [**Editorial: Abe's U.S. visit an opportunity to discuss foundation of alliance**](#) (Sankei)
- [**Editorial: PM Abe must say what needs to be said to Trump**](#) (The Mainichi)
- [**Japanese automakers raise dependence on North America**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Editorial: South Korea must take concrete action on removal of girl statue**](#) (The Japan News)

POLITICS

- [**Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 9**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Commentary: Why Abe cabinet has enjoyed high support rate for past four years**](#) (Yomiuri)
- [**Increasing number of private sector employees temporarily work for government**](#) (Akahata)
- [**The job of politicians' secretaries**](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

- [**MLIT to consider permit standards for drone operation**](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [**Operation of fully autonomous vehicles to be permitted on public roads**](#) (Mainichi)
- [**University of Tokyo launches clinical genome research for individualized treatment**](#) (Asahi)

- [SoftBank's Son sees 10 trillion yen fund as stepping stone beyond IT](#) (Nikkei)
- [Environmentally conscious ships to pay lower harbor charges at Yokohama port](#) (Nikkei)

EDUCATION

- [LDP to discuss the feasibility of "education bonds"](#) (Nikkei)

TV PROGRAMS

Being chubby is becoming fashionable in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported that there is a growing trend to view a large waistline as fashionable in Japan, saying that fashion magazines featuring plus-size models are gaining popularity. The program said that according to a survey of men in their 20s and 30s, more than 70% said they prefer chubby girlfriends to skinny ones. The program also reported on the health risks associated with drastic dieting.

