



Afternoon Alert - Friday, February 17, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TV Asahi led with the arrest of the de facto head of Samsung on bribery charges this morning, with NHK saying that South Korean media are reporting that the arrest has sent shock waves through Samsung as well as the Park administration. Other networks continued to carry follow-up reports on the murder of Kim Jong Nam, saying that the suspects were apparently rehearsing for the attack at the airport the day before it occurred.

INTERNATIONAL

Chargé d'Affaires meets with Osaka leaders

The Osaka edition of Sankei reported today on Chargé d'Affaires Hyland's courtesy call on Thursday on Osaka Governor Matsui and Osaka Mayor Yoshimura, during which they discussed the business environment in Kansai and U.S.-Japan relations. According to the daily, the Chargé expressed hope for closer ties between the U.S. and Osaka.

Science Council of Japan expresses concern over Trump's executive order on immigration

NHK reported this morning that the Science Council of Japan held a press conference on Thursday and announced a president's statement expressing concern over President Trump's executive order on immigration. The network quoted President Onishi as saying at the press conference: "Imposing a travel ban on any country prohibits scientists from around the world from travelling and sharing their research, and that would hinder the development of science and technology....From the viewpoint of fostering the next generation of scientists, we must guarantee the freedom of movement

of students, including exchange students." The network said concerns are growing among the world's scientists over the travel ban, adding that science councils in Canada and Germany have issued similar statements.

- [Tillerson takes initiative for statement condemning North Korea](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan regains top spot among U.S. creditors, ousting China](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [American casino operators target Japanese markets](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Japan and U.S. should work together to rescue all abductees](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Kim Jong Un](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: North Korea](#) (Sankei)
- [Business consultants, crisis management expert on dealing with Trump's Twitter "attacks"](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [Toyota moves to avoid trade friction with US](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan-EU to put off negotiation of EPA agreement](#) (Sankei)

SECURITY

[**Analysts claim Osprey that crashed in Okinawa was not conducting refueling training**](#)

This morning's two major Okinawa papers carried follow-up reports on the crash of the Osprey in shallow waters off Nago City last December, highlighting speculation by a group of Japanese journalists and military affairs analysts that the aircraft probably made an emergency landing while conducting low-altitude flight training using night vision equipment instead of aerial refueling as explained by the U.S. military. The group reportedly reached this conclusion based on what it believes is a U.S. military checklist that washed ashore at a spot some 20 kilometers from the impact site. Because the document includes under the "mission information" section such acronyms as NVD (night vision device), LAT (low altitude training), CAL (confined area landing), and TRAP (tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel), the analysts suspect that the Osprey was heading either toward or away from helipads in the Northern Training Area or Ie Jima Auxiliary Airfield for night rescue training. The manual reportedly bears the title "NATOPS" (Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization), a document that pilots are required to carry with them on all flights.

- [**Kanagawa governor to submit proposals on cooperation with U.S. bases**](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

- [Japan-U.S. Joint Committee decides to renovate buildings and facilities at Camp Courtney](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [60% of NAF Atsugi's FA-18s unable to fly?](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 16](#) (Nikkei)
- [Scope of crimes that constitute preparation for terrorist activities to be narrowed to 277](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opposition lawmakers vow to form united front against proposed "conspiracy law"](#) (Sankei)
- [Komeito sets up study group on revision to organized crime law](#) (Sankei)
- [Democratic Party beginning to suffer from "defections"](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Round-table with Tokyo-based foreign correspondents on the Abe administration](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cartoon: Inada and Kaneda](#) (Mainichi)
- [Is Abe really keen to seek a third term?](#) (Sentaku English)

SOCIETY

Problems with in-home elderly care

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on elderly people living out their last days at home instead of in the hospital, which the government is promoting in an effort to reduce healthcare costs. Many problems have surfaced as a result of this initiative, including patients suffering from emotional distress because of inappropriate treatment by doctors who care for them at home. Such problems stem from a major shortage of experienced doctors who are able to provide house calls in Japan. The program reported on efforts to provide better at-home care, such as having special assistants accompany doctors on house calls.

- [NPA's sex trafficking data for 2016 just tip of the iceberg: NGOs](#) (The Japan Times)
- [First bill targeting JK industry headed for Tokyo assembly](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Yomiuri Shimbun Proposal / Stable child, nursing care vital to spurring economy](#) (The Japan News)

- [Editorial: Dispel worries about future to overcome population fall / Create virtuous cycle of growth, distribution](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

- [Japan looks to self-driving cars to bolster transport access](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Exclusive use of renewable energy would result in 84 trillion yen savings for Japan, WWF Japan estimate](#) (Asahi Evening edition)

EDUCATION

- [Economic inequalities influence children's English language ability](#) (Mainichi)
 - [Free education: Same name, different goals](#) (Nikkei)
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