



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, February 28, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK led with a report that in response to President Trump's plan to drastically increase defense spending "to rebuild the depleted military," there are concerns that the President may decrease funding for environmental measures and international aid. Defense Minister Inada told reporters this morning: "President Trump has been repeatedly talking about reinforcing the U.S. military, and we understand that this is also part of that...We will closely monitor how it takes shape." The network also reported that the Senate confirmed investor Wilbur Ross as commerce secretary on Monday. NTV and TBS gave top play to updates on the murder of Kim Jong Nam, with NTV saying that the Malaysian prosecutors are planning to charge the two female suspects with murder tomorrow. Fuji TV led with a report that Moritomo Gakuen began removing dirt and waste this morning from the land it purchased at a drastically discounted price from the government.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Top nuclear envoys of U.S., Japan, ROK discuss murder of Kim Jong Nam

TBS and TV Asahi reported that the top nuclear envoys of the U.S., Japan, and South Korea met in Washington on Monday and exchanged views on the murder of Kim Jong Nam. TV Asahi quoted MOFA Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau chief Kanasugi as telling reporters: "We exchanged views from the viewpoint of how the murder of Kim Jong Nam will impact the North Korean situation in the future. The VX nerve agent is a new issue, and the U.S. view toward North Korea appears to be more severe than ever." The network said this was the first meeting between the chief delegates to the Six-Party talks under the Trump administration, adding that the three officials agreed on trilateral

cooperation to urge North Korea to stop its nuclear and missile development. They also reportedly agreed that it is important for China to thoroughly implement the sanctions against North Korea, and exchanged views on the impact of the murder of Kim Jong Nam on the China-DPRK relationship.

- [LDP foreign affairs chief says personal networks in private sector should be used to deal with U.S.](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: China too tardy in implementing sanctions against N. Korea coal exports](#) (The Japan News)

## SECURITY

### [Onaga acknowledges possibility of gauging public opinion about Futenma through election](#)

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that during a question-and-answer session with Governor Onaga at the prefectural assembly on Monday, an LDP assembly member said that although some people think that holding a prefectural referendum might be an effective way to gauge the Okinawan people's opinions on the FRF construction at Henoko, learning about public opinion through an election might be a better way to resolve the issue politically. The assembly member referred to the idea of the governor stepping down before his current term expires in December 2018 and running for governor again. Onaga responded by saying that he fully understands the need to take action. The paper interpreted this to mean that the governor acknowledged the possibility of gauging public opinion through an election.

- [Think tank issues report arguing Henoko relocation not the only option](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Ginowan mayor plans to visit U.S.](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Okinawa governor presents 12 demands to FM Kishida](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Japan-U.S. Joint Committee agrees on six new U.S. military facilities in Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [CCS Suga calls response from CNFJ on FA-18 readiness "unusual"](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Inada](#) (Akahata)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Feb. 27](#) (Nikkei)

- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Feb. 27](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Moritomo Gakuen president posts groundless information on website](#) (Ryukyu Shimpō)
- [Anti-terrorism bill will punish participant in serious crime by a syndicate](#) (Yomiuri)
- [METI bans staff from meeting with press outside ministry](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Toyosu](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

## ECONOMY

- [MIC tasked with addressing excessive Furusato Nozei rewards](#) (Nikkei)
- [GPIF and BOJ stage corporate Japan's high stock prices](#) (Asahi)
- [LDP policy head reveals plan to consider tax cut to promote self-driving cars](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japanese ag exporters' biggest rivals are other Japanese companies](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Agriculture at a critical stage with post-TPP negotiations](#) (AERA)
- [Labor group, business lobby chiefs meet to discuss cap on overtime work](#) (Yomiuri)
- [University hospitals prepare data sharing system for genetic cancer treatment](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Editorial: Time to transform Japan's nuclear plant inspection system](#) (The Mainichi)

## SOCIETY

### Remembering lives lost in Sagami-hara massacre

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on the incident in which a former employee of a facility for people with intellectual disabilities murdered 19 residents there last July, claiming that people with disabilities only create unhappiness. NHK set up a [special site](#) to honor the 19 victims, whose names have not been disclosed, introducing each victim with pictures and comments. The program said the site has already been accessed 160,000 times, adding that many viewers have posted messages expressing sympathy for the families as well as outrage and grief over the shocking incident.

## **U.S. district court approves Okinawa woman's request for custody of daughter in U.S.**

Okinawa Times gave top play to a report on an order handed down by the U.S. District Court in Florida on Feb. 17 to the American ex-husband of a Japanese woman in Okinawa that he hand over their 21-month-old daughter to the mother. The child is now living in the U.S. with the family of the father. The court ordered the divorced husband to hand over the child based on the judgment that the mother's claim is justifiable under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and that the child's country of "habitual residence" is Japan. According to the woman's attorney, this is the first time for a parent's claim over the custody of a child in Okinawa to be approved under the convention since Japan formally joined it in 2014.

According to the attorney, the woman married an American man stationed at a U.S. Army installation in Okinawa and then moved to the U.S. in March 2015 with her husband, but later returned to Japan after her husband became violent toward her. She gave birth to their daughter in July 2015 in Japan. In response to her husband's request to take his daughter to a family member's wedding in the U.S., the woman visited Florida with their daughter in October 2015. However, she was arrested there because her husband made false accusations that she had committed domestic violence. The daughter was taken away by the husband's parents and the husband seized her passport. The husband filed an appeal with a state court for the custody of the child and the court ruled that the mother of the husband should take the daughter under her care. The woman returned to Japan after staying in a shelter in Florida for about two months. She filed an appeal with the U.S. District Court in Florida in October 2016 over the custody of the child and attended proceedings there in January.

The paper ran separate inside-page interviews with the mother and the leader of an NPO, who said that the ruling by the U.S. court has given women in Okinawa who are dealing with similar problems hope that they should not give up even after their children are taken away.