



Afternoon Alert - Monday, March 13, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that a third-party panel concluded that many of the articles posted on a website operated by DeNA were in violation of copyright. NTV gave top play to a report that the North Korean man who sprayed agents on the hands of the two female suspects at the Malaysian airport before they murdered Kim Jong Nam is still at large. TV Asahi and Fuji TV led with reports that former South Korean President Park may be requested to appear for questioning as early as this week. TBS reported that DM Inada was grilled at the Diet today over her connection with Moritomo Gakuen as she and her husband were allegedly corporate lawyers for Moritomo Gakuen.

SECURITY

GOJ spokesman acknowledges difficulty in issuing timely warning of approaching missiles

Nikkei reported online on press remarks this morning by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, who disclosed that after the DPRK test-fired four missiles into the Sea of Japan on the morning of March 6, it took the GOJ 13 minutes and 29 minutes to issue warnings to Japanese ships and aircraft, respectively. The top government spokesman stressed that it is important for Japan to preempt missile launches given that North Korean projectiles would reach Japan only 10 minutes after launch and that it is almost impossible for the GOJ to issue a warning in a timely manner.

Defense chief supports idea of SDF using U.S. bases in Okinawa

Saturday's Ryukyu Shimpo took up remarks made at the Diet on Friday by Defense Minister Inada, who embraced a proposal put forward last week by Lt. Gen. Nicholson, the Okinawa Area

Coordinator, that all U.S. bases on Okinawa be jointly used by the SDF by saying: “[Joint use] should be expanded from now on.” The daily explained that the use of Camp Hansen by SDF members for training purposes has soared following the bilateral accord on force realignment reached in May 2006, pointing out that the number of drills conducted there by the GSDF was 93 in FY2015, as opposed to only once in FY2007. It added that the number of training seminars for Japanese personnel at U.S. military installations in the island prefecture has also been on the rise in recent years.

Spouse of U.S. service member arrested for assaulting Okinawan cabbie

Sunday’s Okinawa Times reported in its city news section that the local police arrested a 25-year-old husband of an Okinawa Marine on charges of robbery resulting in injuries in Kin Town early Saturday morning, explaining that while exiting a cab, he allegedly punched the driver in the head from behind and got out of the taxi without paying the fare (1,170 yen or \$10). The suspect, who was later arrested near the scene, has reportedly denied the charges by saying: “I didn’t punch the driver or rob him.” He was reportedly intoxicated when apprehended.

- [Gist of Japan’s thinking behind withdrawal of GSDF from South Sudan](#) (Mainichi)
- [Global reality may demand Japan’s presence in conflict zones](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan becoming prime target of “ransomware” crime](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

Tohoku leaders urge fresh efforts to rejuvenate hometowns

In Sunday’s NHK “Nichiyo Toron” debate program, Minister for Reconstruction Imamura and a Tohoku Gakuin University professor joined the governors of Miyagi, Iwate, and Fukushima Prefectures to discuss the progress in the past six years and additional efforts that need to be made to rebuild the communities devastated by the 3/11 triple disasters. The cabinet minister pledged to redouble the central government’s commitment to enabling the evacuated residents near Fukushima Daiichi NPP to return to their homes sooner rather than later. The Fukushima leader asked the GOJ to build “platforms for reconstruction” quickly in areas where radiation levels remain relatively low so as to demonstrate that the displaced residents can return home and live safely. The Iwate and Miyagi chiefs called for the Abe administration to help local farmers and fishermen find new overseas customers for their products.

- [Prime minister’s schedule on March 12](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on March 11](#) (Nikkei)

- [Prime minister's schedule on March 10](#) (Nikkei)
- [Akie Abe's staff failed to follow procedures for official travel](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Defense Minister Inada's remarks cast doubt on her fitness for job](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Editorial: S. Korea must overcome challenges, build stability after Park's impeachment](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan provided Kim Jong Nam fingerprints to Malaysia for murder probe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Saudi king visiting Asia to find solutions to ending oil reliance](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe to Meet with EU Leaders in Brussels on March 21: EU Official](#) (Jiji Press)

ECONOMY

- [Toshiba scrambles to stem further bleeding from Westinghouse](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Divisions still haunt residents of Fukushima on 6th anniversary](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Big data to get intellectual property protection in Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Some in Congress back implementing TPP trade deal even without U.S., Amari says](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Toyota, Suzuki chiefs talk business with Modi](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japanese importers do double take on not-so-cheap US shale gas](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SCIENCE

Meltdown File 6

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on the nuclear accident in Fukushima in 2011, focusing on TEPCO's failure to cool down Reactor No. 1 in a timely fashion. It took 12 days for TEPCO to begin effective cooling of Reactor No. 1. The program scientifically analyzed a large volume of data of

discussions held among the Fukushima Daiichi NPP, Fukushima Daini NPP, TEPCO headquarters, Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPP, and the off-site center, saying that although some people initially had concerns about whether Reactor No. 1 was properly cooled down, such concerns were overtaken by a series of accidents and developments that occurred at other reactors. The program reported on the extreme difficulty in simultaneously dealing with nuclear accidents at multiple reactors by a single plant manager, saying that today TEPCO is repeatedly conducting drills for TEPCO officials to deal with accidents without instructions from a plant manager so that a plant manager can focus on nuclear reactors only.

- [NTT Docomo AI system to support bus operation](#) (The Mainichi)

SOCIETY

The Great East Japan Earthquake: Life in a prefab for six years

Saturday's "NHK Special" reported on the Great East Japan Earthquake, saying that although six years have passed, more than 30,000 people are still living in temporary shelters. The program said although all of the people who were living in shelters on account of the Hanshin Awaji Great Earthquake were able to move to new houses within five years after the disaster, it is said that some people hit by the 2011 disaster may have to stay in temporary shelters for as long as nine years due to the delay in reconstruction. The program pointed out the problems of the existing Disaster Relief Act, which was not based on a large-scale disaster such as the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The second part of the program reported that at the end of this month residents will be allowed to return to about 70% of the area designated as off limits after the nuclear accident, saying, however, that many issues remain unresolved. The program said there are many "hot spots" where the radiation is still high and mountains of nuclear waste that prohibit the resumption of farming, adding that many former residents are not sure whether they should return to their communities. Meanwhile, local governments are rushing to lift evacuation orders due to the fear that their local communities will disappear if the current situation prolongs. The program said construction projects are not moving forward as planned, showing how local economies were dependent on the nuclear power plant.

OPINION POLLS

- [75% not convinced by government explanations of Moritomo Gakuen scandal, Mainichi poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)

- [Those “opposed” to bill to criminalize conspiracy are in majority, Kyodo News poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
 - [43% say Japan should first pursue partial return of Northern Territories, Nihon Yoron Chosakai poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
 - [33% say Futenma Air Station should be relocated to Henoko, Nihon Yoron Chosakai poll](#) (Ryukyu Shimpō)
 - [Nihon Yoron Chosakai poll reveals Japan’s “reliance on the United States”](#) (Ryukyu Shimpō)
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