



Afternoon Alert - Friday, June 2, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most TV networks led with stories about the negative reaction at home and abroad to President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement.

SCIENCE

U.S. withdrawal from climate pact sends shock waves around the world

All broadcasters reported extensively on the repercussions at home and abroad from President Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate accord, highlighting criticism and condemnation voiced by global leaders, including French President Macron, who in a speech called on Americans, the French, and other allies to "make our planet great again." Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga expressed regret in response to the U.S. leader's decision because "Japan has cooperated with the U.S. in combating global warming under the Paris agreement." But Environment Minister Yamamoto criticized the U.S. administration, saying: "The U.S. turned its back on the wisdom of mankind. I am extremely disappointed and angry. I was shocked when the U.S. withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol [in 2001]. But my disappointment this time is far deeper and immeasurable."

The networks suspected that despite strong opposition by Secretary of State Tillerson, Ivanka Trump, and others, the President chose to withdraw so as to uphold his signature campaign pledge with the goal of pleasing his core constituencies amid the "Russiagate" scandal. An NTV Washington correspondent said that with this decision the Trump administration showed its "true colors," claiming that the U.S. leader is willing to become an "international pariah" in order to put America First.

- [Japan voices regret over U.S. exit from Paris climate accord](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Companies set sights on Japan's homegrown GPS](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [CO2 concentration levels in Japan hit record highs in 2016](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Nanotech molds promise cheap, fast way to detect cancers](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. to require visa applicants to submit biographical data going back 15 years

Mainichi printed a Kyodo piece from Washington on a Reuters story concerning a new visa policy approved by the Trump administration, explaining that visa applicants will be required to provide biographical and other information going back 15 years, including their addresses, employment, and travel history. U.S. consular officials will also be able to request all prior passport numbers, five years' worth of social media handles, email addresses, and phone numbers. The article said the new policy, which is designed to tighten vetting of visitors, will have adverse effects on international students and scientists wishing to visit the U.S. because it will be considerably burdensome and may lead to long delays in processing. Some legal experts have also expressed concern that under the new system, immigration officials may be granted broad discretion when screening visa applications.

U.S. imposes additional sanctions on DPRK

NHK reported online on the Treasury Department's announcement on Thursday that nine DPRK entities, including the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, and three individuals have been added to its financial sanctions list, noting that their assets will be frozen and American companies will be prohibited from doing business with them. The measure is intended to prevent the Kim regime from earning hard currency for nuclear and missile development.

GOJ officials comment on Putin's concern about possible U.S. presence on Northern Territories

Asahi reported on remarks made this morning by Japanese cabinet ministers in response to qualms voiced by Russian President Putin yesterday about the possible deployment of U.S. troops on the Northern Territories in the event that they are returned to Japan. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga said: "I'd like to refrain from commenting on his statement given that constructive discussions will be held between the two leaders." Foreign Minister Kishida stated: "We will continue the territorial talks patiently based on our steadfast policy of concluding a peace treaty through resolving the territorial dispute." The daily speculated that the Russian leader is deeply apprehensive that the U.S. might deploy missiles on the disputed islets if they are reverted to Japan. One GOJ source said Putin's

remarks were intended to draw concessions from Japan as full-fledged discussions on the proposed “joint economic activities” there will start in the near future.

- [Putin mentions U.S. base threat if disputed isles given to Japan](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Statue symbolizing comfort women to be erected in southern U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [China detains Japanese citizen on suspicion of espionage](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: President Trump and Chancellor Merkel](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Allow Yang’s visit to open the door to more dialogue with China](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan names new ambassadors to Paraguay, Brunei, Fiji](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

U.S. military to continue using Kadena ramp

Ryukyu Shimpo led with remarks made to the daily on Thursday by a Kadena AB spokesperson, who suggested that the Navy ramp on the base will continue to be used if necessary. The official reportedly said the use of the facility does not constitute a breach of the 1996 SACO final report as claimed by the prefectural and local municipal governments. On the arrival at the installation of three USFK planes that are currently being housed at hangars on the ramp in question, the spokesperson said: “The temporary use is in line with a U.S.-Japan agreement. The Navy ramp will only be used when no alternative options are available.... There are operational requirements for the use of the ramp at Kadena.”

Explaining that the GOJ spent some \$70 million on the construction of a new ramp on the other side of the base in January in order to “mitigate noise pollution,” the daily stressed that the U.S. military has apparently succeeded in securing two ramps, one for Kadena planes and the other for transient aircraft. The paper expressed regret over the Japanese government’s reluctance to call for the discontinuation of the use of the Navy ramp.

USMC helicopter makes precautionary landing on Kumejima

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on a precautionary landing by a Futenma-based CH-53 at Kumejima Airport on Thursday afternoon, noting that the helicopter made the landing only two minutes after it notified airport authorities of its intention to do so. The landing was reportedly made in response to a warning light that was flashing in the cockpit. The prefectural and municipal

governments lodged a protest with the U.S. military, asking for a probe into the incident and measures to prevent a recurrence.

Inada comments on U.S.-Japan naval drill in Sea of Japan

NHK took up press remarks this morning by Defense Minister Inada, who commented on a joint drill conducted between SDF warships and the USS Carl Vinson and the USS Ronald Reagan in the Sea of Japan on Thursday. She was quoted as saying: "It represents stronger coordination and bonds between the U.S. and Japan. Enhancing the deterrent capabilities of the alliance demonstrates Japan's commitment to regional stability." Inada also commented on the latest missile launch by North Korea on Monday, noting that the projectile may have been a new type of Scud missile.

ROK F-16s make emergency landing at Yokota

TV-Asahi reported yesterday that six South Korean F-16s made an unscheduled landing at Yokota AB at around 9 a.m. on Thursday. According to the network, the squadron was directed to Japan after experiencing a mishap in aerial refueling by the U.S. military while on its way to a U.S. military base in Alaska for training. The aircraft plan to leave Yokota pending confirmation of the safety of aerial refueling.

- **Battle of Okinawa memorial to be held in Hawaii for 1st Time** (Jiji Press)
- **Tokio Marine tie-up seen bolstering cybersecurity insurance** (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- **Prime minister's schedule on June 1** (Nikkei)
- **Exclusive: Whistleblower Snowden warns of looming mass surveillance in Japan** (Kyodo News)
- **PM Abe meets with six special advisors to cabinet** (Asahi)
- **PM Abe criticizes former vice minister of education over scandal** (Asahi)
- **Editorial: Japan's Abe should remember success is not measured in days** (Nikkei Asian Review)
- **Koizumi voices support for Abe's Article 9 revision proposal, strategic special zones** (Sankei)
- **Finance Ministry, U.S., China eyeing Aso as next prime minister if Abe steps down** (THEMIS)

- [Cartoon: PM Abe](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Delay in goal to reduce day care waiting lists a major embarrassment](#) (The Mainichi)

ECONOMY

Companies struggle to retain young employees

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that lifetime commitment to a single employer is rapidly becoming a thing of the past as young employees increasingly leave their jobs for better positions or because they are exhausted. As many as 50% of new employees quit within just three years of employment in some industries, so many firms are desperate to obtain their workers' loyalty. One IT company uses artificial intelligence to identify employees who may be tempted to leave, while another employer is trying to reduce working hours to relieve stress in the workplace.

- [METI's white paper on international economy and trade warns against protectionism](#) (Asahi)
- [Fisheries Agency decreases quota for juvenile bluefin tuna catch by 500 tons](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan to let state-backed R&D agencies invest in private sector](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Devise ways for sustained human resources development for nuclear power](#) (Nikkei)
- [Mayor to link reactor decommissioning to restarting 2 others at same TEPCO plant](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Interview series \(Part 3\): FPMAJ President Masayo Tada on drug prices](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

Photo exhibition on history of U.S.-Japan baseball exchanges opens in Tokyo

Kyodo reported that a photography exhibition charting the history of U.S.-Japan exchanges through baseball will be held from June 2 through July 30 at the Tokyo Metropolitan Central Library. The title of the exhibition is "Pacific Pitch." An event to celebrate the exhibition was held on Thursday ahead of its opening to the public on Friday. The exhibition includes more than 50 photos taken since baseball was introduced to Japan in the late 19th century, including one of Babe Ruth playing in Japan. Former professional baseball player Warren Cromartie, who used to play for the Tokyo

Yomiuri Giants, stated at the ceremony: “The history of U.S.-Japan exchanges through baseball is of great significance. I hope many people will come to the exhibition.”

- [Opinion: NHK’s conspicuously passive coverage of Kake scandal](#) (The Mainichi)
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