



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, June 7, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TV Asahi led with reports on the murder of a mother and her two children in Fukuoka. NTV and TBS gave top play to reports that the rainy season officially began in the Shikoku, Chugoku, Kinki, Tokai, and Kanto regions today. Fuji TV led with a report that a MEXT official told the network that documents on Kake Educational Institution were shared among ministry officials.

SECURITY

Onaga to announce plan to file suit to derail FRF construction

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported that Governor Onaga plans to hold a press conference this evening and announce his intention to sue the central government for failing to obtain a permit for destroying rock reefs off Camp Schwab, which the prefectural government claims is essential for building the Futenma replacement facility. The governor is expected to file the suit pending the prefectural assembly's endorsement of a relevant motion to be submitted by the prefectural government later this month. The assembly is likely to endorse the motion on July 14. The governor is also set to file a separate suit seeking a court stay of the ongoing bank protection work.

Kadena mayor angry about broken promise on use of air base

Ryukyu Shimpo published an interview with Kadena Mayor Toyama, who expressed rage at the continued use by the U.S. military of the Navy ramp at Kadena AB. He said the Navy ramp should be a "noiseless warehouse and maintenance facility" because the relevant functions have already been relocated to a new ramp built on the other side of the base using a large amount of Japanese taxpayer money. He said he was "betrayed" by the GOJ and the USG since the 1996 SACO final

report specified the discontinuation of the use of the Navy ramp pending the construction of an alternate facility. He projected that calls may mount among local residents for the removal of some functions of the base.

- [U.S. Osprey makes emergency landing on Okinawa Pref. island](#) (Kyodo News)
- [MLIT website target of possible cyberattack](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Recent cyberattacks reveal obstacles to forming international encirclement](#) (Nikkei)
- [Commentary: Freedom of expression under siege in Okinawa](#) (The Japan Times)

INTERNATIONAL

U.S., Japanese officials agree on importance of China's role in dealing with DPRK

NHK reported online that State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sonoura met with National Security Council Senior Director for Asia Pottinger in Washington on Tuesday. The network said the two officials agreed that pressure rather than dialogue is important in dealing with North Korea at this point and that China should play a larger role in applying pressure on Pyongyang. Sonoura reportedly told Pottinger that Japan-ROK relations are important for security in the region and that the GOJ has been steadily implementing the comfort women agreement with Seoul. The Japanese official also told the U.S. official that President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement is regrettable and expressed Tokyo's intention to continue to work with Washington in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- [Survey of newspaper editorials on G7 Summit](#) (Sankei)
- [Japanese companies closely monitoring situation as nations sever ties with Qatar](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan-India nuclear cooperation pact clears Diet despite opposition](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 6](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gov't, ruling parties decide not to extend Diet session much to evade grilling on scandal](#) (Nikkei)

- [Opposition steps up battle in Diet against “conspiracy bill”](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP’s Ishiba on Abe’s constitutional revision proposals, related issues](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Calm discussions needed regarding Kake veterinary department issue](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Abe has ultimate responsibility to clarify Kake scandal](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Suspicions Abe gov’t trying to run out Diet clock on Kake affair](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Rejection of reinvestigation proves gov’t’s insincerity](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Abe gets double order of “mori” and “kake”](#) (Asahi)
- [Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Izumi busy behind the scenes at the Kantei](#) (THEMIS)

ECONOMY

- [Court rejects suit seeking to halt Japan involvement in TPP](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to promote direct Asian currency exchanges](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Western Digital to build new chip plant in central Japan: CEO](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Gov’t should set a clear direction for development of human resources](#) (Sankei)

SCIENCE

Radioactive particles released during Fukushima nuclear accident

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on insoluble radioactive particles containing cesium 137 that were released during the Fukushima nuclear accident six years ago. The program said researchers are paying close attention to the particles because they are believed to remain in the environment or human body for an extended period of time on account of their being insoluble. Although the properties of the particles are still not well understood, they have been discovered in the Kanto region as well as Fukushima. Some researchers reportedly believe these particles were generated when fiberglass insulation in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor buildings absorbed cesium 137

particles that spread after the nuclear meltdown and melted and turned into small particles after the explosions.

- [Takeda relocating 100 researchers to U.S.](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SOCIETY

- [292 cases of discrimination processed in first year since enactment of disability law](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
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