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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, June 9, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All networks led with reports that Education Minister Matsuno announced this morning that the ministry will re-investigate whether or not documents exist that indicate PM Abe pressured the ministry to draft new government criteria for approving a new department that were favorable to Kake Gakuen.

## ECONOMY

### U.S. mulls restricting steel imports

Nikkei reported online that the USG is mulling restricting steel imports, speculating that steel imports from Japan and other countries may be targeted, for national security reasons. The paper claimed that the Commerce Department is likely to propose the invocation of the 1962 Trade Expansion Act and conclude that some foreign steel products are harming national security. Claiming that Commerce authorities may choose to curb the volume of imports and/or hike import duties across the board, the paper expressed concern that the Trump administration appears to be inclined to step up its protectionism in the name of “putting America first” perhaps in order to deflect mounting criticism over the “Russia-gate” scandal.

- [Hurdles to establishing integrated casino resorts in Japan \(Part 1\)](#) (Nikkei)
- [Hurdles to establishing integrated casino resorts in Japan \(Part 2\)](#) (Nikkei)
- [Tokyo plots course to become global financial hub](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Survey shows half of small, medium firms have transactions with gov't-affiliated banks](#) (Nikkei)
- [Radiation accident shows lax controls](#) (The Japan News)
- [Nuclear watchdog orders improvement in radioactive material storage at JAEA facilities](#) (Mainichi)
- [TEPCO unit, Chubu Electric to integrate thermal power operations](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Editorial: Tighten measures to combat illegal fishing](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Ventures taking off in the space exploration market](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan enacts bill to fully allow "minpaku" lodging biz](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan female labor force participation hits record 66 pct](#) (Jiji Press)

## SECURITY

### **U.S., Japan disagree over accord on Kadena ramp**

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported that the Japanese government does not share the U.S. view expressed by Kadena AB Commander Oldham that the use of the Navy ramp at the installation is possible under a 2009 Joint Committee agreement. Okinawa Defense Bureau Director Nakajima dismissed the U.S. claim, telling local government officials on Thursday that there was no such agreement in the first place and that his office has lodged a protest with the U.S. military commander for making an "inaccurate" statement. The Japanese official said discussions are already underway with the U.S. to resolve the difference in perception between the two sides. The dailies projected that local opposition to the U.S. military's use of the ramp is bound to grow.

- [Fourth DPRK missile launch in as many weeks rattles municipalities](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan needs ability to strike enemy bases, says ruling party](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [U.S. military postal system used for smuggling drugs](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [U.S. service member accused of "disgracing" Japan in illegal drug case](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

## INTERNATIONAL

- [Chargé d’Affaires Hyland on strengthening Japan-U.S. relations at grassroots level](#) (Bungeishunju)
- [Japan adds more North Koreans to blacklist over weapons program](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japanese ex-residents to make 1st air trip to disputed isles June 18](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to give awards for corporate, civic contributions to U.N. SDGs](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Nuclear power exports pose growing risks for manufacturers](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Xi and Abe](#) (Sankei)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on June 8](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Judicial Affairs Committee, June 8](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Ministry to reinvestigate documents over Abe “favoritism” scandal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP calls for Diet debate on war-renouncing Article 9 revision](#) (Kyodo News)
- [DP’s Renho makes beeline to form joint front with JCP](#) (Sankei)
- [Four opposition parties agree to accelerate talks on united front for Lower House election](#) (Mainichi)
- [No party leader debate expected during current Diet session](#) (Mainichi)
- [Electoral redistricting bill enacted to pare down vote weight gap](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: How should LDP pursue agreement with other parties on Article 9 revision?](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Maekawa](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan enacts law to allow 1st abdication of emperor in 200 years](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of the law to allow Emperor Akihito’s abdication](#) (Kyodo News)

## SCIENCE

### **[Minister Yamamoto to stress to U.S. need for Paris accord at G7 meeting](#)**

NHK reported online that Minister for the Environment Yamamoto held a press conference ahead of the G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting in Bologna, Italy, and said that he will stress to the U.S. representative the need for measures based on the Paris Agreement. The network said the G7 meeting is the first such gathering since President Trump announced his decision to withdraw from the Paris accord, adding that attention will be focused on the U.S. stance and how other nations respond. Yamamoto was quoted as saying at the press conference: "The issue of climate change will be resolved only when all nations around the world participate. As far as I know, no country was shaken by the U.S. announcement of withdrawal. I would like to convey that Japan's position remains unchanged."

- **[Japanese researchers get green light to create embryonic stem cells](#)** (Mainichi)

## SOCIETY

### **[Kumamoto hospital's "baby hatch": 10 years and 130 babies later](#)**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported that ten years have passed since Jikei Hospital in Kumamoto Prefecture installed a "baby hatch" for mothers to bring their babies and abandon them anonymously in a safe place where they will be found and cared for. The program said that as of last year, a total of 130 babies had been brought to the hospital. The program said the identities of the parents of 27 of the babies remain unknown. One boy told the network that although he is thankful that his parents placed him in the baby hatch instead of abandoning him on street, he wished his parents would have left some clues as to their identities, including photos. Film director Hirokazu Koreeda welcomed the "baby hatch" system as a last resort for saving lives, but also stressed the need to create a system to support isolated mothers so that they do not have to abandon their babies.

- **[Former American Merrill Lynch employee rearrested on suspicion of separate robbery](#)** (Yomiuri)
- **[Editorial: To end hate speech, Japan must face its deep-rooted discriminatory thinking](#)** (The Mainichi)