



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, June 28, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report on a Toshiba stockholders' meeting held today. All commercial networks led with reports on remarks by Defense Minister Inada, who indicated that the SDF supports an LDP candidate running in the upcoming Tokyo metropolitan assembly election. The networks said the opposition parties are calling for Inada's resignation, while Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga said she does not need to step down. TV Asahi said some within the LDP are concerned about the likely impact on the Tokyo assembly election, adding that Inada may be replaced in the cabinet reshuffle expected to occur this summer.

SECURITY

Two more F-35s arrive at Kadena

Okinawa Times front-paged a report saying that following the landing of two F-35B stealth fighters at Kadena AB on Monday, two more F-35s arrived at the base on Tuesday. The paper wrote that municipalities surrounding Kadena AB are reacting strongly to the increase in operations at the base. Ryukyu Shimpo ran a similar inside-page report. Both papers ran editorials on the F-35 landing, with Ryukyu Shimpo arguing: "Two F-35B stealth fighters landed in Okinawa for the first time. Local governments had asked that stealth fighters not fly to Okinawa, but the Marines ignored this request. We can't help but interpret this as the U.S. military's declaration of the termination of its relations with the people of Okinawa....The burden on residents surrounding Kadena AB has been increasing due to the U.S. military's complete failure to take the lives of local residents into

consideration. Calling for the removal of the Kadena base is probably the only way to ensure safety and to allow local residents to return to their peaceful lives."

Inada says April parachute drills at Kadena don't constitute "relocation" of training to Okinawa

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that concerning the parachute drop drills that were conducted at Kadena AB in April, Defense Minister Inada stated during a news conference on Tuesday that the U.S. has told Japan that troops from the U.S. mainland did not come to Okinawa for the drill, but instructors were dispatched to Okinawa to provide the training. However, Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that although the defense minister expressed the view that the drills did not constitute a "relocation" of U.S. military training to Okinawa, it was a "relocation" in the practical sense because the U.S. military conducted the drills outside of the U.S. mainland for the first time.

"All Okinawa" to organize prefecture-wide rally against Henoko plan on Aug. 12

Okinawa Times front-paged a report saying that "All Okinawa," a group of citizens, members of political parties and labor unions, and businesspeople who are opposed to the FRF construction at Henoko, has decided to organize a prefecture-wide rally in Naha on Aug. 12 to call for the suspension of "the construction of a new base at Henoko." The group is hoping that more than 30,000 people will gather for the event. According to the group, some 65,000 people participated in a rally held in May 2016, during which the participants protested the murder of a local woman by a U.S. base worker and called for the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Okinawa.

Gov't safety panel asks U.S. Navy for cooperation to identify cause of Fitzgerald mishap

Asahi and Nikkei reported that the Japan Transport Safety Board disclosed on Tuesday that it has asked the U.S. Navy via the U.S. Coast Guard to allow a survey to be conducted aboard the USS Fitzgerald and interviews with its crew members by Japanese authorities to determine the cause of the warship's collision with a container ship. The Navy has yet to respond to the Japanese request for investigative cooperation.

- [Memorial service for USS Fitzgerald crew members held at Yokosuka base](#) (Yomiuri Yokohama edition)
- [Opinion: Reaffirm the USFJ's importance in light of USS Fitzgerald accident](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Marine Corps Installations Pacific has new commander](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Okinawa creates database of environmental records of U.S. military facilities](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Yomitan protests hit-and-run accident caused by U.S. airman](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)

INTERNATIONAL

Image of U.S. drops worldwide under Trump administration

NHK reported this morning that Pew Research Center released a [report](#) on the results of its opinion poll targeting more than 40,000 people from 37 nations, including Japan, this spring. The report found that the image of the United States has declined since the launch of the Trump administration. According to the network, while 64% said they had a positive view of the U.S. in the previous survey conducted under the Obama administration, only 49% did under the Trump administration. Those who said they do not have a positive view of the U.S. rose 13 points to 39%. In addition, those who have faith that President Trump will do the right thing regarding world affairs was 22%, marking a significant drop of 42 points from President Obama's time. In Japan, confidence in the U.S. fell from 78% during the Obama presidency to 24% under the Trump presidency. Confidence also dropped in many other nations, including Germany, France, Canada, and Mexico. Meanwhile, the network said confidence in the U.S. among Russians increased from 11% during the Obama presidency to 53% under the Trump administration.

- [Japanese scholar denied entry to United States](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan, Russia start 1st joint study on disputed isles](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan OKs tougher cargo inspections to stem N. Korea weapons program](#) (Kyodo News)
- [S. Korean pres. beginning to show true colors, worrying Japan](#) (Jiji Press)
- [ROK special envoy to Abe: No immediate demand for comfort women accord renegotiation](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan, Czech to begin talks on direct flights](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Canceled flight leaves former residents of Russian-held isles stranded](#) (The Japan Times)

ECONOMY

- [Japanese Association of Corporate Execs demands GOJ exercise leadership in concluding multilateral EPAs](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan, Czech PMs agree to cooperate on Japan-EU free trade pact](#) (Kyodo News)
- [JA-Zenchu protests potential increase in imports from EU](#) (Mainichi)

- [2017 Trade White Paper emphasizes importance of Japan-EU EPA, free trade](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Conflict over casinos may delay passage of bill to curb gambling addiction](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [METI mulls ways to reduce market entry costs to promote renewable energy sources](#) (Nikkei)
- [FSA considering a review of auditing standards](#) (Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 27](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opposition demands defense minister quit over SDF remark in stumping](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Summary of Defense Minister Tomomi Inada's statement at campaign rally](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe's policy to allow veterinary schools nationwide creates stir](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP uses carrot-and-stick method on Diet members to expand party membership](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Abe should offer more explanations by attending out-of-session deliberations](#) (The Japan News)
- [Yokohama mayoral election candidates divided over casino IR](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Abe's haste for constitutional amendment reeks of politics](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Gov't pressure opens rift between reporters](#) (AERA)

EDUCATION

- [Japan's regional universities innovate to survive amid depopulation, Tokyo draw](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

[Comedian and novelist Naoki Matayoshi visits China](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on comedian and novelist Naoki Matayoshi's first visit to China since the publication of the Chinese translation of his award-winning book "Hibana." He participated in an event with 40 Chinese university students in Shanghai who are studying Japanese. The program said many young Chinese who were born in the 1990s find they can relate to Matayoshi's books. While there is reportedly growing interest in Japanese culture and literature among young Chinese, interest in China among young Japanese appears to be declining.

