
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, June 29, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, NTV, and TV Asahi gave top play to reports that a small airplane made a crash landing at Nagasaki Airport this morning, saying that the three crew members were not injured. The networks said the airport has been temporarily closed. TBS and Fuji TV led with reports that former education minister Shimomura denied a weekly magazine report that he broke the law in connection with the receipt of donations from Kake Gakuen.

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. unveils new security steps for international flights bound for America

All papers reported online on DHS Secretary Kelly's announcement on Wednesday that the department has asked airline companies and airport authorities around the world to tighten security screening on all commercial flights bound for the U.S. to combat the threat of terrorism. Among the security enhancement measures proposed are the use of bomb-sniffing dogs and adoption of more advanced technology in checkpoint screening. Personal electronic devices, such as cell phones, laptops and tablets, will be subject to heightened screening. Nikkei said eight Japanese airports will be required to tighten air travel security measures. An unnamed MLIT aviation bureau official said: "We are collecting information since no formal notice has been provided by the U.S." The official said the ministry will consider whether or not additional security measures will need to be implemented at Japanese airports after local airlines receive concrete instructions from the DHS. A JAL spokesperson reportedly said the airline is now examining the U.S. instructions.

- [Japan, China begin maritime talks to avoid accidental clash](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

[Inada likely to be replaced in cabinet reshuffle](#)

Last night's news programs and today's infotainment shows reported extensively on Defense Minister Inada's comment on the Tokyo assembly election, with almost all of the panelists echoing the view that since it was apparently in violation of the law, Inada is no longer qualified to lead the ministry or the SDF. They projected that although Prime Minister Abe will retain her as the top defense official at least for now, he will undoubtedly appoint a new defense minister when he reshuffles his cabinet in August. On TV-Asahi's Hodo Station, former Kyodo News Managing editor Goto projected that while Inada will perhaps attend a U.S.-Japan 2+2 foreign and defense ministerial meeting scheduled for mid-July in Washington, the Trump administration probably will not consider the session very important based on the belief that the Japanese side will be represented by an official who may be replaced in the near future.

[Suga dismisses opposition's call for Inada's resignation](#)

Nikkei reported online on press remarks this morning by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, who said it is not necessary for Defense Minister Inada to step down to take responsibility for her controversial remarks asking Tokyo voters as a "representative of the Defense Ministry and the SDF" to support an LDP candidate running in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election. The government spokesman pointed out that the minister has already withdrawn her statement, adding: "I want her to fulfill her accountability and duties faithfully."

- [Opposition demands PM reopen Diet over defense minister's SDF remark](#) (Kyodo News)
- [DP seeks removal of defense chief Inada](#) (The Japan News)
- [Defense chief's gaffe adds to Abe's headaches](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Inada's gaffe deals heavy blow to Abe, triggers calls for early cabinet reshuffle](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP camp concerned Inada's gaffe may negatively impact LDP candidates in Tokyo assembly election](#) (Mainichi)
- [Koike groups seen securing Tokyo assembly majority](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Cartoon: Inada scores an own goal](#) (Asahi)

- [Magazine reports LDP's Shimomura received donations from scandal-tainted Kake Gakuen](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Ex-education minister denies illegal political funds management](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Finance Ministry official involved in Moritomo Gakuen affair to be named Tax Agency chief](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Prime minister's schedule on June 28](#) (Nikkei)
- [Government to tap Shimada as next METI vice minister](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Constitutional amendment](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

[Noise pollution at Kadena base soars due to transient jets](#)

Thursday's Okinawa Times gave prominent front-page coverage to a report on a surge in noise pollution at Kadena AB in the past 51 days due to the temporary deployment of F-16 jet fighters belonging to installations on the U.S. mainland, including one in Colorado. According to Kadena Town Mayor Toyama, the number of instances of noise over 100 decibels recorded at a location near the Air Force facility during the period from May 8 to June 27 increased by four-fold to 32 from a period of the same length until May 8 when the USAF Fighting Falcons began training at the base. Claiming that the living conditions of Kadena residents have deteriorated due to the increase in noise pollution caused by the transient aircraft, the article said that the municipal leader called for the central government to help mitigate the noise pollution. The mayor insisted that the U.S. military has failed to fulfill its obligation to make utmost efforts to reduce damage.

- [Cabinet Office to introduce no-strings scholarships for Okinawa schools](#) (Mainichi)
- [Okinawa aims to dispel widespread 'misconceptions' on Henoko suspension by creating its own website](#) (Okinawa Times)

ECONOMY

[Life insurance premiums rise due to negative interest rate](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on a substantial increase in some life insurance premiums this April, saying that insurance companies are having difficulty making profits with life insurance due to the negative interest rate. The program reported that some insurance companies recommend products that do not necessarily meet the customers' needs just for the sake of making profits. The

program reported on how to save on insurance premiums while at the same time obtaining a sense of security for the future.

- [2 EU commissioners to visit Japan Fri. with eye to free trade deal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Hagiuda urges officials to work in concert with ruling parties toward basic agreement on EPA with EU](#) (Mainichi)
- [Toshiba sues Western Digital for \120 billion as standoff imperils plans for chip unit sale](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Only one group awarded ministry's gambling addiction prevention subsidy](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan tax revenue falls in FY 2016 for 1st time in 7 years](#) (Kyodo News)

SCIENCE

- [JAXA aims to put Japanese on moon in 2030](#) (Sankei)

EDUCATION

- [Application volume low for state-backed scholarship program](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Showa Women's University, Temple University to share Tokyo campus](#) (Nikkei)

SOCIETY

- [U.S. downgrades China's human trafficking situation to worst level, praises 'significant efforts' by Japan](#) (The Japan Times)