


JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, September 12, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks gave top play to reports on the unanimous adoption of a new UN Security Council sanctions resolution against North Korea on Monday. Fuji TV said the resolution turned out to be a lot different from "the strongest sanctions" that the U.S. had hoped to adopt, adding that the UNSC apparently prioritized its swift adoption.

INTERNATIONAL

PM Abe welcomes new UNSC sanctions resolution

NHK reported this morning that Prime Minister Abe welcomed the new sanctions resolution that was unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council on Monday. The premier was quoted as telling reporters this morning: "I highly appreciate the fact that an extremely tough sanctions resolution against North Korea was swiftly and unanimously adopted. The international community will now be required to thoroughly implement this resolution. It is important to apply a higher level of pressure than ever before on North Korea to change its policies. The international community has been able to unite, cooperate, and show a clear resolve to do that. Japan will continue to work closely with other nations and exercise leadership in urging North Korea to change its policies."

Foreign minister announces "Kono Initiative" in Middle East

NHK reported this morning that Foreign Minister Kono, who is currently visiting the Middle East, delivered a speech at the inaugural Japan-Arab Political Dialogue in Cairo. According to the network, Kono announced Japan's basic policy on the Middle East and the "Kono Initiative," under which Japan will help resume the peace talks between Israel and Palestine by expanding the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity Initiative" to cover IT in addition to agriculture. Kono also reportedly announced that he will be the first Japanese foreign minister to attend a foreign affairs

meeting held annually in Bahrain to deepen discussions with the Arab nations on politics and security. In addition, Kono disclosed that Japan will provide a total of \$25 million for measures to deal with Syrian refugees. He was quoted as saying: "We will play an even more active role in achieving peace and stability in the region by fully capitalizing on our unique position." Kono also reportedly said North Korean workers in the Middle East are becoming a source of foreign currency revenue for North Korea and called for cooperation on the matter.

An NHK reporter said Kono has been visiting the Middle East almost every year, adding that his latest trip highlighted his broad connections with important people in the region. The reporter added that Kono is putting a lot of energy into diplomacy in the Middle East because he believes that Japan can contribute to resolving issues in the region since it has built friendly relationships with Middle East nations. The reporter said Kono's diplomatic ability will be tested as some are concerned that Japan's position may be undermined if it becomes too involved in the Middle East.

- [DPRK mulling cyberattacks on Japan, U.S., ROK upon adoption of UNSC resolution, says source](#) (Asahi)
- [Russian environment minister visited island claimed by Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Four major Chinese state banks notify DPRK passport holders of transaction suspension](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe to visit India for talks with Modi, high-speed rail ceremony](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japanese wife of IS fighter reportedly seen in Iraqi camp](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Analysis: North Korean nuclear crisis tests Japan's mettle, has experts debating how to respond](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Defense Minister Onodera says DPRK threat level has increased](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan, Cambodia agree that N. Korea should give up nuclear program](#) (Kyodo News)
- [South Korean FM to "respect" Supreme Court ruling on forced laborers' claims](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japanese industry minister arrives in Thailand, EEC in spotlight](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Komeito Chief Yamaguchi to leave for Russia today](#) (Mainichi)
- [Ex-PM Noda relates events leading to nationalization of Senkakus in 2012](#) (Asahi)

POLITICS

Japanese woman rumored to be among ISIL fighters' wives

Fuji TV reported at noon that the Japanese Embassy in Iraq is trying to confirm recent media reports that there is a Japanese woman among the wives of ISIL fighters. According to the network, 1,333 foreign wives and children of Islamic State fighters surrendered and were placed in a refugee camp after the Iraqi forces seized Tal Afar. These foreign family members are mainly from Central Asia, Russia, and Turkey, but there are reportedly some Japanese and South Korean people among them. The network said the Japanese Embassy in Iraq said there is no solid information proving that the ISIL fighters' wives include a Japanese woman.

- [Prime minister's schedule on Sept.10-11, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Former DP member Hosono meets with Tokyo Governor Koike over forming new party](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Five DP members mull leaving party](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan human resources development panel holds 1st meeting](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Interview with former PM Hosokawa on Tokyo Gov. Koike](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet approval rating recovers to 50%, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cabinet and political party support rates, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)

SECURITY

- [MOD chief says Aegis Ashore to be introduced as quickly as possible](#) (Nikkei)
- [Onaga demands Japan be allowed to investigate accidents involving U.S. military personnel](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [U.S. says pilot error led to Dec. Osprey crash-landing off Okinawa](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Frustration growing within LDP over selection of candidate for Nago mayor](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe seeks strengthening of defense capability](#) (The Japan News)

- [Japan increases procurement of defense equipment from U.S. in FY18 budget](#) (Akahata)
- [Editorial: Protect Japan's sovereignty via JCG's proper enforcement of relevant laws](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

- [Vietnam objects to TPP's "yarn forward" provision](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan to extend package loan to support India's infrastructure projects](#) (Sankei)

SOCIETY

Japanese sprinter breaks 10-second barrier

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on Yoshihide Kiryu, a Japanese sprinter who set a new Japanese record of 9.98 seconds in the 100-meter race and became the first Japanese sprinter to break the 10-second barrier. The program reported that Kiryu had been struggling for four years after he marked 10.01 seconds at the age of 18. The program reported on Kiryu's childhood and athletic career, and how he worked with Japanese hammer throw gold medalist Koji Murofushi to strengthen his core. The program said Kiryu's performance will certainly inspire other Japanese sprinters and raise the level of Japanese athletics overall.

- [Difficulty of "enforcing" handover of children](#) (Asahi)

SCIENCE

- [Startup Astroscale partners with JAXA to tidy up outer space](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

U.S. says pilot error caused Osprey crash off Nago

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo gave top play to reports saying that the Ministry of Defense released on Monday a final report by the U.S. on the crash-landing involving a Futenma-based MV-22 Osprey in shallow waters off Nago last December. The report concluded that the cause of the incident was pilot error. The papers wrote that local officials and residents were displeased with the report. Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Okinawa Area Coordinator Nicholson gave Vice Governor Tomikawa a briefing on the report, quoting Tomikawa as telling reporters after the meeting: "I was told that the incident was caused by pilot error, not mechanical malfunction. But this is not convincing from the viewpoint of the local residents."

- [Osprey night flights increase 1.5-fold](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)



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