



Afternoon Alert - Monday, October 23, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters gave top play to reports on the damage across the nation caused by Typhoon Lan.

INTERNATIONAL

President Trump to play golf with Hideki Matsuyama

Fuji TV reported at noon that a GOJ source disclosed that when President Trump plays golf with Prime Minister Abe on his second day in Japan next month, Japanese professional golfer Hideki Matsuyama will join them at the strong request of the President.

President Trump, PM Abe exchange views on President's Japan visit, North Korea

NHK reported online that President Trump and Prime Minister Abe spoke by phone for about 30 minutes from 11:30 a.m. today following the results of the Lower House election on Sunday. During the call, which was made by President Trump, the President congratulated the prime minister by saying: "It is extremely important for a strong leader to receive strong public support." Abe reportedly said in response: "It was a tough race but I stressed the need to apply as much pressure as possible on North Korea under the U.S.-Japan alliance and have North Korea change its policies." The network also said the two leaders agreed to exchange views on responding to North Korea and to deepen the bilateral ties to strengthen international pressure on the North when President Trump makes his first visit to Japan as the U.S. leader on Nov. 5. In addition, the two leaders also reportedly agreed to play golf together with professional golfer Hideki Matsuyama during the President's visit to Japan. The network explained that the two leaders also played golf in Florida

when Prime Minister Abe visited the U.S. in February.

Former President Carter expresses readiness to visit North Korea

NHK reported at noon that former President Carter said in an interview with The New York Times published on Sunday that he intends to visit North Korea to achieve a breakthrough in the situation if necessary. President Carter also reportedly said he thinks that North Korea has "got advanced nuclear weaponry that can destroy the Korean Peninsula and Japan, and some of our outlying territories in the Pacific, maybe even our mainland." The former president also reportedly said he told National Security Advisor McMaster that he was "available" if they ever need him. Meanwhile, an unnamed White House official reportedly rejected the idea of President Carter visiting North Korea, calling it "nonsense."

- [11-member TPP agreement holds key to Japan's future trade policies](#) (Nikkei)
- [A senior Israeli Cabinet minister seeks Japan's support to build Arab-wide rail network](#) (Nikkei)
- [U.N. rights expert challenges Japan gov't defense of "conspiracy" law](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Interview with Foreign Minister Taro Kono by journalist Akira Ikegami](#) (Bungeishunju)
- [Cinemanian Report #62: "Hidden Figures" \[Japanese title: "Dream"\]](#) (Asahi)

POLITICS

PM Abe holds post-election press conference

NHK reported this afternoon that Prime Minister Abe held a press conference at the LDP headquarters earlier today. According to the network, the premier said he was able to obtain support "far beyond the original goal" and received strong encouragement to move forward with politics under a stable political foundation. On the coalition agreement with Komeito leader Yamaguchi, the premier reportedly stressed: "Under a strong coalition, we will move forward with economic, diplomatic, and security policies. We will implement each of the policies we advocated during the election campaign and produce results." However, Abe also said: "Members of the ruling parties must be aware that the public is casting a stern eye on us. We will do our best to conduct government operations in a sincere and humble manner."

U.S. Japan-hand comments on results of Lower House election

NHK reported on its website this morning on its interview with Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow Sheila Smith conducted after the Lower House election on Monday that resulted in a landslide victory for Prime Minister Abe. "President Trump has built a very close relationship with Prime Minister Abe and will be pleased that Prime Minister Abe will continue to hold the reins of

government," said Smith. "It is a difficult time in view of such issues as North Korea. The U.S. government looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Japanese government." According to the network, Smith also referred to the planned visit to Japan by President Trump next month, saying: "It will be a big moment for President Trump. The President will count on Prime Minister Abe's support." Regarding constitutional revision, Smith reportedly said: "This is a choice for the people of Japan, and the U.S. government will not take any particular position. I think President Trump will follow the discussions closely and respect the outcome."

- [Gist of PM Abe's comments on Lower House election results](#) (Asahi)
- [2017 Lower House Election / Most of Cabinet members to stay](#) (The Japan News)
- [Roundup of newspaper commentaries on Lower House election results](#) (Asahi, Mainichi, Yomiuri, Nikkei, Sankei, Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Comment: Abe must address Japan's painful challenges](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [FOCUS: U.S. welcomes Abe's victory, but cautious about constitutional change](#) (Kyodo News)
- [FOCUS: After election, gov't to face greater pressure for spending](#) (Jiji Press)
- [2017 Lower House Election / Coalition set for landslide win / CDPJ makes strong showing; Kibo no To likely to fall short](#) (The Japan News)
- [Record 20% vote early in Lower House election before typhoon](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Japan's youths back LDP; independents favor Constitutional Dems](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Lawsuits filed to nullify election outcome over vote disparity](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Abe should heed diverse public opinion despite big election win](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: The Abe administration has not obtained a full mandate](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Ruling parties received strong support to overcome national crisis](#) (Sankei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 22-23, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 21, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 20, 2017](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

- [Panasonic buying Silicon Valley AI startup](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [High risks associated with nuclear power plant exports](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

- [VOTE 2017: Okinawa loses 1 seat to supporter of Futenma base relocation](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

President Trump will not visit Kadena

Okinawa Times wrote that it learned from a White House source on Thursday that President Trump will not visit Kadena AB in Okinawa during his scheduled tour of Asia in November. The paper added that the President will also likely forgo a visit to the DMZ during his scheduled trip to South Korea. The paper wrote that the White House source told the paper that the President will not visit Kadena for scheduling reasons but arrangements are being made for the U.S. leader to meet with U.S. military and SDF personnel during his visit to Japan.

