



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, November 2, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave top play to updates on the arrest of a man on suspicion of killing and dismembering nine people in his apartment in Zama, Kanagawa.

INTERNATIONAL

“Success” of Abe-Trump summit guaranteed

Nikkei’s website published a column by a deputy political news editor who projected that the summit meeting between President Trump and Prime Minister Abe scheduled for Monday at the Akasaka Palace will be “free of discord, friction, or rupture” because the two leaders are expected to exchange views on a range of issues, such as North Korea, strictly based on scripts prepared by their policy advisers. Conjecturing that the bilateral trade imbalance will be the only potential source of conflict between the two leaders, the columnist speculated that this issue will probably be taken up when they play golf together on Sunday, since they will only be accompanied by interpreters and any discord between them on the subject will not be publicly disclosed. The Japanese side is reportedly hoping that the formal summit on the next day will go smoothly if the premier listens to the President’s “true opinions” on the golf course.

President Trump won’t visit MSDF warship after all

Asahi reported online that although the Kantei had strongly wanted President Trump to visit the MSDF destroyer Izumo together with Prime Minister Abe, the idea could not be materialized because of scheduling conflicts on the part of the U.S. leader. The premier had reportedly hoped to tour the warship together with the President in order to showcase the strong bilateral alliance. According to the daily, Philippine President Duterte and British Prime Minister May both visited the

Izumo earlier this year.

Prime Minister Abe to present President Trump with fountain pen

NTV reported at noon that Prime Minister Abe is planning to give President Trump a Pilot "Hiramakie" fountain pen to commemorate his visit to Japan. According to the network, the premier is also planning to give a bracelet by NAGAE+ to the First Lady and Hakuhodo makeup brushes to Ivanka Trump.

Ivanka Trump leaves for Japan

NTV reported at noon that Ivanka Trump left Dulles Airport for Tokyo on Wednesday, quoting her as saying before her departure: "I am very much looking forward to my first visit to Japan. It will be a wonderful visit, I hope." She also said that she looks forward to attending the World Assembly of Women slated for Nov. 3. The network said she is expected to deliver a speech on female entrepreneurship at the conference, adding, however, that her visit to Japan has been drastically cut short and she plans to return to the U.S. on Saturday.

- [Commentary: Abe can work with Trump, despite the difficulties](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Promoting cooperation among Japan, Philippines, U.S. vital to Asian stability](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

Leading Japanese businessmen meet with U.S. officials

Nikkei reported from Washington that a visiting Keidanren delegation headed by Chairman Sakakibara met with U.S.-Japan Caucus co-chair Congressman Reichert on Wednesday. During the meeting, Sakakibara expressed hope that the U.S. will return to the TPP by saying: "It is important to create a free and open economic zone. The United States and Japan should exercise leadership to establish trade rules in the Asia-Pacific." In reply, Reichert said: "Japan is an important partner. The world economy cannot grow without the Asia-Pacific region."

According to the article, the delegation members separately held talks with senior Commerce Department officials and conveyed corporate Japan's desire to maintain the current NAFTA. The USG officials stressed the need for renegotiations by saying: "Some elements are outdated and hence should be updated." The daily added that Sakakibara's scheduled courtesy call on Secretary Ross was cancelled at the last minute. NHK aired a similar story.

- [Keidanren chief appeals to U.S. senators for maintaining NAFTA framework](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

- [‘TPP 11’ negotiators make headway before crucial summit next week](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [LDP to name unseated ex-farm minister Nishikawa as TPP panel adviser](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to tax foreign online retailers, but not Amazon](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Operator set to request 20 years extra for Tokai nuclear plant](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Prefectures to set rice farmers’ production guidelines](#) (Asahi, The Fukushima Minyu Shimbun)
- [Japan to provide Ghana mercury-free gold processing technology](#) (Sankei)

SECURITY

Suga requests public’s understanding for traffic restrictions during POTUS visit

NHK reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga said in a press conference this morning that traffic will be temporarily restricted in the Tokyo and Saitama areas during President Trump's visit to Japan from Nov. 5 to 7. Suga reportedly said the police are asking the public to refrain from driving on the Metropolitan Expressway or to urban areas during this period and instead use public transportation. Suga was quoted as saying: "Traffic restrictions during the President's visit to Japan will be minimal and temporary, but they will greatly inconvenience people in Tokyo and Saitama over the three-day weekend. We ask for your understanding and cooperation."

Police patrol critical infrastructure ahead of POTUS visit

TV Asahi reported at noon that the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is stepping up its patrols around several hundred critical facilities in Tokyo, including water purifying plants and electric power substations, ahead of President Trump's visit to Japan. According to the network, the MPD will also deploy a special unit to respond to possible cyberattacks and other contingencies.

- [Japan rolls out sleek, all-female police squad to protect Ivanka](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on Nov. 1, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe tasks new cabinet with promoting productivity, education](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gist of Abe’s news conference after reelection as prime minister](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gist of 4th Abe cabinet’s basic policy](#) (Nikkei)

- [Tax hike, constitutional reform top Abe's to-do list](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Major upcoming political events and issues for Abe administration](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Prime Minister Abe](#) (Akahata)
- [Japanese business leaders to "fully cooperate" with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's fourth Cabinet](#) (Asahi)
- [All deputy CCS, PM's special advisers reappointed](#) (Sankei)
- [Yokobatake reappointed as director-general of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau](#) (Asahi)
- [Special Diet session to last for 39 days at opposition's insistence](#) (Sankei)
- [Expected schedule of special Diet session proceedings](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Many key bills will not be taken up at special Diet session](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: The Democratic Party](#) (Asahi)

SOCIETY

- [With new rules, Japan looks to wipe out abuse in trainee system — but critics say more must be done](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japan drops to 114th in gender equality rankings by World Economic Forum](#) (The Japan Times)
- [At women's empowerment event, Japan urged to step up reforms](#) (The Japan Times)

OPINION POLLS

- [Highlights of the October 2017 Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll](#) (Jiji Press Public Opinion Poll Bulletin)

SCIENCE

Hip-hop dancing for older people

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on how hip-hop dancing is becoming increasingly popular among people in their 40s, 50s, and 60s. According to a study released this summer in Japan, older people's agility returns to the level of those in their 20s when they dance to the strong beat of hip-

hop music. As a result, hip-hop dance is expected to help prevent falls and promote safe driving among the elderly.

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Okinawan official welcomes reappointment of Okinawa affairs minister](#) (Okinawa Times)
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