



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, November 9, 2017

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact [TokyoMATT@state.gov](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

Most networks led with reports on the start of the U.S.-China summit in Beijing today.

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### Families of abductees talk about their meeting with President Trump

Takuya Yokota, the brother of Japanese abductee Megumi Yokota, and Koichiro Iizuka, the son of abductee Yaeko Taguchi, appeared live on NHK's "Ohayo Nippon" this morning and talked about their 30-minute meeting with President Trump on Monday. Iizuka said that President Trump shook hands with everyone and listened carefully to the stories of the abductees. Yokota explained that the President was holding a photo of the Yokota family in his hand throughout the meeting. Iizuka added that the President told them that he will make all-out efforts to resolve the issue together with Prime Minister Abe. Yokota said many of the abductees, including his father, are becoming old and weak, and some have already passed away, stressing that they are in a race against time.

The network highlighted the President's remarks during the joint press conference with PM Abe, in which he said: "If Kim Jong Un would send the abductees back, it would be a tremendous signal. I think that would be a start of something very special" According to the network, this could be interpreted to mean that the President is making the return of the abductees one of the conditions for dialogue. Iizuka said that he thinks that in a way, the President gave Japan permission to go ahead and resolve the abduction issue separately from the issue of North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. Yokota stressed that the most important thing is for the GOJ to realize that it must take the initiative to resolve the issue, and expressed hope that the GOJ will take concrete steps to prevent their meeting with President Trump from being simply an event. Lastly, Iizuka said the

definition of a "resolution" of the issue is the return of the abductees, no more and no less, stressing that Kim Jong Un should understand that returning the abductees would be beneficial to his country and that only he can make that decision.

- [Trump tells China there is a solution to N. Korea nuclear issue](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Trump claim that Abe plans massive purchases of U.S. defense equipment walked back by Tokyo](#) (The Japan Times)
- [China orders travel agencies to suspend tours to North Korea from Nov. 8](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Presidents Trump and Moon](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion: What was behind the success of the Japan-U.S. summit?](#) (Sankei)
- [Why did President Trump come to Japan through Yokota Base?](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [PM Abe consults with Israeli PM Netanyahu](#) (Nikkei)

## ECONOMY

### **USDA releases report saying U.S. pork industry “faces tariff headwinds in Japan”**

NHK reported this morning that the Department of Agriculture released a report on Wednesday saying that the U.S. pork industry is facing "tariff headwinds" in Japan, pointing out that Japan and the EU broadly agreed on a free trade deal in July 2017 and that a potential TPP accord without the U.S. could leave U.S. pork exports at a significant tariff disadvantage relative to competitors. The network said Secretary Perdue is eager to begin bilateral FTA negotiations with Japan, speculating that if a broad TPP agreement is reached, the U.S. may increase pressure on Japan to open up its market.

- [11 TPP states on verge of accord on implementing deal without U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.S. worried over TPP impact on pork exports to Japan](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Interview: Ex-USTR Froman critical of China’s unfair trading practices](#) (Sankei)
- [IMF’s Lagarde looks to Japan to lead in U.S.-free TPP negotiations](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Labor reform can be game changer for Japan’s economy: IMF chief](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Frozen soil wall nearly complete; NRA still doubts effect](#) (The Japan News)

- [Fixed net fishing in Hokkaido taking unexpectedly large catch of Pacific bluefin tuna](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Foreign tourists lift Japan to record 1H travel balance surplus](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 8, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Projected schedule for current special Diet session](#) (Yomiuri)
- [List of special advisers to the cabinet](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [87.4-b.-yen taxes wasted in Japan in FY 2016](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Former METI Senior Vice-Minister Mashiko appointed DP secretary-general](#) (Mainichi)
- [Matsumoto joins Aso faction](#) (Yomiuri)

## SCIENCE

- [Japanese vessels leave for Antarctic for "research whaling"](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to open global warming information center in Netherlands](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)
- [Japanese team competing in lunar probe contest to delay launch](#) (Kyodo News)

## SOCIETY

### Boom in citizens' marathons in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported that citizens' marathons are becoming increasingly popular in Japan, saying that there are now thousands of these events held across Japan throughout the year. The program said some of them even offer free "wagyu" steak, desserts, and even Tiffany necklaces to attract runners, while others that fail to attract runners or volunteers have been cancelled.

- [Opinion: In Japan, we too need to talk about sexual misconduct](#) (The Japan Times)

## SECURITY

- [Japan, UK eye security dialogue on Dec. 13, 14](#) (Asahi)
- [U.S. Air Force F-35A jet makes "emergency landing" at Okinawa base](#) (Kyodo News)

- [U.S. Navy breaks agreement by conducting night drill off Nagasaki](#) (The Mainichi)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

### **High accident rate proves Osprey is “defective”**

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo both gave prominent play to the Defense Ministry’s announcement yesterday on the accident rate of the MV-22 in the U.S. fiscal year ending in September, which stood at 3.27 per 100,000 flight hours. Pointing out that the rate was the highest in the past five years due to the serious accidents that occurred in Nago city almost a year ago and in Australia in August and that it was worse than the accident rate of 2.72 for all Marine aircraft, the articles claimed that this shows that the Osprey is a “defective aircraft.” Although the U.S. military reportedly attributed the relatively high accident rate to the extremely tough conditions under which the Osprey is customarily operated, the papers dismissed this explanation and stressed that local skepticism about the aircraft's safety is bound to increase.

---

