Abe to express wartime remorse

Statement on 70th anniversary of surrender will be eyed closely

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday he will express his remorse statement, Abe said his administration "has and will uphold statements issued by past administrations." He also said his statement will touch on Japan's determinant to be a proactive contributor to world peace.

An increasing number of Benesse Corp. customers have received a formal seeking damages over the issue of consumer information from the education service provider. Some 52 million pieces of customer information were leaked from the subsidiary of Benesse Holdings Inc., in letters of name and birthdate.

The company is currently providing a ¥10,000 cash voucher...
Think tank gives diplomacy an Okinawan voice

Shocked by indifference in Japan and U.S. government circles toward island’s interests, lawyer takes matters into her own hands

THE FOREIGN ELEMENT

In an interview with The Washington Post in November, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called the U.S.-Japan alliance “the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy,” a stance supported by the U.S. State Department, whose website asserts, “Japan contributes indispensable political, financial, and moral support to U.S.-Japan diplomatic efforts.”

However, such official comments on “Tokyo-Washington ties are strong, and that, believes Saya Saruta, the director of Japan’s think tank, New Diplomacy Initiative.

“In reality, the diplomatic channels between Japan and the U.S. are very narrow. The Japanese side is limited to a small number of conservatives who fail to reflect the variety of opinions held by the Japanese public,” explained Saruta in a recent interview at her Tokyo office. “On the U.S. side, there are only a dozen or so people influencing the final decisions in the U.S.-Japan relationship.”

Saruta, a lawyer specializing in human rights law who has worked in Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, had numerous opportunities to witness the flawed realities of diplomacy.

The chair of the U.S. House subcommittee speculated that the population of Okinawa was around 20,000 (the actual number was almost 1.4 million); then he wondered whether the island even possessed a civilian airport.

Japa...