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TOKYO, June 11 -- -----

Japan, Australia effectively conclude defense equipment talks

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TOKYO - Japan and Australia said Wednesday they have reached a "substantial conclusion" of negotiations for an agreement on defense equipment and technology cooperation, paving the way for a possible transfer of Tokyo's submarine technology to Canberra.

The foreign and defense ministers of the two countries said after a meeting in Tokyo that they discussed preparations for joint research on marine hydrodynamics used for submarines as an initial area of science and technology cooperation. Australia has shown strong interest in Japan's submarine technology.

Chinese fighter jets fly close to SDF planes above E. **China** Sea

TOKYO - Two **Chinese** fighter jets flew unusually close to two Japanese Self-Defense Forces planes on Wednesday above the East **China** Sea where the two countries' air defense identification zones overlap, Japan's Defense Ministry said.

Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera told reporters the government lodged a protest with **China** through diplomatic channels over the incident.

Renesas to sell display chip unit to Synaptics for 48.5 bil. yen

TOKYO - Struggling electronics maker Renesas Electronics Corp. said Wednesday it will sell its Tokyo-based display chip subsidiary Renesas SP Drivers Inc. to U.S. IT **company** Synaptics Inc.

The **purchase** price of the subsidiary, which develops semiconductors for liquid crystal displays, is expected to be about 48.5 **billion** yen, according to Synaptics.

TEPCO to support Saudi Arabian utility on **energy**-saving measures

TOKYO - Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Wednesday it has concluded an agreement with a Saudi Arabian national electricity supplier to support the Middle Eastern **company's** **energy** efficiency initiatives.

Under the consultation contract, TEPCO will provide advice to Saudi Electricity **Company** from this August through next November by introducing steps adopted in Japan to save **energy** and curb electricity losses at power distribution equipment.

MiG-29 crashes in Myanmar, no casualties

YANGON, Myanmar - A Myanmar air force plane on a training flight crashed Tuesday in central Myanmar but no one was hurt, the Information Ministry said.

The MiG-29 fighter, from Magwe Air base, caught fire midair and crashed in a field near Myothit township in Magwe Region around 8:30 a.m., the ministry said.

TPP chief negotiators to meet in Vancouver from July 3

TOKYO - Chief negotiators from 12 countries in a U.S.-led Pacific free trade initiative will gather in Vancouver from July 3 to discuss remaining issues, as they seek to complete talks for the world's biggest free trade zone at an early date, sources close to the matter said Wednesday.

A meeting at the ministerial level, which usually convenes after a chief negotiators' gathering, will only take place if major progress is seen during the 10-day working-level talks, the sources said.

Japan Tobacco to buy British e-cigarette maker Zandera

TOKYO - Japan Tobacco Inc. said Wednesday it will **purchase** British electronic cigarette maker Zandera Ltd. in a deal that will give JT an entry into the fast-growing market of battery-powered vaporizers that simulate tobacco smoking.

The two companies have reached an agreement for JT to acquire all outstanding shares of Zandera through its group **firm** by September. JT declined to reveal how much it will spend on the **acquisition**.

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CO	jpda : Japan Ministry of Defense
IN	ievd : Electronic Cigarettes i3302 : Computers/Electronics i3454 : Electronic Consumer Goods ielec : Consumer Electronics ihandaps : Handheld Electronic Devices itech : Technology
NS	gdip : International Relations gcat : Political/General News ncdig : Corporate Digests nsum : News Digests gpir : Politics/International Relations ncat : Content Types nfact : Factiva Filters nfce : FC&E Exclusion Filter niwe : IWE Filter
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