



The Weekly Observer

Feb.21-25

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

GOJ Imposes Sanctions on Russia

The GOJ held a cabinet meeting on **Feb. 26** and decided to impose the **ban on imports from Donetsk and Luhansk** and **freeze the assets of 24 individuals** tied to the two breakaway republics, **effective immediately**. **Prime Minister Kishida Fumio** announced on Feb. 23/25 that Japan would **suspend entry visas and freeze assets held in Japan** by designated individuals and entities related to Russia. The GOJ will also **freeze assets of 3 Russian banks, impose sanctions on exports to Russian military-related entities and ban sales of sovereign debt in Japan**.

MOFA Protests Diplomat Arrest in China

On Feb. 22, **Vice Foreign Minister Mori Takeo** called in **Yang Yu**, charge d'affaires and China's interim ambassador to

Japan, to MOFA to **lodge a protest and demand an apology after a diplomat was detained in China** for conducting "unsuitable activities". **Ambassador to China Tarumi Hideo** also visited the Chinese foreign ministry and protested the arrest, which violates the **Vienna Convention**. China's embassy in Japan issued a statement on Feb. 23 stating that it **did not accept the protest**.

HoR Approves FY 2022 Budget

On Feb. 21, the **Lower House** approved a record-high **¥107.6 trillion budget** for FY 2022. It includes **¥5 trillion for COVID-19 spending, ¥36.3 trillion for social security and ¥5.4 trillion for defense**. The **DPP** became the first opposition party since 1994 to **vote in favor of a budget** after **Kishida stated that all options, including unfreezing the trigger clause, were on the table to suppress soaring gas prices**.

Cabinet Approval



45% (-7 pts.)

46% (+10 pts.)

Mainichi, Feb. 21

COVID-19 Cases (NHK, Feb. 27)

Total Cases: 4.96 million

Total Deaths: 23,472

Daily (Japan): 63,703

7-Day Ave.: 66,376

(+0.81x from last week)

Deaths: 143

Daily (Tokyo): 10,321

7-Day Ave.: 11,141.71

(+0.75x from last week)

Vaccination Progress (Feb. 25)

First dose: 80.3%

Second dose: 79.1%

Third dose: 17.3%