



# The Weekly Observer

April 11-15

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

## GOJ Sanctions on Russia

The GOJ announces new measures on Tuesday: 1) **ban on new investments**, effective May 12; 2) **ban on loans longer than a year** to RUS companies; 3) asset freeze on **398 individuals** and **28 organizations**, and on **Sberbank and Alfabank** (May 12); and 4) ban on **certain imports** of alcoholic beverages, machinery and electronics (April 19).

## First Japan-Philippines "2+2"

The **foreign and defense ministers** of Japan and the Philippines met for the first-ever "2+2" meeting on Saturday. The two sides agreed to **strengthen coordination** on regional and global issues. The ministers also discussed **possible reciprocal visits and reciprocal provision of supplies and services** to enhance cooperation between the JSDF and Armed Forces.

## LDP Proposal for Defense/Security Document Revision

The LDP's draft proposal regarding the revision of the **NSS, NDPG and MTDP** revealed Friday included a new goal of **defense spending over 2 percent of GDP within the next 5 years**; mentioning the acquisition of and renaming "**enemy base strike capabilities**" in the NSS; and updating the language on **China and Russia** to reflect the **greater threat** both countries pose.

## New Variant "XE" Confirmed

The health ministry announced Monday that the **first case of the new variant "XE"** was confirmed in Japan. Research suggests "XE" is likely to be **12.6 percent more transmissible** than BA.2. **PM Kishida Fumio** told reporters Wednesday that there is **no immediate need** to reinstate pre-emergency measures.

## Cabinet Approval



NHK, April 11

53% (+0 pts.)

23% (-2 pts.)

## COVID-19 Cases (NHK, April 15)

**Total Cases:** 7.30 million

**Total Deaths:** 28,954

**Daily (Japan):** 49,761 (-2,192)

**7-Day Ave.:** 49,664 (+1,980)

(1.04x from last week)

**Deaths:** 62

**Daily (Tokyo):** 6,768 (-1,344)

**7-Day Ave.:** 7,310.43 (-141.43)

(0.98x from last week)

## Vaccination Progress (April 15)

**First dose:** 81.2% (+0.1%)

**Second dose:** 79.8% (+0.2%)

**Third dose:** 47.1% (+2.8%)