



# The Weekly Observer

Sept. 26-30

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

## PM Conducts Funeral Diplomacy

Prime Minister Kishida Fumio met with **42 dignitaries** between Tuesday and Thursday on the occasion of **former Prime Minister Abe's state funeral**.

The PM stressed that he would **succeed the diplomatic legacy** left by Abe. The opposition argued that the results of his diplomatic efforts were **"limited"** due to the fact none of the G7 leaders attended the funeral.

Kishida did, however, meet with figures including **VP Harris**, **ROK PM Han Duck-soo**, **Indian PM Narendra Modi** and **Australian PM Anthony Albanese**.

## DPRK Conducts 4 Missile Tests

This week, the **DPRK conducted four missile tests**, launching **ICBMs** with irregular trajectories toward Japan. All landed **outside Japan's EEZ**.

They were seen as reactions to **VP Harris's visit** to Japan and South Korea, as well as the **first Japan-U.S.-ROK joint naval exercise** since 2017. Japan lodged formal protests to all four.

## Four Pillars of Economic Package

On Friday, Kishida instructed his Cabinet to prepare and finalize a **comprehensive economic policy package by the end of October**.

The package will consist of **four pillars**: 1) responding to the **rising costs of living** and **raising wages**; 2) **recovering and bolstering regional economies** by utilizing a weak yen; 3) **accelerating "new capitalism"** by investing in **human capital** and promoting **DX/GX**; and 4) **securing the safety and security of peoples' livelihoods**, including by promoting economic and food security.

## Cabinet Approval



% (-)

% (-)

## COVID-19 Cases (NHK, Oct. 1)

**Total Cases:** 21.30 million

**Total Deaths:** 44,894

**Daily (Japan):** 35,418 (-28,453)

**7-Day Ave.:** 42,611 (-16,798)

(0.78x from last week)

**Deaths:** 105 (-18)

**Daily (Tokyo):** 3,834 (-3,725)

**7-Day Ave.:** 5,134 (-1,641)

(0.81x from last week)

## Vaccination Progress (Sept. 30)

**First dose:** 81.5%

**Second dose:** 80.4%

**Third dose:** 65.4% (+0.2%)