



The Weekly Observer

Oct. 24-28

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Japan and Australia Unveil New Security Declaration

On Saturday, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio met Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Perth. It was their fourth meeting in five months.

The two leaders signed a **Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation**, which will guide security and defense cooperation for the **next ten years**.

The Joint Declaration mentions **consulting each other on contingencies** that may affect sovereignty of either country and regional security interests and considering measures in response. This is the **first time** besides the U.S. that Japan will plan for contingencies.

PM Announces ¥39 Trillion Economic Package

On Friday, Kishida announced that his Cabinet approved a **¥39 trillion economic package** to overcome rising costs of living and revitalize the economy. The PM says this will push **GDP up 4.6%** and push **consumer prices down 1.2%** by next year.

The **four pillars** are: response to rising costs of living and wage increases; revitalizing local economies by using a weak yen; accelerating “new capitalism”; and securing the safety and security of citizens’ lives.

Yamagiwa Resigns

On Monday, Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization **Yamagiwa Daishiro** resigned over ties to the **Unification Church**. Kishida was forced to **reverse his decision to defend** Yamagiwa to push forth legislation in the Diet. **Goto Shigeyuki** replaces him.

Cabinet Approval



26% (- pts.)

62% (- pts.)

SSRC (Oct. 16)

COVID-19 Cases (NHK, Oct. 28)

Total Cases: 22.23 million

Total Deaths: 46,594

Daily (Japan): 44,523 (+5,269)

7-Day Ave.: 37,413 (+4,024)

(1.12x from last week)

Deaths: 67 (+4)

Daily (Tokyo): 3,520 (+680)

7-Day Ave.: 3,469 (+285)

(1.09x from last week)

Vaccination Progress (Oct. 28)

First dose: 81.4%

Second dose: 80.4%

Third dose: 66.1% (+0.3%)