



The Weekly Observer

Oct. 24-28

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

[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.

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

[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%)