



The Weekly Observer

March 6-10

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

ROK Announces Plan to End Wartime Labor Issue

On Monday, **South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin** announced that a **government foundation will compensate wartime labor victims** who won legal cases against Japanese firms in 2018. It is viewed as a way to improve bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa welcomed the announcement and reaffirmed past government statements on history. He stated that the GOJ will continue to work closely with the ROK to **further advance relations based on friendly and cooperative ties**.

Prime Minister Kishida Fumio and **President Yoon Suk-yeol** are expected to meet in Japan when the latter visits on **March 16-17**. A recent poll showed **59 percent of South Koreans** opposed the plan.

Internal Documents Scandal Hits Kishida Cabinet

Minister in charge of Economic Security **Takaichi Sanae** has come under fire after documents from 2015 revealed that then-MIC Minister Takaichi may have been **impartial in her interpretation of the Broadcast Act**.

A document showed that she had questioned the interpretation of the Act in a phone call with then-Prime Minister Abe Shinzo. She stressed that the documents were **"fabricated"** and **rejected demands to resign**.

New BOJ Governor Confirmed

On Friday, the Upper House followed the Lower House in approving **Ueda Kazuo, Uchida Shinichi, and Hlmino Ryoza** for BOJ governor and vice governor. The new leadership will take office on **April 9**.

Cabinet Approval



38% (+2 pts.)

58% (-5 pts.)

JNN (March 5)

COVID-19 Cases (NHK, Mar. 12)

Total Cases: 33.32 million

Total Deaths: 73,199

Daily (Japan): 7,013 (+501)

7-Day Ave.: 9,023 (-4,975)

(0.84x from last week)

Deaths: 43 (-40)

Daily (Tokyo): 606 (+179)

7-Day Ave.: 748 (-223)

(0.91x from last week)

Vaccination Progress (Mar. 10)

First dose: 81.3%

Second dose: 80.3%

Third dose: 68.4% (+0.1%)

Omicron dose: 44.2% (+0.6%)