



The Weekly Observer

April 3-7

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

FM Hayashi Heads to China

On Sunday, Minister for Foreign Affairs Hayashi Yoshimasa held a meeting with PRC Foreign Minister Qin Gang.

Hayashi strongly protested and urged the swift release of the Japanese national detained on spy charges. He also voiced serious concern over increased military activities by China and Russia in the East China Sea, including around the Senkakus.

Hayashi also met Premier Li Qiang and Director Wang Yi of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CCP. They agreed on the importance of close communication at all levels.

Japan Announces "OSA" Framework

On Wednesday, MOFA announced that the NSC adopted implementation guidelines for

Japan's "official security assistance" (OSA), a new cooperation framework to provide equipment and supplies as well as assistance for infrastructure development to armed forces and other organizations of like-minded countries.

The first round will reportedly be delivered to the Philippines, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Fiji.

BOJ Governor Kuroda Holds Last Press Conference

On Friday, outgoing BOJ Governor Kuroda Haruhiko held his last press conference as governor.

He defended his ten-year tenure as ending deflation in the sense that good prices stopped falling continuously. He added that the Bank's monetary easing was the appropriate policy.

Cabinet Approval



44% (+6 pts.)

52% (-6 pts.)

JNN (April 2)

COVID-19 Cases (NHK, April 7)

Total Cases: 33.51 million

Total Deaths: 74,060

Daily (Japan): 8,338 (+1,608)

7-Day Ave.: 7,545 (+729)

(1.11x from last week)

Deaths: 31 (-12)

Daily (Tokyo): 1,133 (+279)

7-Day Ave.: 1,001 (+187)

(1.23x from last week)

Vaccination Progress (April 7)

First dose: 81.2%

Second dose: 80.2%

Third dose: 68.6%

Omicron dose: 44.8% (+0.1%)