



The Weekly Observer

Dec. 4-8

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

G7 Virtual Leaders' Summit

On Wednesday, **Prime Minister Kishida Fumio** hosted an online G7 summit. The summit was attended by **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy**.

The G7 leaders committed to **step up efforts against Russia's actions in Ukraine** and **condemned Hamas's terror attacks on Israel**, urging the immediate release of all remaining hostages.

The leaders renewed their commitment to advancing international discussions on **inclusive artificial intelligence (AI) governance and interoperability between AI governance frameworks**. They also committed to working together for further advancing the **Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT)**.

PM Looks to Purge Abe Faction

Over Fundraising Scandal

On December 11, *Hokkaido Shimbun* reported that **Kishida is planning to reshuffle the Cabinet and LDP leadership** on December 14, once the extraordinary Diet session comes to an end, to **remove all Abe faction members from senior leadership positions**.

The latest report suggests that **at least ten Abe faction members received several hundred million in kickbacks** for excess fundraising party ticket sales above quotas. The kickbacks have been characterized as a **norm created over decades**.

Main opposition **Constitutional Democratic Party** submitted a **no-confidence motion** against Chief Cabinet Secretary Matsuno Hirokazu and the Cabinet.

Prosecutors have **brought in Abe faction staff and lawmaker secretaries** for questioning.

Cabinet Approval



23% (-5 pts.)

72% (+3 pts.)

[FNN/Sankei Shimbun](#) (Dec. 11)

State of the Economy

Revised Real GDP (July-Sept.):

-0.7% monthly basis (-0.2 pt.)

2.9% annual basis (-0.8 pt.)

Balance of Payments (October):

¥2.58 trillion surplus

Ninth consecutive month surplus

Real Consumption (October):

¥301,974 (-2.5%)

Eighth consecutive month deficit

Real Wage (October):

-2.3% from same month last year

Nineteenth consecutive month

wages have fallen