



YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

August 4-8

The Weekly Observer

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Japan Wins Australian Frigate Project

On Tuesday, the Japanese and Australian governments announced that Japan won the bid for the Australian Royal Navy's next-generation frigate program. **Mitsubishi Heavy Industries** was selected based on price and performance metrics. The contract is expected to be signed in **early 2026**.

Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Richard Marles explained that the **upgraded Mogami-class frigate** was the "clear winner" from a price, performance, and delivery perspective. **Minister of Defense Nakatani Gen** welcomed the announcement as "proof of the trust placed in Japan's advanced technological capabilities" and of interoperability between the two countries' militaries.

This is the **second case of finished defense equipment exports**, following the export of air defense radars to the Philippines.

Ishiba Sends Peace Message in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru delivered speeches at the peace memorial ceremonies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki marking the days that the atomic bombs were dropped eighty years ago.

On Wednesday, Ishiba stated in Hiroshima that "Japan's duty as the only country to have suffered atomic bomb droppings is to **take the lead in international efforts toward a 'world without nuclear weapons'**."

On Saturday, Ishiba stated in Nagasaki that "**we must never allow the reality and tragedy of war, or the severity of the damage caused by atomic bombs, to fade from memory, but rather pass them on as a legacy.**"

On issuing a statement marking the eightieth anniversary since the end of World War II, Ishiba said on Monday that **he aims to issue a statement of some kind to prevent the memories of war from fading and to never again wage a war.**

Cabinet Approval



37% (+4 pts.)

61% (-3 pts.)

[JNN](#) (August 4)

State of the Economy

Economy Watchers Survey (July):

45.2 (+0.2 pt.)

Raised assessment from "showing signs of weak recovery" to "showing signs of recovery"

Current Account Balance (2025 H1):

¥14.6 trillion surplus (+9.1%)

Digital service deficit at ¥3.48 trillion (3x in the last decade)

Coincident Index (June):

116.8 (+0.8 pt.)

1st improvement in 2 months
Maintained assessment that economy is "halting to fall"

Real Wages (June):

-1.3% from same month last year