



The Weekly Observer

March 2-6

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Japan Begins Preparing Evacuations in the Middle East

On Monday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) announced that **five Japanese nationals were evacuated** from Tel Aviv to Amman in the **first round of evacuations from the Middle East** amid the Iran situation. A further **two Japanese nationals** in Iran were evacuated to Azerbaijan on Wednesday.

MOFA announced on Thursday that **it raised the travel advisory level to three (out of four)** — avoid all travel — for **Kuwait, eastern Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman**. It also announced that the GOJ would be dispatching **chartered flights** out of Riyadh and Muscat as it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure seats on commercial flights.

On Friday, the Ministry of Defense (MOD) announced that the minister had instructed the commander of the Joint Operations Command to **dispatch JSDF transport aircraft to the Maldives** in preparation for evacuation operations.

Japan and Canada Elevate Bilateral Ties

On Friday, Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae hosted Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney for a summit, agreeing to **elevate bilateral relations to a “comprehensive strategic partnership”** across all fields such as security, economic security, and cultural ties.

The leaders issued the **first joint statement between the two countries in twenty-one years**, which recognized that the partnership is **“underpinned by shared values and principles such as respect for democracy and the rule of law.”** The statement said that the two countries **“strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, or to take any other action contrary to international law.”**

The leaders also agreed to establish a **cyber dialogue, economic security dialogue**, and issued a **comprehensive strategic roadmap** outlining the direction of future cooperation.

Cabinet Approval



72% (+2 pts.)

25% (-2 pts.)

[JNN](#) (March 1)

State of the Economy

GDP Gap (Oct.-Dec. 2025):

-0.1% (¥300 billion demand shortage)
2nd consecutive quarter in decline

Capital Investment (Oct.-Dec. 2025):

¥15.39 trillion (+6.5%)
4th consecutive quarter on the rise

Consumer Confidence Index (Feb.):

40 (+2.1 pts.)
Raised assessment from “showing signs of recovery” to “showing signs of improvement”

Labor Statistics (Jan.):

Jobs-to-applicants: 1.18x (-0.02 pt.)
Unemployment: 2.7% (+0.1 pt.)