



The Weekly Observer

October 5-9

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

U.S. Marine Arrested in Okinawa

On October 3, local police in Okinawa arrested Lance Cpl. Devin Jacob Ballard, 20, for allegedly killing and stealing from Yagi Anna, 39, a local woman. He denies the charges.

Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae posted on X: "We express our deepest condolences to the deceased and extend our sympathies to the bereaved family... It is deeply regrettable that such an extremely brutal and heinous crime has occurred."

On Sunday, Minister for Foreign Affairs Motegi Toshimitsu summoned U.S. Ambassador to Japan George Glass to the ministry and issued a strong protest expressing that the occurrence of such an extremely brutal and heinous incident is extremely regrettable. He urged the U.S. side to **fully cooperate** and to strengthen discipline and to prevent the recurrence of incidents.

On Monday, Okinawa Governor

Koja Genta summoned Ambassador in charge of Okinawan Affairs Kiya Masahiko and Director-General Murai Masaru of the Okinawa Defense Bureau to "strongly call for effective and fundamental measures, including a **review of the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement.**"

Cyber Attacks Targeting Japanese Companies Skyrocket

On Friday, the National Cybersecurity Office (NCO) issued a safety alert to Japanese companies handling personal information in light of a **series of cyber attacks in Japan and other countries.**

The NCO requested that **patches be applied to the areas where vulnerabilities were identified** and that a **monitoring system be established to detect unauthorized access at an early stage.**

Regarding information management, the NCO urged organizations to **thoroughly encrypt data** to prevent misuse even if stolen, and to **delete information** once it is no longer needed for its intended purpose.

Cabinet Approval



63% (+1 pt.)

34% (-1 pt.)

[JNN](#) (October 5)

State of the Economy

BOJ Sakura Report (Oct.):

Raised assessments for Tohoku and Shikoku, maintained for other 7 regions

Strong demand for AI is underpinning economic conditions overall

Trade Statistics (Aug.):

Current account surplus of ¥4.06 trillion (+12% from Aug. 2025)
Primary income balanced increased 21.6% to ¥5.13 trillion (record high)
Digital deficit hit ¥4.49 trillion (3rd consecutive year in ¥4 trillion range)

Wage Statistics (Aug.):

Real wages increased 1.5% from Aug. 2025, 8th straight month of increase