



The Weekly Observer

August 26-30

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Chinese Military Aircraft Violates Japanese Airspace for First Time

On Monday, the Ministry of Defense (MOD) confirmed that a **Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) reconnaissance aircraft "Y-9" violated Japanese territorial airspace** for three minutes off the coast of Danjo Islands, Nagasaki.

This was the **first time** a PLA aircraft violated Japanese territorial airspace. The MOD has confirmed **forty-six violations** in the past, two of which two were Chinese cases.

The PLA has been **actively expanding its activities** around Japan, routinely sending vessels around the **Senkaku Islands** and **deploying aircraft carriers** to the area that the Y-9 was spotted in.

The GOJ issued a **"severe protest"** concerning the incident, with **Chief Cabinet Secretary Hayashi Yoshimasa** calling it a **"serious violation of sovereignty."** Beijing claimed the incident was **"unintentional."**

Candidates Continue Announcing Bids for LDP Presidency

On Monday, Digital Minister Kono Taro became the third Diet member to formally announce his candidacy for the LDP presidency. Kono emphasized his record as a **reform-minded politician** and pledged to build up the middle class.

Kono has been a **divisive figure** in the LDP — **supported by Diet members with fewer terms in office** who view him as a "maverick," while **veterans view him as a liability** for being outspoken and not honoring tradition.

A boon to his campaign will be **LDP Vice President Aso Taro's endorsement**, though **Aso's faction will be allowed to vote for other candidates** running in the race.

The LDP presidential election on September 27 is shaping up to be **one of the most consequential elections in recent history**, with a likely **record number of candidates** gunning to become the next leader of Japan.

Cabinet Approval



23% (-3 pts.)

62% (+1 pt.)

[Asahi Shimbun](#) (Aug. 26)

State of the Economy

Labor Statistics (July):

Jobs-to-applicants: 1.24x (+0.01 pt.)

Unemployment: 2.7% (+0.2 pt.)

Industrial Production Index (July):

102.8 (+2.8%)

First increase in 2 months

Services Producer Price Index (July):

107.5 (+2.8%)

Lower growth rate than June

Political Schedule

September 23 – CDP election

September 27 – LDP election

September 28 – Komeito election

Early October – Extraordinary Diet session to elect new prime minister

November 10? – General election