



The Weekly Observer

September 22-26

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Ishiba Addresses UNGA

On Wednesday, **Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru** delivered an address to the **United Nations General Assembly** in New York, pointing out that the **Security Council** is “**still not functioning effectively**” despite reforms, proposing the **expansion of both permanent and non-permanent membership categories** to reflect the growth in diversity and membership of the organization.

Ishiba announced that the **GOJ will not make a decision on whether to accept Palestinian statehood** at this point in time, though acknowledging that the “**question is not whether to recognize a Palestinian state, but when.**” Japan strongly supports a two-state solution.

Ishiba stated in his conclusion that “**no country can forge the path to a bright future unless it squarely faces history,**” and that “**we must never again repeat the devastation of war.**” He also asked others to cooperate toward achieving a “world without nuclear war” and a “world without nuclear weapons.”

LDP Presidential Race Kicks Off

On Monday, the ruling **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)** **presidential election** to replace Ishiba kicked off. Five candidates will be vying to become the next party president and prime minister.

On October 4, Diet members and party members/friends will **each get 295 votes** to elect the president. Should no candidate get a majority of votes, the race enters a **run-off** in which Diet members get 295 votes and prefectures each get one vote.

As of this week, **former Economic Security Minister Takaichi Sanae** and **Agriculture Minister Koizumi Shinjiro** seem to be headed for a run-off, while **Chief Cabinet Secretary Hayashi Yoshimasa** closes down the gap at third place.

A major question in this election is how the **candidates plan to expand the coalition government**. The **Japan Innovation Party (Ishin)** and the **Democratic Party for the People (DPFP)** are top choices, but each has a set of tough demands.

Cabinet Approval



38% (-1 pt.)

56% (-1 pt.)

[FNN/Sankei Shimbun](#) (September 15)

State of the Economy

Real Wages (July):

-0.2% from July 2024

Fell for a 7th straight month

Total Cash Salary (Nominal Wage):

¥416,744 (+3.4%)

+2% in base rate; +6.3% in bonuses

Services Producer Price Index (August):

111.2 (+2.7%)

Slight increase in rate of increase due to human capital costs being passed on to service costs