

The Weekly Observer

June 15-19, 2026

The 229th edition of the weekly newsletter aggregating news on Japanese politics. This week focuses on Takaichi's first G7 Summit, Takaichi's visit to the United Kingdom and Italy, business delegation visits to China, the LDP and Ishin's policy recommendations on the strategic national security documents, the LDP's one percent consumption tax cut proposal, key legislative updates in the current Diet session, the public-private investment plan related to the seventeen strategic growth sectors, the BOJ raising the policy interest rate, the GOJ's response to the suspension of access to Anthropic's frontier AI models, semiconductor manufacturing partnerships with the United Kingdom and Italy, the Nikkei Stock Average hitting a new high, the trade balance in May, and more.

By Content

I. News of the Week

Foreign Policy/Security

1. Takaichi Joins Her First G7 Summit
2. Japan Strengthens Ties with the United Kingdom and Italy
3. Foreign Policy Developments
4. Security/Defense Developments

Domestic Politics

5. LDP Proposes One Percent Consumption Tax Cut
6. Key Legislation Tracker (221st Special Diet Session)
7. Key Political Developments

Economics/Finance

8. BOJ Raises Interest Rate to One Percent
9. Japan Responds to Claude Mythos Access Suspension
10. Economic Security and Tech Developments
11. Key Developments
12. State of the Economy

II. Public Opinion Polls

1. FNN/Sankei Shimbun (6/15)

I. News of the Week

1. Takaichi Joins Her First G7 Summit

- Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae [attended](#) the G7 Summit in Evian, France, from June 16-17. The leaders held six working sessions and [issued](#) nine separate documents on issues ranging from geopolitics to resilient growth to securing critical supply chains.
- The G7 leaders [met](#) amid ongoing discussions between the United States and Iran toward a ceasefire agreement. Despite disagreements resulting in the second consecutive year without a joint communiqué, the G7 nations were able to show a sense of “unity” by issuing the topic-specific documents.
- During Monday’s working session on addressing major international challenges, Takaichi [welcomed](#) the agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Iran as a major step toward de-escalation of the situation. She also proposed a “joint stockpiling cooperation initiative” for critical minerals including support for the establishment of stockpiling systems in G7 countries.
- Takaichi had a [brief conversation](#) with U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the summit, reaffirming the importance of the steady implementation of the agreement on tariffs between the two countries. The two leaders also discussed the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific region, including China. Takaichi also [met](#) with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, expressing concern over EU tariff measures targeting Japan’s steel products.
- Takaichi also [met](#) with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, welcoming the issuance of a leaders’ joint statement announcing the launch of negotiations on the Japan-MERCOSUR Economic Partnership Agreement. They agreed to realize a mutually beneficial agreement while addressing each side’s sensitivities.
- At a press conference after the summit, Takaichi [stated](#) that, “I was able to strengthen personal relationships of trust with leaders, including those from the G7. Furthermore, at this summit, we were able to have extremely frank discussions on regional conditions in the Indo-Pacific and various challenges in the region — including those involving China — as well as North Korea’s abductions, nuclear program, and missile issues, and my proposals regarding energy and critical minerals.”

2. Japan Strengthens Ties with the United Kingdom and Italy

- Takaichi visited the United Kingdom and Italy for summit meetings before traveling to France for the G7 Summit.

- On Sunday, Takaichi [met](#) with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The two leaders issued a joint declaration on economic security cooperation and the frontier technology partnership, showing the “[quasi-alliance](#)” nature of the relationship.
- On defense, the two leaders agreed to accelerate the Global Combat Air Program (GCAP) by supporting the signing of the next contract between the international organization GIGO and the joint venture Edgewing by the end of June. They also welcomed the launch of the Defense Capability and Industrial Council.
- The two leaders also welcomed concrete outcomes including the launch of a cooperation framework and technical cooperation in the field of offshore wind; cooperation in the nuclear field such as high-temperature gas-cooled reactors and fusion energy; the strengthening of innovation cooperation through the establishment of a Japan-UK coordinated funding scheme; mutual cooperation in the semiconductor field; and coordination to enhance cybersecurity measures, among others.
- On Monday, Takaichi [met](#) with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. The two leaders issued the joint statement on space cooperation, as well as the first round of space consultations which convened in Tokyo last month. They also welcomed the announcement of cooperation documents between space start-up companies.
- Takaichi stated that she would like to further promote cooperation with Italy in the energy sector, including cooperation on LNG supply arrangements. The leaders also confirmed the importance of cooperation with like-minded countries with regard to critical minerals to diversify supply in mining, refining, recycling, and stockpiling.

3. Foreign Policy Developments

- On Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) [announced](#) that a Japan-related vessel stuck in the Persian Gulf passed through the Strait of Hormuz with three Japanese crew members on board. The MOFA said that all Japan-related vessels with Japanese crew members on board have exited the Persian Gulf.
- On Wednesday, Minister for Foreign Affairs Motegi Toshimitsu [held](#) a telephone call with Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidi of Oman. Motegi reiterated his deep respect for Oman for playing an important role in the mediation between the United States and Iran. The two sides agreed to continue close communication. Motegi similarly [expressed](#) his deep respect for Pakistan’s proactive mediation efforts in a phone call with Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.
- *Mainichi* [reported](#) that The Association for the Promotion of International Trade has decided to send a smaller scale delegation to Beijing from June 21-24 led by ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lawmaker Hashimoto Gaku following the death of

its chairman and former speaker of the Lower House Yohei Kono. The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) will also [send](#) a delegation starting June 21 for the first time in eight years to attend an international supply chain expo.

- The GOJ [announced](#) that Japan plans to host the Eleventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting with representatives of the eighteen Pacific Islands Forum members in Yokohama next summer. The meeting is held every three years in Japan.
- On Tuesday, Motegi [held](#) a telephone talk with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, strongly urging Israel to take appropriate responses to the U.S.-Iran ceasefire agreement. He also expressed serious concerns about civilian casualties and violence regarding the situation of Lebanon and the West Bank.
- On Monday, Motegi [held](#) a telephone talk with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, highly commending the efforts of ceasefire negotiations by relevant countries including Iran. He emphasized that what matters most is that the memorandum of understanding is steadily implemented and that a final agreement on matters such as Iran's nuclear issue will be achieved as soon as possible.

4. Security/Defense Developments

- On Friday, the LDP and Japan Innovation Party (*Nippon Ishin no Kai*) [presented](#) their respective policy recommendations regarding the three strategic national security documents. The two sides, despite having key disagreements on defense spending targets and nuclear policy, agreed to submit their recommendations to Takaichi as early as next week. The two parties have only [held](#) talks as a formality so far.
- *Asahi* [reported](#) that Minister of Defense Koizumi Shinjiro plans to attend the NATO Summit in Ankara, Türkiye, in early July, underscoring the growing importance of Japan-Europe security cooperation. Meanwhile, Koizumi is [set to visit](#) South Korea by the end of the month, likely discussing the regular implementation of refueling exercises between the JASDF and the ROK Air Force's Black Eagles aerobatic team.
- The National Diet [approved](#) the acquisition and cross-servicing agreements (ACSA) with the Philippines, the Netherlands, and New Zealand, which facilitates smooth transfers of fuel, ammunition, and other equipment between the countries. Japan has eleven such agreements, with another with Canada [entering into force](#) on Tuesday.
- On Wednesday, Takaichi [told](#) reporters that Japan will “do everything it can” to secure the safety of the Strait of Hormuz, though adding that no decision has been made on JSDF deployment for minesweeping missions. Motegi [said](#) on Thursday that no request has been made for deployment; the GOJ remains cautious about deployment, monitoring progress on the U.S.-Iran memorandum.

- On Tuesday, Koizumi [hosted](#) Minister of Defense of the Netherlands Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius for a meeting in Tokyo. Koizumi welcomed Dutch interest in establishing a defense equipment and technology transfer agreement to deepen bilateral defense cooperation. The Dutch minister [told](#) *Nikkei* in an interview that “we would like to build cooperative relationships with Japan’s defense industry over the next few years,” especially following relaxation of rules regarding defense exports.
- The number of new JSDF recruits for FY 2025 [increased](#) 15 percent from the previous year to 11,177, the first time numbers exceeded 10,000 and first increase in six years. The Ministry of Defense (MOD) [established](#) a new council on Wednesday to discuss measures for retired JSDF personnel and their families as a way to “repay families for their constant support.”

5. LDP Proposes One Percent Consumption Tax Cut

- On Wednesday, LDP Tax Research Commission Chairperson and National Conference on Social Security Chair Onodera Itsunori [presented](#) the LDP’s proposal for the consumption tax cut on food and beverages.

Consumption Tax Cut	Cash Handout
April 1, 2027	Around fall 2027
Decrease from 8 percent to 1 percent	Handout to low- to medium-income earners equivalent to 1 percent consumption tax Targets households with children under 15 years of age No exemption based on spousal income
By end of March 2029	Around fall 2029
End of tax cut	Handout tied to income levels Targets households with children under 18 years of age Partial exemption based on spousal income

- The LDP went back on its campaign pledge during the February Lower House election to suspend the consumption tax on food and beverages for two years and opted for a one percent tax to expedite implementation. It is also proposing a cash handout equivalent to the tax rate to achieve “effectively zero” tax.
- Opposition parties opposed the proposal for various reasons, including the timing of implementation being too slow, doubts about being able to raise the tax rate back to 8 percent after two years, and demands to implement the zero percent pledge.

- While the LDP’s Tax Research Commission [approved](#) the proposal, it remains to be seen whether or not the cross-party conference can come to an agreement next week. The LDP [aims to address](#) opposition concerns by offering targeted financial assistance to affected industries like restaurants and agricultural sectors. Concerns also raised over potentially higher expenditures resulting from the proposal.
- The consumption tax cut is becoming a tricky political issue for Takaichi, as opposition to the plan [exists](#) within the LDP as well. At a Tax Research Commission meeting on Monday, several lawmakers stressed that campaign pledges should be “taken seriously” and that the refundable tax credit should be implemented sooner rather than later. The decision to rush the consumption tax cut — with one eye on the unified local elections next spring — may end up becoming a headache after all.
- *Ishin* leader and Osaka Governor Yoshimura Hirofumi [said](#) Wednesday that the GOJ should “follow through” on its pledge in February to cut the consumption tax entirely for two years. He followed that statement by placing faith in Takaichi, commenting that he would “respect” her final decision.

6. Key Legislation Tracker (221st Special Diet Session)

- **Enacted:**
 - **Amended Long-Term Care Insurance Act:** [Enacted](#) on Friday. The main pillar is relaxing staffing standards for service providers, and allowing municipalities to operate these services themselves when providers are still unable to do so. The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) aims for FY 2027 implementation.
 - **Amended Postal Service Privatization Act:** [Enacted](#) on Friday. Recognizing the importance of the role that post offices play in supporting local communities, and with a view to maintaining them, the GOJ will provide approximately ¥65 billion annually starting in FY 2027, using funds such as dividends from the GOJ’s holdings of Japan Post shares.
 - **Amended Copyright Act:** [Enacted](#) on Wednesday. It will enable singers and musicians to receive royalties for music played as background music in stores, event venues, and other locations, which is distributed by the Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers to lyricists and composers.
- **In Progress:**
 - **Amended National Referendum Law:** The Lower House [passed](#) the bill on Friday. The LDP, *Ishin*, the Democratic Party for the People (DPFP), and *Sanseitō*

co-sponsored the bill. It sets the environment for the national referendum required to amend the Constitution.

- **Amended Code of Criminal Procedure:** The Lower House [passed](#) the bill on Tuesday. The bill establishes a new system under which the court, after considering the relevance and other factors regarding evidence related to the grounds for a petition for retrial, may order the prosecution to submit such evidence. The Upper House will begin deliberations on Friday.
- **Act to Regulate Corporate and Organizational Political Donations:** The Lower House Special Committee on Political Reform [began](#) deliberations on Thursday on three separate bills submitted by the ruling parties, the Centrist Reform Alliance (CRA), and the DPFP and Komeito. It remains to be seen whether a compromise will be reached to reconcile the three bills.
- **In Consideration:**
 - **Act to Criminalize Desecration of the National Flag:** The LDP, *Ishin*, the Democratic Party for the People (DPFP), and *Sanseitō* [plan to submit](#) the bill soon, after the LDP agreed to revise the bill at the request of the DPFP and *Sanseitō* to exclude social media posts from punishment and took extra consideration for freedom of expression concerns.

7. Key Political Developments

- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Friday that the GOJ's public-private investment plan for the growth strategy will set the target at “over ¥370 trillion,” with ¥10.5 trillion in “physical AI” by FY 2040. The growth strategy, to be finalized next month, will [come with a set](#) of investment targets and market share goals in the seventeen strategic sectors.
- The GOJ [presented](#) an outline of the proposed amendments to the Imperial House Law, which aims to secure stable imperial succession. The proposal, approved by the speakers and vice speakers of both Houses, includes a supplementary provision that commits to a review every thirty years “if necessary” for the proposal to adopt male-line descendants of former imperial families into the Imperial Household. The GOJ aims to adopt the proposed amendments by the end of the month.
- *Asahi* [reported](#) that the LDP made a proposal to *Ishin* to revise the bill to realize the “second capital initiative,” which would limit eligibility for the referendum on whether to establish special wards to residents of the city in question. *Ishin* wants it to be prefecture wide, while the LDP wants to limit its scope. Takaichi is set to meet with Yoshimura on June 22 to discuss the matter.

- On Thursday, the Lower House Commission on the Constitution [discussed](#) Article Nine. While the LDP proposed inserting the JSDF into the text, the CRA argued that amendment of the article would be unnecessary if it is being done solely to address arguments that the JSDF is unconstitutional. Even *Ishin* [disagrees](#) with the LDP, proposing the deletion of paragraph two that renounces war potential and rights of belligerency.
- On Wednesday, the LDP and *Ishin* [approved](#) the bill to reduce the number of Lower House seats by 10 percent, with a stipulation that would see a forty-five seat reduction in proportional representation if a conclusion across all parties is not reached within a year. The five opposition parties [opposed](#) the bill on Tuesday, arguing that the discussion of the bill should take place alongside the ongoing deliberations on electoral system reform.
- On Tuesday, the GOJ [confirmed](#) that it will identify the skills needed in each of the seventeen strategic sectors, including AI, semiconductors, and shipbuilding, and work to support the development of human resources training programs. Takaichi [instructed](#) her Cabinet to strengthen support through an “end-to-end” approach, from the development to the delivery of reskilling programs.

8. BOJ Raises Interest Rate to One Percent

- On Tuesday, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) [decided](#) to raise the target range for the unsecured overnight call rate — the policy interest rate — from 0.75 percent to 1 percent. This is the first rate hike [since](#) December 2025 and the highest level in thirty-one years since 1995.
- The rate hike aims to mitigate the risk of accelerating inflation caused by rising crude oil prices stemming from tensions in the Middle East. Placing a high priority on the stability of the bond market, the BOJ also decided that measures to reduce JGB purchases would be discontinued starting in April 2027.
- BOJ Deputy Governor Uchida Shinichi, who led the meeting in place of the hospitalized Governor Ueda Kazuo, [said](#) that the Bank will “continue to raise the policy interest rate in response to economic, price, and financial conditions.”
- The Bank made the decision to hike rates in the [belief](#) that the risk of accelerating inflation has increased. In a statement released after the meeting, the BOJ noted that “price pass-through in business-to-business transactions is proceeding at a somewhat rapid pace, driven by rising crude oil prices.” It also stated explicitly that “this could lead to price increases across a wide range of goods at the consumer level in the future.”

- *Nikkei* [reported](#) that the BOJ was supported in its decision by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent, who believed that the yen's historic depreciation was caused by the delay in the BOJ's rate hike. The United States is increasingly concerned over the unusual situation in which the sale of the yen and the sale of bonds are occurring simultaneously.

9. Japan Responds to Claude Mythos Access Suspension

- Last Friday, the U.S. White House [ordered](#) Anthropic to suspend access to its frontier AI models including Claude Mythos and Fable as an export control measure, intervening to halt the use of the models by foreign nationals for security reasons.
- The *Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that the White House decided to intervene after big tech executives from companies like Amazon informed the government of the risk that the frontier models could be misused. The Fable model had been made public on June 9 after implementing safety measures to prevent misuse. These measures were deemed insufficient by the White House.
- On Monday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kihara Minoru [said](#) that the GOJ is currently assessing the situation. Minister of Finance Katayama Satsuki [posted](#) on X over the weekend that there is “no change” to the understanding between the Japanese and U.S. governments over granting access to the high-performance AI models. Bessent informed Katayama on May 12 that access would be granted within two weeks.
- On Tuesday, Minister for Digital Transformation Matsumoto Hisashi [said](#) that the GOJ is in “close communication” with the U.S. Government and Anthropic regarding the matter. He said that the GOJ will continue to identify vulnerabilities and implement software patches with AI models available to it. Katayama [said](#) the same day that she believes the U.S. Government should explain the current situation.
- Matsumoto [revealed](#) that the GOJ will use multiple high-performance AI models to inspect for IT system vulnerabilities in critical systems necessary for government administrative operations. Each ministry and agency will select the systems that require inspection and then prioritize them.
- *Yomiuri* [reported](#) that the GOJ plans to adopt the updated AI Basic Plan next month in response to the emergence of high-performance AI models capable of identifying and potentially exploiting vulnerabilities at an unprecedented speed. It will empower the AI Safety Institute to evaluate high-performance AI models, enhance cooperation with AI model developers and foreign governments to gain access to high-performance models, and urge IT product developers to take immediate action such as making program fixes.

10. Economic Security and Tech Developments

- On Friday, the First Japan-France High-Level Dialogue on AI was [held](#) in Paris, France, where the participants discussed the importance of ensuring the national capabilities to continue operating AI by themselves, initiatives for co-creating “safe, secure, and trustworthy AI” ecosystems in the Global South, and cooperation towards hosting the AI Summit in Japan.
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Tuesday that the GOJ’s Integrated Innovation Strategy 2026 will set a goal of increasing the number of young researchers sent abroad for medium- to long-term assignments to a total of 30,000 over the five-year period from FY 2026-2030. Talent development is a major challenge for Japan to catch up to countries like the United States and China in cutting-edge technology research.
- The SoftBank Group [announced](#) the “Patching as a Service” cybersecurity solution powered by OpenAI to secure critical infrastructure in Japan. The service [aims to provide](#) vulnerability assessments utilizing OpenAI’s frontier “GPT-5.5-Cyber” to the three thousand critical infrastructure providers in Japan within the year. Chairman and CEO Son Masayoshi [said](#) that cyberattacks on companies using AI will be “a crisis on a scale not seen since the arrival of the Black Ships.”
- On Monday, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy of the Italian Republic [signed](#) a memorandum of cooperation on supply chain resilience. Japan’s chip-foundry Rapidus [signed](#) a memorandum of understanding with Fondazione Chips-IT, an Italian private-law foundation dedicated to semiconductor circuit design, as part of the new collaboration between the two governments. Rapidus [signed](#) a similar memorandum with the United Kingdom’s U.K. Semiconductor Center on Monday.
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) that Japan will revive the construction of liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers. Imabari Shipbuilding, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, and Namura Shipyard plan to jointly resume operations around 2035, with the goal of building three to five ships per year. Japan will seek cooperation from South Korean companies to introduce manufacturing technologies that are not available in Japan since LNG carrier construction has come to a halt.
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) Sunday that the GOJ plans to begin surveys this summer aimed at mining rare earth elements and critical minerals in Greenland, a Danish territory. The goal is to identify the types and reserves of these resources, which are believed to exist in large quantities, and to attract investment from Japanese companies. Greenland is said to have rare earths reserves totalling 1.5 million metric tons; China currently controls approximately 70 percent of global rare earths supply.

11. Key Economic/Financial Developments

- On Friday, the Nikkei Stock Average (Nikkei 225) [rose](#) for the seventh consecutive day, increasing ¥196.57 from the previous day to ¥71,250.06, breaking the record high once again off the rise in U.S. high tech stocks on Thursday. Meanwhile, the yen [depreciated](#) to a two-year low of ¥161.81 to the dollar. Katayama [said](#) that “we will take decisive action if there are any speculative moves.”
- *Nikkei* [reported](#) that Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (TEPCO) is conducting negotiations on a capital alliance centered on five groups. SoftBank, the domestic investment fund Japan Industrial Partners (JIP), and three foreign investment funds — U.S.-based KKR, Blackstone, and Global Infrastructure Partners under BlackRock — are set to begin full-scale due diligence (asset valuation). The external partnership is part of efforts to restructure the business following enormous losses incurred after the Fukushima nuclear accident.
- The METI and Ministry of Finance (MOF) [announced](#) that the GOJ determined that cold-rolled stainless steel sheets and strips containing nickel were being exported from China and Taiwan at unfairly low prices, causing damage to domestic industry. Anti-dumping duties are expected to be provisionally imposed as early as July. Chinese products will [face](#) a maximum of 45 percent duties, while Taiwanese products will face a maximum of 21 percent duties.
- On Thursday, the Japan Financial Services Agency (JFSA) [convened](#) an expert panel to discuss revisions to the guidelines for venture capital (VC) firms. The JFSA presented a revised proposal that included the addition of a provision urging the conduct of thorough accounting and financial due diligence when selecting investee companies, and obtained general approval for it. Final approval expected in summer.
- On Tuesday, the market capitalization of Kioxia Holdings [hit](#) the ¥50 trillion threshold for the first time, becoming the second listed company in Japan to do so. Demand for semiconductor memory is growing against the backdrop of investment in AI, and expectations for medium- to long-term earnings growth are attracting investment capital. Kioxia took a ¥7 trillion lead over second place Toyota.

12. State of the Economy

- On Wednesday, the MOF [announced](#) that Japan ran a ¥378.6 billion trade deficit in May, the first deficit in four months as crude oil procurement costs are piling up. While the deficit amount [decreased](#) by 42.8 percent from May 2025, the import price for crude oil increased 67.2 percent to ¥114,076 per kiloliter.

- Export volume increased 17 percent to ¥9.51 trillion, the ninth consecutive month that volume has increased. Meanwhile, import volume also increased 12.5 percent to ¥9.89 trillion, the fourth consecutive month on the rise as imports of electronic components such as ICs and other semiconductors from Taiwan, as well as communications devices such as smartphones from China, drove volume up.
- Crude oil import volume [fell](#) 57.3 percent to 4.72 million kiloliters, a 5.5 percent increase from the record low in April. Diversification has been expanding, as imports from the United States increased 24 percent and from Asia increased 66.2 percent at the expense of a 61.9 percent decrease in imports from the Middle East.
- The Cabinet Office (CAO) [announced](#) that the seasonally adjusted machinery orders, a leading indicator of capital investment, in April increased 8.7 percent from March to ¥1.10 trillion, the first increase in two months. The increase was [primarily driven](#) by a few large-scale projects, and the CAO maintained its assessment of the trend as “showing signs of recovery.”
- The Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) [announced](#) that the number of foreign visitors to Japan in May was 3.56 million, a 3.6 percent decrease from the same month last year. Visitors [fell](#) below the levels recorded in the same month last year for the second consecutive month, as the impact of the Chinese government’s request to refrain from travel continued. Travel from China fell 60.4 percent.

II. Public Opinion Poll

- A FNN/*Sankei* poll [released](#) on Monday found that the Takaichi Cabinet’s approval rating was 65 percent, down three points from May, while disapproval was at 28 percent, up two points.
 - 52 percent of respondents said that they somewhat approve of the GOJ’s three month utility subsidies over the summer; 22 percent said they approve; 15 percent said they somewhat disapprove; and 10 percent said they disapprove.
 - 61 percent of respondents said that they believe the gasoline subsidies should be continued; 20 percent said there should be no subsidies; and 15 percent said they believe it should be scaled back.
 - 45 percent of respondents said that they believe the consumption tax cut on food and beverages can be one percent if it is implemented faster; 28 percent said they believe it should be zero percent even if it takes time; and 26 percent said they believe there should not be a tax cut.
 - 68 percent of respondents said that they are concerned about the funding required for the consumption tax cut, while 30 percent said they do not feel concerned.

- 60 percent of respondents said that they are unsatisfied with the GOJ’s explanation that there is a distribution problem creating bottlenecks in naphtha supply, while 32 percent said they are satisfied.
 - 77 percent of respondents said that they support the proposal to enable female members of the imperial family to maintain status after marriage, while 17 percent said they oppose it.
 - 51 percent of respondents said that the spouses and children of the female members of the imperial family should not be given formal imperial status, while 39 percent said they should be given formal status.
 - 58 percent of respondents said that they support the proposal to adopt male-lineage descendants of former imperial families back into the Imperial Household, while 35 percent said they oppose it.
 - 57 percent of respondents said that they support the bill criminalizing desecration of the national flag, while 35 percent said they oppose it.
 - 52 percent of respondents said that they are unsatisfied with Takaichi’s explanation concerning the allegations that her election campaign posted videos slandering rival candidates in the LDP presidential election, while 40 percent said they are satisfied.
 - 60 percent of respondents said that they believe Takaichi’s secretary should be summoned to testify in front of the Diet to explain the slander video allegations, while 36 percent said they believe it is unnecessary.
- The survey also collected data on the latest approval ratings of political parties.

Political Party	Approval Rating (%)
Liberal Democratic Party	33.5 (+0.7)
Centrist Reform Alliance	3.1 (-0.2)
Japan Innovation Party	2.5 (-0.5)
Democratic Party for the People	3.2 (-0.6)
Suffrage Party (Sanseitō)	4.8 (+0.2)
Team Mirai	1.5 (-0.1)
Japan Communist Party	1.6 (-1)
Reiwa Shinsengumi	1.1 (±0)
Japan Conservative Party	0.4 (-0.5)
Socialist Democratic Party	0.3 (+0.1)

The Weekly Observer (6/15-6/19)

Constitutional Democratic Party	1.8 (-1.3)
Komeito	1.7 (+1.1)
Independent (No Party)	40.8 (+3.6)