

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

TOKYO/TOKYO

On Thursday, October 1, Prime Minister Miyazawa reportedly decided to delay reshuffling his cabinet until December, after the closing of the next extraordinary Diet session. Miyazawa came to this decision after considering the recent confusion among the leadership of the LDP's largest faction, the Takeshita faction, on whose support he heavily depends.

Executive members of the LDP's Takeshita faction agreed on Monday, October 5, to keep Shin Kanemaru as the faction's chairman and Ichiro Ozawa as its acting chairman. However, given the growing criticism from the public, Kanemaru will reportedly be advised to keep a low profile.

According to a nationwide poll conducted by the Kyodo News Service on October 3 and 4, the latest support rating for the Miyazawa Cabinet is 31.4 percent, maintaining virtually the same level as in the June survey, when it was 32.4 percent. The disapproval rating also remained nearly the same, at 61.4 percent, a drop of 0.4 percentage points from the last survey.

Opposition parties decided on Monday to use the upcoming Diet session to demand

the resignation of Shin Kanemaru from the Diet. They will also ask that he be summoned by the Diet to testify as to the nature of the yen 500 million political donation he received from the Sagawa Kyubin; the names of the Takeshita faction members to whom he said he distributed the money and the amounts each received, as well as the alleged involvement of a yakuza (gangster) syndicate in the formation of the Takeshita Cabinet in 1987.

On October 6, representatives of five major economic organizations handed PM Miyazawa a jointly drafted letter requesting prompt execution of political reform. This is the second time they have submitted a request for political reform to the PM. The first was in July 1991.

CHINA/CHINE

The people's daily carried extensive coverage of ANC leader Nelson Mandela's first visit to the PRC. Mandela met with President Yang Shangkun, Premier Li Peng and Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin. Hong Kong sources report that in a speech at Beijing University, Mandela lauded free speech.