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**JAPAN PM TAKAICHI DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT, PAVING WAY FOR SNAP ELECTION**

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Al Jazeera (23 January 2026)

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has dissolved parliament in advance of a snap election scheduled for February 8.

The speaker of Japan's parliament on Friday read out a letter, officially dissolving the lower house as lawmakers shouted the traditional rallying cry of banzai.

The dissolution of the 465-member lower house now paves the way for a 12-day election campaign, which officially begins on Tuesday.

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