

Jan. 2011

*Chronology of Events**Jan. 15 – Feb. 15***15**

South Korea's Chosun Ilbo reported that Chinese troops had entered North Korea's northeastern special economic zone of Rason in the Rajin-Sonbong region, the first time that the Chinese military has stationed in North Korea in 17 years.

15

Southern Sudan's weeklong referendum on independence ended.

17

Taiwan Brain Trust's latest poll showed that 71 percent of the respondents regard the 18 percent preferential interest rate [on the savings of military personnel, civil servants and teachers] as unreasonable and that only 17 percent believe the policy is reasonable. According to the poll, 54 percent do not support pay raise for civil servants and 37 percent back the measure.

18

The Ministry of Defense held a joint air defense missile test, during which a total of 19 missiles of various types were fired but six of them malfunctioned. The drill only scored a success rate of 68 percent.

19

Chinese Nationalist Party Secretary-General King Pu-tsung resigned and was succeeded by Presidential Office Secretary-General Liao Liou-yi.

19

Chinese President Hu Jintao arrived in Washington for a state visit. A U.S. – China Joint Statement was issued, in which the U.S. noted that it looks forward to efforts by

Taiwan and China to increase dialogues and interactions in economic, political, and other fields, and to develop more positive and stable cross-Strait relations.

20

North Korea telegraphed South Korea's defense minister and proposed to hold high-level military talks. South Korea's defense ministry said it had decided to accept the proposal in a bid to defuse military tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

21

Banciao District Prosecutors' Office sought the death penalty for Lin Cheng-wei, the man nicknamed "horse face" and accused of shooting Sean Lien on the eve of the five special municipality elections. Prosecutors said Lin apparently made a mistake and shot Lien instead of the targeted person. Lin was indicted on charges of murder and other offences.

22

The Democratic Progressive Party congress voted in favor of scrapping party primaries [in which party members voted] and letting public polls determine future nominees for president, legislators, mayors, and county commissioners. Legislators-at-large would be chosen by a "Nomination Committee" consisting of social leaders and approved by two-thirds of the party's Central Executive Committee.

23

Raymond Burghardt, Chairman of the American Institute in Taiwan, arrived in Taiwan and met with President Ma Ying-jeou and Vice President Vincent Siew. On behalf of the U.S. government, Burghardt related matters concerning the meeting between American President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao [on Jan. 19].

24

A suicide bomber killed at least 35 people in a terrorist attack at Moscow Domodedovo International Airport in Russia.

25

The Ministry of the Interior's National Immigration Agency approved Chinese tycoon Chen Guangbiao's scheduled visit to Taiwan. Chen boisterously publicized his plan to bring NT\$500 million to Taiwan as donations for middle- and low-income families, sparking concerns that his visit could be part of China's united front tactics.

26

Egyptian demonstrators defied a government ban to protest against [President Hosni Mubarak's] authoritarian rule and took to the street of Cairo and Suez. Violent clashes erupted between police and demonstrators.

27

A Japanese Coast Guard patrol ship confronted the Chinese fisheries patrol boat Yuzheng 201 as the latter sailed around the Diaoyutai Islands [the Senkaku Islands], near the contiguous zone just outside Japan's territorial waters.

28

Private Chiang Kuo-ching, who was executed by the military for the rape and murder of a young girl surnamed Hsieh while serving at the Air Force Combat Command 15 years ago, was reported to have been wrongfully convicted. The real murderer, another serviceman who was Chiang's colleague, has confessed his crime and has been detained.

30

Almost 99 percent of Southern Sudanese who cast ballots in a referendum on independence voted for their region to secede from Sudan, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission said while announcing the results of the plebiscite.

Feb. 2011

1

Premier Wu Den-yih announced the reshuffle of some Cabinet posts, appointing Taipei Medical University president Chiu Wen-ta as Department of Health minister, Lee Yun-jie, a professor at National Open University, as National Youth Commission minister, Lee Hong-yuan, former Taipei County deputy commissioner, as minister of the Public Construction Commission, and national policy advisor Luo Ying-shay as Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs minister. Lee Hong-yuan and Luo also double as the Executive Yuan's ministers without portfolio.

2

The Philippine government deported 14 Taiwanese suspected of involvement in an international fraud ring at the end of last year to stand trial in China, as the Chinese government had demanded.

3

Lunar New Year's Day

4

The U.S. Treasury Department did not list China or Taiwan as currency manipulators in its exchange-rate report to the Congress but pointed out that China should allow the Renminbi to appreciate more rapidly.

4

Burma's new parliament named outgoing prime minister and the fourth most powerful figure in the military government Thein Sein as the country's first civilian president after nearly 50 years of military rule.

5

The U.S. military said the X-47B Unmanned Combat Aircraft, designed to take off from the deck of a U.S. aircraft carrier, to bombard enemy targets, and to return to land on the aircraft carrier, has successfully completed its first flight.

7

In response to the Philippine government's deportation to China of Taiwanese citizens allegedly involved in a fraud ring, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that it has decided to recall Taiwan's representative to the Philippines Donald Lee, to cancel preferential treatment for Philippine nationals to file visa applications online, and to strictly screen the applications of Philippine nationals who wish to work in Taiwan.

8

Major General Lo Hsien-che, head of communications and electronic information at the Army Command Headquarters, has been arrested and detained on suspicion of spying for China. Lo had allegedly passed classified information to China by contacting the same Chinese agent and handing over secret files in different locations.

8

The U.S. Department of Defense released the National Military Strategy, which emphasized a two-front strategy toward China. While both countries would enhance bilateral cooperation, the report also reminded that the intent of the Chinese military remains unclear.

10

Taiwan Brain Trust hosted a seminar entitled "Examining the Ma Government's Financial Crisis," which pointed out that the administration can only raise debts of less than NT\$400 billion before it hits the debt ceiling and warned that, without law revision, the compilation of the central government's 2013 general budget will be affected.

11

Egypt's Vice President Omar Suleiman announced that President Hosni Mubarak has stepped down and has moved to the Sinai resort of Sharm el-Sheikh with his family.

12

A latest poll conducted by the Kyodo news agency showed that support for Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan's government has fallen below 20 percent, the lowest since he took office.

13

Taiwan's Yani Tseng became the world's No. 1 women golfer after winning victory in the Australian Ladies Masters at Gold Coast.

14

German automaker Volkswagen AG had decided to abandon its plans to construct a factory in Taiwan in order to keep its investment items in Foshan, a city in China's Guangdong Province.
