

Chronology of Events

June 15 – July 15

June. 2011

19

At a news conference, President Ma Ying-jeou announces Premier Wu Den-yih as his running mate for the 2012 presidential election, officially confirming the Kuomintang's "Ma-Wu ticket." Wu will retain his post during the election campaign.

21

Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) exchange documents confirming that individual tourism from China will go into effect on June 22. In the initial period visits are limited to residents of Beijing, Shanghai, and Xiamen. The daily quota is 500 visitors for a maximum stay of 15 days, counted from the day after entry into Taiwan.

22

The United States and Japan conduct their two plus two meeting involving U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, U.S. Secretary of States Hillary Clinton, Japanese Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa and Japanese Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto, and agree on a new set of common strategic objectives. The ministers indirectly urge China not to seek or deploy military power that could destabilize regional security.

22

Prominent Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, detained by the Chinese government since April this year, is set free after admitting to charges of tax evasion. Chinese authorities still demand that Ai cannot leave Beijing without prior permission on the grounds that he is still being investigated.

28

The Intercontinental Hotel in the Afghan capital of Kabul becomes target of a Taliban terrorist attack. A commando of nine suicide bombers enters the hotel and goes on a killing spree throughout the building. Eventually Afghan anti-terrorist squads in cooperation with NATO helicopters end the assault, which claims at least 21 lives, including several bombers, and leaves 18 injured.

30

The Supreme Prosecutors' Office Special Investigation Panel (SIP) finds that former President Lee Teng-hui and former KMT heavyweight Liu Tai-ying siphoned off US\$7.79 million from a secret National Security Bureau fund in connection with a donation to South Africa, and used the money for the (Lee think tank) Taiwan Research Institute. Lee and Liu are indicted on charges of money laundering and embezzlement. Lee becomes the second former head of state of the Republic of China to be indicted.

30

In Britain some 750,000 public sector workers including teachers go on strike to protest pension cuts, causing many schools and public offices to close down and throwing airports into chaos.

July. 2011

01

A major turnaround occurs in the sexual harassment case against former International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn as prosecutors throw into doubt the credibility of the hotel maid that brought charges against him. The judge agrees to release Strauss-Kahn without bail.

03

In parliamentary elections in Thailand the opposition Puea Thai Party led by Yingluck Shinawatra, the younger sister of exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, defeats the Democrat Party of incumbent Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva by winning an absolute majority of seats in parliament. The 44-year-old Yingluck becomes Thailand first-ever female prime minister.

05

After a 45 year long struggle, Taiwan's representative institutions in Hong Kong and Macao are finally allowed to change name. Mainland Affairs Council Chairwoman Lai Shin-yuan announces that the Chunghwa Travel Service and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center will be renamed Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, a designation that highlights Taiwan's sovereignty and the institutions' functions.

06

The Taipei Prosecutor's Office launches a sweeping search of offices at the Directorate General of Customs, the Keelung Customs Office and the private homes of customs officials involved in a major graft scandal. The officials are suspected of collectively trading favors for money, accepting paid trips to hostess bars, and protecting smugglers. Deputy customs chief Lu Tsai-yi and several other customs officials are arrested.

09

Sudan splits into two as South Sudan formally declares independence from Sudan and South Sudanese President Salva Kiir signs a temporary constitution.

10

A cruise motor-ship sailing on the Volga River in the Tartastan region of Russia sinks amid a thunder storm. Only 80 of the 208 passengers and crew aboard are rescued, while 128 are missing and feared dead including many children.

11

The Department of Health's Bureau of Health Promotion releases a map of Taiwan's population aging. Chiayi County emerges as the county with the highest ratio of elderly, followed by Yunlin and Penghu counties. With elderly accounting for more than 14 percent of the local population, these three counties qualify as "aged counties."

12

The younger half-brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, a powerful figure in southern Afghanistan, is shot dead at his home by a bodyguard. Ahmad Wali Karzai was head of the Kandahar Provincial Council. His death sparks fears of a power vacuum in southern Afghanistan.

12

After public complaints over confusing reference scores for the high school entrance examination in Taipei, New Taipei City, and Keelung Taipei, City Mayor Hau Lung-bin apologizes to the parents of students who took the exam. He also proposes that students who misunderstood the high school application process be "reassigned" to give them a second chance. Reassignments on such a large scale are unprecedented in the exam's history.

13

A series of three bomb explosions in the evening kills 17 and injures 131 people in the Indian city of Mumbai. There is speculation that the Indian Mujahideen, a local extremist group, masterminded the terrorist attacks to undermine peace talks between India and Pakistan.

13

A train on the Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway, which began operation on June 30, suffers another power outage midway, causing a delay of more than two and a half hours. The power outage is the third mishap in four days. The railway's doubtful construction quality and safety sparks online users to blast it as another "tofu dreg," or shoddily built, project..

14

In protest at a Korean Air test flight over Dokdo (Takeshima) Island in June which Japan views as an incursion into Japanese territory, the Japanese Foreign Ministry announces that ministry officials are prohibited from taking Korean Air flights for a month starting July 18

15

A high-ranking Pentagon official reveals that the computer network of a Pentagon contractor was hacked into by a foreign intelligence agency this spring, which resulted in the theft of 24,000 files of classified information, the biggest data theft that the U.S. Department of Defense has suffered to date.