

Chronology of Events

July 15 – August 15

July. 2011

16

U.S. President Barack Obama receives Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama at the White House at 11:33 p.m. Taipei time. The move triggers Chinese protests, with Beijing declaring that the visit harms U.S.-China relations.

18

In a comparison of military capability on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, the 2011 National Defense Report finds that China's armed forces number more than 2.3 million against Taiwan's 270,000 troops, meaning that China has nine times as many troops as Taiwan. In terms of weaponry, China has absolute superiority in guided missile and submarine defense. The Chinese military has deployed more than 1,000 missiles along its eastern and southern coasts that are targeted at Taiwan and has built a dense air defense and anti-ship bases along its coasts, the report states.

20

The Agency Against Corruption (AAC) under the Ministry of Justice is officially launched as a dedicated anti-corruption unit. President Ma Ying-jeou presides over the opening ceremony and the swearing in of the agency's first Director-General Chou Chih-jung. The opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) notes that it remains to be seen whether the AAC will dare to tackle corruption scandals involving high-ranking members of the ruling party.

21

The Council of Labor Affairs' Advisory Committee on Minimum Wages passes a resolution recommending to raise the minimum wage by NT\$900 or 5.03% from NT\$17,880 to NT\$18,780. The minimum hourly wage is increased to NT\$103. The new minimum wages will be implemented from Jan. 1 next year.

22

The Norwegian capital of Oslo suffers two successive attacks including the bombing of a 17-story high-rise that houses the office of the Norwegian prime minister and other government agencies and a shooting rampage by an unknown shooter at a youth camp of the ruling party. At least 91 people are killed in the attacks.

23

A major crash occurs on China's high-speed railway in Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province. Train D301 from Beijing to Fuzhou and train D3115 from Hangzhou to Fuzhou crash head-to-tail on the Wenzhou Shuangyu section. Four coaches of train D301 fall off a viaduct, killing 35 people and injuring as many as 210.

24

People First Party (PFP) Chairman James Soong notes in an exclusive interview with the Liberty Times that he will definitely participate in the 2012 parliamentary elections, aiming to assist the PFP with forming a legislative caucus in the next legislature and playing the role of a crucial force in Taiwanese politics.

28

Ending a prolonged 23-year-long court battle the Supreme Court upholds the death sentence for Chiu Ho-shun. Chiu had been sentenced to two death sentences and the lifelong suspension of his civil rights after being convicted of the kidnapping and killing of school boy Lu Cheng and the robbing and dismembering of insurance company employee Ko Hung Yu-lan.

28

The Foreign Ministry announces its probe of Taiwan's representative to Fiji, Victor Chin, confirming allegations of misconduct and corruption, and deciding on Chin's immediate suspension from duty. The case is referred to the Ministry of Justice's newly set up Agency Against Corruption and the Control Yuan, which will separately investigate Chin's criminal and administrative liability.

30

Another blaze occurs at the sixth naphta cracker plant of the Formosa Plastic Group (FPG) in Mailiao, Yunlin County, bringing to seven the number of major accidents that hit the plant within a year. Outrage by residents living near the petrochemical complex and a barrage of public misgivings over the fire spark FPG Chairman Wilfried Wang and FPG President Su Ch-yi to hand in their resignations.

31

A series of clashes between Uighurs and Han Chinese in the city of Kashgar in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China between July 30 and July 31 leaves eight people dead and 28 injured. Before and after the violence two explosions occur near the site of the clashes.

August. 2011

05

Amid mounting concerns over the U.S. economy, international ratings agency Standard & Poor's fires the first salvo by downgrading the United States' AAA sovereign credit rating to AA+, becoming the first firm to cut Washington's credit rating.

08

Rioting continues in Britain for the third day, engulfing the capital London and other major cities such as Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, Nottingham and Leeds.

08

Forty-three-year old Lobsang Sanggay, a legal research fellow at Harvard University, formally replaces the Dalai Lama as prime minister of the Tibetan government in exile. He states that he supports the principle of non-violence, will uphold the Dalai Lama's middle-path policy and is willing to have negotiations with the Chinese government anytime, anywhere. But he also denounces Chinese "colonialism" in Tibet.

10

Artillery shots are twice heard on South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island. In a telegram Pyongyang denies shelling the island and points out that Seoul has misjudged explosions from a construction site as artillery firings to have a pretext for taking military moves against North Korea.
