

Chronology of Events

Aug. 15 to Sept. 15

Aug. 2011

15

Three women and one man in a Taiwanese tour group of 19, which was organized by Lion Travel Service Co, died in a bus crash accident at Changbai Mountain in northeastern China's Jilin Province.

17

The Supreme Court concluded the perjury case related to former president Chen Shui-bian's state affairs fund, sentencing former first lady Wu Shu-jen to nine months in prison. Her son, Chen Chih-chung, daughter, Chen Hsing-yu, and son-in-law, Chao Chien-ming, were each sentenced to three months in jail; among them only Chen Hsing-yu was given a two-year postponement in the implementation of her sentence. The final verdict was read, and as Chen Chih-chung was not granted a delay in the implementation of his sentence, he was stripped of his position as a Greater Kaohsiung councilor.

19

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi met President Thein Sein of the country's civilian government for the first time. Nyan Win, Aung San Suu Kyi's spokesman, said the meeting "could be the first step toward national reconciliation."

20

Libyan rebel forces, NATO troops, and opposition members hiding in Tripoli launched "Operation Mermaid Dawn," a coordinated movement, from both inside and outside the capital.

22

Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen unveiled the mission and overarching objective of the party's 10-year policy guidelines and emphasized the aim to "lay the guidelines as a foundation on which Taiwan will be transformed into a different nation." Tsai stated that the guidelines represent a vision for Taiwan's future and a commitment to the country's next generation.

23

Libyan rebel forces took over the capital Tripoli but did not find Muammar Qaddafi and his family members. The chairman of the National Transitional Council, Mustafa Abdel Jalil, offered a \$1.7 million bounty for anyone who hands over Qaddafi and said a presidential election will be held within eight months.

23

The Taiwan High Court acquitted former Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) legislator Diane Lee of fraud over a dual nationality dispute. Lee was previously sentenced to two years in prison by the Taipei District Court (a lower court) in the first-instance ruling for obtaining more than NT\$ 100 million by fraud as an elected official with dual citizenship.

26

The Taiwan High Court rescinded previous rulings and found former president Chen Shui-bian and former first lady Wu Shu-jen not guilty of corruption, in a retrial of the state affairs fund case. But it upheld Chen's previous convictions for his role in a money laundering case and in using fraudulent receipts in the state affairs fund case. On these charges, Chen was given an additional two years and eight months in prison and a fine of NT\$3 million. Wu was sentenced to 11 years and six months in jail and given a fine of NT\$22 million for her involvement in a few cases, including a bribery case related to the construction of the Nangang Exhibition Hall.

26

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan announced his resignation, ending a 14-month tenure. Kan was the sixth prime minister of Japan in five years since the departure of Junichiro Koizumi in 2006.

28

Hurricane Irene battered the east coast of the United States. More than 27,000 homes and businesses in Washington, D.C. were left out of power, but no major casualties were reported.

29

Yoshihiko Noda, Japan's finance minister, was elected as leader of the governing Democratic Party of Japan. Noda was voted in by the lower and upper houses of Japan's parliament as the country's new prime minister on Aug. 30. Japan's new Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura announced the Cabinet lineup on Sept. 2. Upper house member of the Japanese Diet, Murata Renho, who is of Taiwanese descent, was appointed as government revitalization and civil service reform minister.

Sept. 2011

01

People First Party Chairman James Soong formally announced that he would pick up a petition form at the Central Election Commission and launch a signature drive for his presidential bid on Sept. 15. However, he emphasized that only when he collects more than one million signatures will he register with the commission in November to join the presidential election.

04

Local pro-Taiwan civic groups held a "Safeguarding Sovereignty and Embracing Peace" rally in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty. They emphasized that although Japan had relinquished its claims on Taiwan and the Pescadores after the treaty took effect, Japan did not declare to which party it had ceded the ownership of these islands. Therefore, Taiwan's sovereignty does not belong to any country, but belongs to all Taiwanese people, the groups added.

06

Libya's National Transitional Council confirmed that Col Gaddafi and his key officials had crossed the country's border into neighboring Niger late the night before in a convey of vehicles carrying gold and cash, but the government of Niger denied that Gaddafi was in the convoy.

08

The Taipei Prosecutor's Office launches a massive blackout caused by human failure left nearly 5 million people without power in southwestern America and its border region with Mexico. Flights were canceled, traffic snarled, and a blockage occurred at a local nuclear energy plant.

09

DPP presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen announced DPP Secretary-General Su Jia-chyuan as her running mate for next year's presidential election. Tsai praised Su as a capable, "can-do," and dynamic person who will help boost electoral campaigns in Taichung. Tsai and Su were named "the Ing-Jia pair" (taken from the middle characters of their names).

09

Taiwanese film *Seediq Bale*, which premiered on Ketagalan Boulevard, took in NT\$23 million when it debuted at 68 theaters nationwide, breaking the opening-day records of any Taiwanese film.

11

DPP legislator Chien Chao-tung hit a man when driving at night. The man, Chen Shih-an, was sitting on the driveway at the time after drinking alcohol. Chien did not stop his car to check on Chen and the latter died after being sent by others to hospital. Chien resigned as legislator on Sept. 13 and withdrew from the upcoming legislative election.

11

Family members of victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks joined the 10th anniversary ceremonies at the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center site in New York. US President Barack Obama and former US president George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, also attended the ceremonies to commemorate the dead.

12

An explosion caused by a fire near a furnace at a nuclear waste processing plant in southern France killed one person and injured four others. France's nuclear safety agency, the Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire (ASN), said the furnace only processed nuclear waste of very low radioactive level and that there was no risk of a radioactive leak after the blast.

13

An F-5F fighter and an RF-5 reconnaissance plane from the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing of Taiwan's Air Force crashed into Dongao Mountain at an altitude of 600 meters when doing nighttime training along the coast of Yilan County. The three pilots on the planes, Lieutenant Colonel Chang Chien-kuo, Major Wang Hung-hsiang, and Captain Hsiao Wen-ming were killed in the accident.

15

Results of Denmark's general election ended the right-wing government's 10-year ruling. Helle Thorning-Schmidt, the 44-year-old leader of the Social Democrats, would become Denmark's first woman prime minister.