

Feb. 2011

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

The Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command announced that South Korean and U.S. troops would hold an annual joint military drill at the end of February. Key scenarios for the first time included the break out of radical crises should the North Korean leader Kim Jong-il died suddenly.

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**17**

Bahrain's authorities sent riot police into the capital Manama's Pearl Square before dawn to forcefully break up the crowd of protesters camping out there, leaving three people dead and 231 injured.

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**19**

A medical team from China Medical University concluded in its assessment of former first lady Wu Shu-jen's health condition that it is difficult to provide care for her and that she cannot take care of herself on a day-to-day basis. Based on the assessment, the Taichung Prison announced in the afternoon that it declined to admit Wu.

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**21**

Senator Manuel Roxas, a special envoy from the Philippines, arrived in Taipei to make explanations after relations between Taiwan and the Philippines have been strained over the latter's deportation of Taiwanese fraud suspects to China.

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**22**

A report by Al Jazeera television quoted a witness as saying Libyan warplanes were bombing various areas across Tripoli on Feb. 21 to attack anti-government protesters.

**22**

A 6.3-magnitude earthquake hit New Zealand's second largest city Christchurch, killing at least 65 people. The toll was expected to rise further.

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**23**

Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait Chairman Chen Yunlin and a business group he headed arrived in Taiwan at noon for a six-day visit. Chen would make his first foray into southern Taiwan—areas south of the Jhuoshuei River.

**23**

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) launched two new think tanks, the Economic and Social Affairs Research Center and the Security and Strategy Research Center.

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**25**

Former vice president Annette Lu became the first DPP politician to make it clear that she will run for president in 2012 and engage in the DPP presidential nomination process.

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**26**

The UN Security Council voted unanimously to impose sanctions on Muammar Gaddafi's Libyan regime.

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**28**

The Taiwan National Alliance and the Taiwan 228 Care Association together held a 228 march, calling the authorities "to ascertain where the responsibility lies and to realize justice" and requesting the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) to apologize for the 228 Incident and make compensation.

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## March, 2011

**2**

Japan Broadcasting Corporation NHK reported that two Chinese naval aircraft flew to about 60 kilometers off the Senkaku Islands (Diaoyutai Islands) and crossed the median line between Japan and China. Fighter jets of the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force scrambled to check them.

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**3**

China's National People's Congress announced that the country's defense budget in 2011 will be around 601.1bn yuan (\$91.5bn), a 12.7 percent increase over last year.

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**4**

The Ministry of Justice announced that five convicts on death row were executed this day. Kuan Chung-yan, Chung Teh-chu, Wang Chih-huang, Wang Kuo-hua and Chuang Tien-chu were executed in Taipei Prison, Greater Taichung Prison and Greater Kaohsiung Prison respectively.

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**5**

DPP candidates Hsu Tain-tsair and Lin Tai-hua won the legislative by-elections in the Fourth Electoral District in Greater Tainan and the Fourth Electoral District in Greater Kaohsiung respectively by overwhelming margins. Hsu received 60 percent of the vote to his KMT counterpart's 40 percent and Lin garnered 70 percent of the vote to her KMT rival's 30 percent.

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**6**

Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp initiated a "Bauhinia revolution" to oppose the government's budget plan, which activists said had violated public expectations. Demonstrators demanded Financial Secretary John Tsang to step down. There were minor scuffles between police and protesters during the march, injuring at least one demonstrator and a policeman.

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**7**

Washington officials revealed that Commerce Secretary Gary Locke would be nominated to become the next U.S. ambassador to China. Locke would succeed the current Ambassador Jon Huntsman.

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9

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan appointed deputy foreign minister Takeaki Matsumoto as its new foreign minister to succeed Seiji Maehara, who resigned over a donation scandal.

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11

DPP Chairperson Tsai Ing-wen officially launched her campaign for the party's presidential nomination. She said the decision to run for president means she must shoulder responsibility and mission bravely.

11

A magnitude-9 earthquake struck northeastern Japan at 2:46pm local time, triggering 2m-to-10m tsunami waves that swept inland, flattened houses and sparked fires in nuclear plants and oil refineries. The quake was the most powerful one since Japan started keeping records 140 years ago.

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12

An explosion hit reactor 1 of the Fukushima 1 Nuclear Power Plant in northeastern Japan at 3:36pm local time, causing radiation leak. An evacuation zone around the damaged nuclear plant had been officially extended to 20km.

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13

Police and the army in Bahrain, a country which sits in the Persian Gulf, used tear gas to disperse anti-government protesters who had demonstrated for weeks. Seven people were killed in the clashes.

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14

A hydrogen explosion struck reactor 3 of the Fukushima 1 Nuclear Power Plant in Japan, the second hydrogen explosion that occurred in the plant after a powerful earthquake that hit a few days earlier. The blast injured 11 people.

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