

Separated families from S. Korea, DPRK reunite



Photo released by Korean Central News Agency on Nov. 3, 2010 shows family members from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and South Korea meet each other at the Mount Kumgang resort in the DPRK on Nov. 3, 2010. Families from South Korea and the DPRK, torn asunder by a civil war decades ago, reunited Wednesday in what marks the second round of such an event.

SEOUL, — Families from South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, torn asunder by a civil war decades ago, reunited Wednesday in what marks the second round of such an event.

Ninety-four South Korean applicants for the three-day reunion, along with 43 family members, reunited with 203 DPRK applicants at the Mount Kumgang resort.

The event follows the pervi-

ous three-day reunion, the first of its kind in a year, which offered some 430 South Koreans and 97 from the DPRK a rare chance for rendezvous.

The latest reunion comes after a series of Red Cross be-

tween Seoul and Pyongyang that has bogged down due to their differences on resuming cross-border tours to the Mount Kumgang.

South Korea refuses to re-open the tour program, once a rare source of hard cash for the DPRK, unless it is allowed to look into a shooting death of a South Korean tourist there in 2008.

It also pressed Pyongyang to regularly hold family reunions and work on major humanitarian issues including prisoners of war and abducted South Koreans.

Pyongyang, in response, demanded 500,000 tons of rice and 300,000 tons of fertilizer in return for budging on such issues. Seoul, which recently sent its first government-funded rice aid in three years to the DPRK, has been adamant in its stance that reuniting families and reopening the stalled tour program are two separate issues.

The two sides are to hold yet another round of Red Cross talks on Nov. 25. **(Xinhua)**

Iran marks anniversary of U.S. embassy seizure

TEHRAN, — Iranians on Thursday marked the anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran by Iranian students 31 years ago.

The demonstrators gathered in front of the former U.S. embassy in Tehran, now referred to as the "Den of Espionage", carrying flags, banners, chanted slogans against the U.S. and Israel. They chanted slogans of "Death to the U.S." and "Down with Zionism", and vowed to follow the path of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khomeini.

The demonstrators condemned the Western and U.S. imposed sanctions against the country and said that they still consider the U.S. as Iran's main enemy and the great Satan.

The resolution which was issued at the end of the gathering called for resistance against the U.S. and western policies against the Islamic Republic.



A woman holds a poster of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khomeini during a rally marking the 31st anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. Embassy outside the former U.S. embassy in downtown Tehran, capital of Iran, Nov. 4, 2010. Iranians on Thursday marked the anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran by Iranian students 31 years ago. The United States broke off diplomatic relations with Iran on April 7, 1980 after a group of Iranian students seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and captured some 60 U.S. diplomats in 1979, with 52 of them being in captivity for 444 days in the hostage crisis.

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UN humanitarian chief to visit Sudan

UNITED NATIONS, — UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos is scheduled to arrive in Khartoum, Sudan on Thursday, to meet with representatives from the Sudanese government, donors and aid agencies, it was announced by her office here Wednesday. During her week-long visit, slated to end on Nov. 10, "Amos will visit South Sudan, Darfur and Khartoum," a press statement from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). It will be the first visit to Sudan by Amos, who is also the UN emergency relief coordinator, since she was appointed the UN aid chief in July.

The top UN official will kick off her Sudan tour as violence and severe floods continue to

affect people throughout the country. Seasonal flooding and heavy rain has affected 80,000 people, reported OCHA. Meanwhile, tribal clashes and fighting between government and rebel forces ahead of a referendum on self-determination in southern Sudan, have also caused thousands to be displaced.

On Jan. 9, 2011, inhabitants of the south will vote on whether to secede from Sudan or remain united with the rest of the country. On the same day, residents of Abyei, located in the center of the country, will vote separately on whether to retain Abyei's special administrative status in the north or become part of Bahr el-Ghazal state in the south.

As the final phase of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agree-

ment (CPA), the referendum concludes 20 years of war between the northern-based government

and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south. **(Xinhua)**

First Chinese-American congresswoman succeeds in elections



The first Chinese-American congresswoman is seen at the office of California's 32nd District in El Monte in Los Angeles, the United States, Nov. 3, 2010.

Ex-Russian PM Chernomyrdin dies at 73



Undated file photo shows ex-Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin died early at 04:00 a.m. Moscow time (0100 GMT) Nov. 3, 2010 at the age of 72 because of chronicle disease.

MOSCOW, — Former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin died early Wednesday at the age of 73 because of chronicle disease.

Chernomyrdin died at 04:00 a.m. Moscow time (0100 GMT). He had been severely ill and was expected to return home after receiving treatment abroad.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin have extended condolences over his death to his family, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

As one of the most prominent Russian politicians, Chernomyrdin served as a prime minister under President Boris Yeltsin from 1992 to 1998, and was appointed ambassador to Ukraine from 2001-2009, over the period of Orange Regime by

former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko.

After coming back to Russia in 2009, he then worked as a presidential advisor and special envoy on economic cooperation with members of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

As a firm supporter of Yeltsin and several reforms including privatization, Chernomyrdin was best known for his ridiculous misuse of words in Russian-speaking world, the RIA Novosti news agency reported.

His remark "we wanted the best, but it turned out as always" on the unsuccessful monetary exchange by the Russian Central Bank in the early 1990s has become a popular proverb now.

The body of Chernomyrdin will be buried in the Novodevichy Cemetery in Moscow. **(Xinhua)**

China urges U.S. to end embargo against Cuba

UNITED NATIONS, — China on Tuesday urged the United States to terminate as soon as possible its economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Wang Min, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, made the appeal as he spoke at a UN General Assembly plenary meeting.

Wang said the General Assembly has adopted resolutions by an overwhelming majority for eighteen consecutive years on the necessity of ending the U.S. embargo against Cuba which has been imposed since 1961.

"Regrettably, however, those resolutions have not been effectively implemented over the years, and the economic, commercial

and financial embargo against Cuba imposed by the country concerned is yet to be lifted," he said.

A UN report shows that the "economic embargo against Cuba over the past year remained unchanged in substance, thus continuing to inflict enormous economic and financial losses on Cuba," he said.

"The international community is faced with multiple serious challenges of the financial, food and energy crises as well as climate change, which make the embargo and sanctions against Cuba all the more unreasonable."

"The Chinese government urges the country concerned to terminate as soon as possible economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba," said the ambassador. **(Xinhua)**

DPRK to side with Cuba if needed:

HAVANA, — Vice Marshal Ri Yong Ho of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said Wednesday that the DPRK will share the same trench with Cuba if the island nation is attacked.

Ri described the cooperative ties between the two countries' armed forces as "excellent" during his meeting with his Cuban counterpart Army Corps General Alvaro Lopez Miera here.

The chief of General Staff of the Korean People's Army emphasized the achievement of his visit here and spoke highly of the

"fighting spirit" as well as the "strong defense capability" of the Cuban Armed Revolutionary Forces (FAR).

The DPRK's top military commander arrived in Havana on Monday on his first visit to Cuba. On Tuesday, he visited the FAR inter-army school Antonio Maceo in Havana, besides other units and educational institutions of the Cuban military.

In last April, Ri held talks with a military delegation from Cuba led by Miera in Pyongyang. Both sides hailed the development of bilateral ties. **(Xinhua)**