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News Summary

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2007/12/11 13:40 KST

Yonhap News Summary

The following is the first summary of major stories moved by Yonhap News Agency on Tuesday.

U.S. supports exchanges with N.K. as New York Philharmonic prepares for concert

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. State Department on Monday reaffirmed its support for cultural exchanges with North Korea as the New York Philharmonic prepared to officially announce its performance schedule in one of the most closed societies in the world.

"We continue to encourage cultural exchanges between North Korea and the U.S.," State Department spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos told reporters.

(LEAD) N. Korea, U.S. on path to diplomatic normalization: Rice
WASHINGTON -- North Korea's denuclearization so far has proceeded well and, pending success, the United States would be able to normalize relations with the communist state, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday.

"We've still got a ways to go," she said at a luncheon speech before the Women's Foreign Policy Group, and added, "In the meantime, I can say that much of the work has gone rather well."

(Yonhap Feature) Koreans hit by massive oil spill struggle to keep their lifeline alive
TAEAN, South Korea -- It almost resembles a scene out of a war movie: a coastline bombarded by murky patches of oil, bus after bus arriving with soldiers loaded, heavy utility vehicles blocking entry points, and hundreds of civilians tugging buckets of oil in disarray and despair.

"We're dealing with this as if it were a war operation," said Moon Song-myeong, a sergeant major who has driven a payload here from a nearby base.

South Korean presidential candidates to hold second TV debate
SEOUL -- Six major candidates of South Korea's presidential election slated for Dec. 19, will hold their second television debate Tuesday, amid high anticipation of another round of fierce wrangling between front-runner Lee

PHOTO NEWS



Schools of fish fall victim to oil spill

VIDEO NEWS



North Korea opens Kaesong to South Korean tourists

AUDIO NEWS

Top nuclear envoys of Seoul, Beijing to meet over 'bump' in N. Korea talks

Oil leak to wreak havoc on natural organisms on west coast: activists



MARKETS

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| NIKKEI | 1915.9 | ▼ 11.55 | 00:21 |
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FEATURES

South Koreans apathetic towards presidential election

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Myung-bak and his opponents.

The second of three debates, prepared by the National Election Commission (NEC), comes just a day after the pro-government party submitted a parliamentary motion to impeach three prosecutors for allegedly conducting an improper investigation into Lee's links to a financial fraud.

Lowest voter turnout expected for South Korea's presidential election
SEOUL -- South Korea's presidential election this month will be marked by the lowest voter turnout ever, as an expected landslide victory by conservative front-runner Lee Myung-bak will likely cause voters to stay at home, experts forecast Tuesday.

The number of those going to the polls may significantly drop from that of 2002, when the turnout hit a record low of 70.8 percent, they said.

(END)

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