

South Korea, Brazil sign key minerals, trade deals

REUTERS, Seoul

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung held summit talks in Seoul yesterday with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, where they agreed to expand cooperation in sectors including trade, key minerals, technology and culture.

The leaders plan to elevate the relationship into a strategic partnership, and for the countries to work together to support stability on the Korean Peninsula, Lee said.

"Peace, built on conditions where conflict isn't needed, is the strongest form of security," the South Korean president told a press conference.

The leaders oversaw the signing of 10 memorandums of understanding spanning



Japan's Emperor Naruhito, Empress Masako, and their daughter Princess Aiko, accompanied by Crown Prince Akishino, Crown Princess Kiko, their daughter Princess Kako, and their son Prince Hisahito, wave to visitors, during a public audience celebrating the Emperor's 66th birthday at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

LIBYAN BEACH
7 irregular migrants found dead

AFP, Tripoli

Seven irregular migrants from sub-Saharan Africa have been found dead on a beach east of Libya's capital, Tripoli, a Libyan Red Crescent worker told AFP on Sunday.

Among them were three children, the worker said, adding that there were likely other dead migrants who have not yet been found.

The Libyan Red Crescent did not provide details on the circumstances of their death. The organisation said in a statement it "recovered seven bodies from a beach in Qasr Al-Akhyar belonging to irregular migrants".

The bodies were found Saturday night in Qasr al-Akhyar.

Malaysia mulls law to curb premiership to two terms

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia introduced new legislation yesterday to restrict the prime minister's tenure to a maximum of two terms, a move aimed at boosting accountability and curbing the overreach of executive powers.



The Southeast Asian nation currently places no cap on how many terms a premier can serve.

Former leader Mahathir Mohamad held office for 24 years across two stints -- from 1981 to 2003 and again between 2018 and 2020.

Current Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in January announced a push for a two-term limit amid renewed calls for him to tackle corruption and improve governance.

In its election manifesto in 2022, Anwar's ruling Pakatan Harapan (PH) coalition in 2022 pledged a two-term limit on the premiership.

But there has been criticism about the slow pace of reform, local media reports said.

US aims to provoke 'humanitarian catastrophe': Cuba

AFP, Geneva

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez yesterday accused the United States of trying to trigger a "humanitarian catastrophe" in his country with an oil blockade he called an "aggressive escalation".

US President Donald Trump cut off key supplies of Venezuelan oil to Cuba after ousting Venezuela's president Nicolas Maduro, and has threatened sanctions on states that sell oil to Havana.

The United States "now imposes an energy blockade and intends to create a humanitarian catastrophe, using as a pretext the absurd assertion that Cuba constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to its national security," Rodriguez told the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Cuba, under a US trade embargo since 1962, has for years battled

extended power cuts and shortages of fuel, medicine and food, even before the Caribbean country of 9.6 million people lost its main oil supplier last month.

"These are criminal and illegal actions, constituting a ruthless collective punishment of the Cuban people," said Rodriguez. Trump described the Cuban government as an "extraordinary threat" to US national security. "Cuba does not threaten US or any other country," insisted Rodriguez.

"It is not Cuba that applies Monroe Doctrine national security and national defence strategies with the open purpose of domination, nor is it the country that deploys military forces and violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states."

Trump described the raid to seize Maduro as an update of Monroe Doctrine -- 1823 declaration by US president James Monroe that Latin America was closed to other powers.

China 'massively expanded' nuclear arsenal: US

AFP, Geneva

Washington yesterday accused China of dramatically swelling its nuclear arsenal, and doubled down on claims that Beijing has conducted secret nuclear tests, demanding again it be part of any future arms control treaty.

Washington said the lapsing earlier this month of New START -- the last treaty between top nuclear powers the United States and Russia -- presented the possibility to achieve a "better agreement" including Beijing.

China has publicly rejected calls to enter negotiations on a new three-way treaty.

Christopher Yeaw, the US assistant



secretary of state for arms control and nonproliferation, told the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that New START had been seriously flawed and "did not account for the unprecedented, deliberate, rapid and opaque nuclear weapons build-up by China".

"Despite its claims to the contrary, China has deliberately and without constraint, massively expanded its nuclear arsenal without transparency or any indication of China's intent or end point," he charged.

He added that US government officials "believe China may achieve parity within the next four or five years", without elaborating on what he meant by parity.

Both Russia and the United States have more than 5,000 nuclear weapons, according to the Nobel Peace Prize-winning campaign group ICAN.

But New START, which expired on February 5, restricted the United States and Russia to 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads each -- a number Washington says China is fast approaching.



trade and industrial policy, core minerals, digital economy including AI, agriculture, health and biotech, small-business exchanges and joint policing against cybercrime, narcotics and other transnational threats.

In earlier remarks, Lee said they adopted a four-year action plan to map out concrete steps for expanding bilateral cooperation, from strategic minerals to defence and space industries, as well as food security.

Brazil is South Korea's largest trading partner in South America. Lula said Brazil holds world's second largest rare-earth reserves and has substantial nickel deposits, and that his government hoped to attract investment from South Korean companies.

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Memo No. 57.03.6172.000.20.0001.26.072

Corrigendum of e-Tender Notice (OTM)
Revised Memo 57.03.6172.000.20.0001.26.040 (dated 03/02/26) hereby supersedes and corrects the previous incorrect Memo No. 57.03.6172.000.20.0001.26.001.

Tender ID	Description of package	Tender publishing date & time	Last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Revised tender publishing date & time	Revised last selling date & time	Revised tender closing date & time
1218378	Procurement of Raw Materials and Retail Machinery	19/02/2026 10:00am	11/3/2026 1:00pm	11/3/2026 3:00pm	22/02/2026 07:00pm	15/3/2026 1:00pm	15/3/2026 3:00pm

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* ইসলামী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের উন্নয়ন (৩য় পর্যায়)-১ম সংশোধিত-শীর্ষক প্রকল্প
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Memo No. IU/PD(3)/411/2026/99 Date: 23/02/2026

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following package:

Tender ID	Package No.	Description	Online tender notice publication date and time	Online tender closing date and time
1224107	IU/PD(3)/411/2025-2026/96	Supplying of utensils and crockery items for the 04 halls under Islamic University Development (3rd Phase)-1st Revised Project at Islamic University, Kushtia-7003	23-Feb-2026 12:00:00	10-Mar-2026 12:00:00

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted on the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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Ref No. 57.03.3532.301.06.001.26-3989 Date: 23/02/2026

Invitation for e-Tender

Invitation for e-Tender to be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods

Sl	Tender ID	Package No.	Description	Tender publishing date & time	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing and opening date & time
1	1180953	GPI/Rev/25-26/PG-09	Supply of Furniture for Security Section (4112314)	24/02/2026 10:00	15/03/2026 16:00	16/03/2026 10:00
2	1180954	GPI/Rev/25-26/PG-10	Supply of Chemicals for Chemistry Lab (3256102)	24/02/2026 10:00	15/03/2026 16:00	16/03/2026 10:30
3	1180959	GPI/Rev/25-26/PG-11	Supply of Sports Goods for Physical Education Section (3256107)	24/02/2026 10:00	15/03/2026 16:00	16/03/2026 11:00
4	1180963	GPI/Rev/25-26/PG-12	Supply of Raw Materials for CST ET ENT RAC FOOD Non Tech Lab (3256105)	24/02/2026 10:00	15/03/2026 16:00	16/03/2026 11:30
5	1180964	GPI/Rev/25-26/PG-13	Supply Of Education & Learning Materials for Various Dep. & Lab (Code: 4112312)	24/02/2026 10:00	15/03/2026 16:00	16/03/2026 12:00
6	1180969	GPI/Rev/25-26/PG-15	Supply of Office Accessories for Computer Lab (4112310)	24/02/2026 10:00	15/03/2026 16:00	16/03/2026 12:30
7	1180972	GPI/Rev/25-26/PG-17	Supply of Books For ET, Non-tech Technology (3211127)	24/02/2026 10:00	15/03/2026 16:00	16/03/2026 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to scheduled date and time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, +8809609112233, +8801762625528, +8801762625529).

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