



President Lai honours Czech Senate President Vystrčil

President Lai Ching-te conferred the Order of Propitious Clouds with Special Grand Cordon on Czech Senate President Miloš Vystrčil, June 2, in recognition of his years of staunch support for Taiwan and contributions to bilateral relations and global democracy.

Lai recalled Vystrčil's landmark 2020 visit to Taiwan despite Chinese pressure, during which he addressed the Legislative Yuan, declaring "I am a Taiwanese", a statement that deeply moved the country's people. The President said both nations share firm beliefs in democracy, freedom, and human rights, and highlighted deepening cooperation in semiconductors, AI, and other fields. He also noted that STARLUX will launch direct



Taipei-Prague flights from August, joining existing China Airlines services.

Accepting the honour, Vystrčil said it belonged not only to him but should be seen as recognition of the Czech Senate, whose members voted by an over-

whelming majority to support his visit. He also paid tribute to the late Senate President Jaroslav Kubera and said that the decoration carries a responsibility and commitment that he pledged to practise throughout his life.

Global news reports showcase Taiwan's democracy and technology

An international media delegation comprising 15 representatives from 12 countries visited Taiwan, May 17 to 23, to gain insight into the country's achievements in democratic governance, societal resilience, technological innovation, and cross-strait conditions, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Deputy Foreign Ministers François Chih-chung Wu and Chen Ming-chi co-hosted a reception for the group in Taipei City. Speaking to the reporters, Wu emphasised that Taiwan plays a key role in AI-powered chips and the semiconductor supply chain, and is committed to working with like-minded partners to facilitate regional peace and global

prosperity. Likewise, Chen noted that China's diplomatic, information, and military pressure on the Taiwan Strait poses a severe threat to Indo-Pacific stability. The delegation also visited organisations, including the Industrial Technology Research Institute and the Taiwan Space Agency. Multiple in-depth reports were subsequently published in outlets in Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Somaliland, and Thailand.



Deputy FM Wu gives interview to French YouTuber

Deputy Foreign Minister François Chih-chung Wu said that safeguarding cross-strait peace is a shared interest of the international community, in an interview published May 31 on French public television channel France 5 and the HugoDécrypte YouTube channel.

Wu noted that Taiwan is critical to global semiconductor supply chains and international economic stability, warning that any conflict in the strait would seriously impact international shipping and the world economy. He said Taiwan is committed to maintaining regional peace through diplomatic cooperation and enhanced self-defence capabilities.



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Taiwan's economy set to grow 9.64% in 2026

Taiwan's economy is set to grow 9.64 per cent this year with GDP per capita reaching US\$45,610 (€39,192), the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS) said in its latest forecast, May 29.

Following first-quarter growth of 14.55%, the agency revised its annual projection upward by 1.93% to its high-

est in 16 years. The DGBAS attributed the strong performance largely to a 51.1% surge in commodity exports, as booming development in AI, high-performance computing, and cloud infrastructure continued to drive global demand for the country's electronics and ICT products, while domestic consumption also recorded an impressive gain of 4.74%.