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London musical blends Peking Opera with Western theater traditions **CULTURE, PAGE 17**

New medical products to see faster pricing

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Female pioneers power Inner Mongolia's desert economy

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XI'S VISION | GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Development goals of GDI bearing fruit

Five years on, initiative proposed by Xi brings tangible results to Global South

By ZHAO JIA
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For Md. Hasan, a 20-year-old in Chattogram, Bangladesh, a three-month computer course opened up the possibility of running his own business.

Raised by his grandparents in a low-income household, Hasan worked as a helper at a printing shop. He wanted better opportunities but lacked the technical skills to pursue them.

After receiving the computer training, he secured a job at a photocopy shop. He is now preparing to open a digital service and photocopy center in his community, offering printing, computer assistance and online services. He hopes the business will support his family and eventually create jobs for other young people.

"This training has given me valuable digital skills and the confidence to pursue my dreams," the United Nations Development Programme quoted Hasan as saying in a report on its website.

The training was provided through a project called Livelihoods Support for Urban Poor Communities in Bangladesh, which receives support from the China International Development Cooperation Agency through the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund. The fund is one of the financing mechanisms supporting the Global Development Initiative, which marks its fifth anniversary on Monday.

President Xi Jinping proposed the initiative in a video address to the general debate of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly on Sept 21, 2021.

"Development holds the key to people's well-being," Xi said. He outlined six guiding principles: prioritizing development, taking a people-centered approach, ensuring benefits for all, pursuing innovation-driven development, promoting

harmony between humanity and nature, and pursuing results-oriented actions.

The initiative seeks to accelerate implementation of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through cooperation in areas including poverty reduction, green development, industrialization, the digital economy and connectivity.

In June 2022, at the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development, Xi announced that China would upgrade its South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund into the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund and add \$1 billion to the \$3 billion already committed.

China and its partners have implemented more than 2,000 projects and provided training for more than 200,000 professionals since the GDI was launched five years ago, benefiting people in more than 120 countries, Xi said at the recently concluded 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, the capital of India.

Xi urged Global South countries to pursue people-centered development and advance the 2030 Agenda. He added that China would continue to implement the GDI to share opportunities and prosper together with all countries.

According to the Foreign Ministry, in the past five years, more than 130 countries and international organizations have expressed support for the GDI and participated in related cooperation, while nearly 100 countries and international and regional organizations have signed GDI cooperation documents with China.

The Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative has expanded to 88 countries, and China has established more than 30 cooperation mechanisms and platforms to help Global South countries strengthen their capacity for development.

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Golden start at Asian Games

Meng Xin, Wu Xiyao and Zhang Mingyu (back row, third, fourth and fifth from left) pose with other Team China members for a group photo during the victory ceremony for the women's team of modern pentathlon at the 20th Asian Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 in Anjo, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, on Sunday. China defended the women's team gold in modern pentathlon, securing Team China's first gold medal at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, with South Korea and Japan taking silver and bronze, respectively. The Games opened on Saturday and will run through Oct 4. YAO QILIN / XINHUA



Businesses look to Sino-US trade talks

By ZHONG NAN
and JIANG XUEQING

A new round of China-United States economic and trade talks in the US has raised expectations among US businesses and industry groups of further progress in bilateral commercial ties and greater certainty for companies operating across the two markets.

Jim Sutter, CEO of the US Soybean Export Council, said he is optimistic about the prospects of US-China economic and trade relations, adding that the US soybean industry looks forward to more positive developments.

Sutter said agricultural trade, particularly in soybeans, has long served as a ballast in the relationship between the two countries, and that role has not changed despite previous challenges. US farmers have long valued China as an important trading partner and their largest overseas market, he added.

"The USSEC values open and free trade. Predictable market access leads to smoother trade flows that benefit both sides," he

said. "The US' soy relationship with China is structural and foundational, not cyclical — the mutual benefit is clear, proven and enduring."

Also expressing confidence in the Chinese market, Liliana Lucioni, president of Coach China, said the US fashion company sees considerable room to further expand its presence in China, where it currently operates more than 350 stores in over 90 cities.

Tapestry Inc, Coach's parent company, announced last month that it had posted record global revenue of \$8 billion in its 2026 fiscal year, with China accounting for about 17 percent of the total. Revenue in China grew more than 30 percent for the full year, making the country one of the company's largest and fastest-growing markets.

Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng, who is also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, is leading a Chinese delegation to the US for economic and trade talks with the US from Saturday to Wednesday, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The two sides are holding consultations on economic and trade issues of mutual concern, guided by the important consensus reached by the two heads of state.

Robin Xing, chief China economist at Morgan Stanley, said greater strategic stability between China and the US would benefit both economies.

"While the two sides may continue to have divergent interests and priorities in certain situations and sensitive areas, competition is normal. But reaching consensus on the broader global development agenda and establishing a relatively stable strategic environment would be more beneficial to both sides," Xing said at an economic forum in Beijing on Saturday.

"Whether China wants to boost domestic demand and achieve more balanced economic growth, or the US wants to address the sustainability of its debt, both require relatively stable and moderate bilateral relations to achieve these goals," he added.

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Global science literacy body makes debut in Beijing

By LI MENGHAN
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A new international science organization made its debut on Sunday at the opening ceremony of the 2026 World Conference on Science Literacy in Beijing.

The World Organization for Science Literacy, which was registered in Beijing in June, aims to provide a global platform for science outreach and guide intelligent societies toward beneficial development. It has 32 founding members from 21 countries across Asia, Europe, South America, Africa and Oceania.

Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, said that China is simultaneously advancing scientific innovation and science popularization.

Li said the country has revised the Science and Technology Popularization Law, launched a national campaign to improve public science literacy, strengthened its science outreach capabilities and promoted the integration of science and culture.

The launch of the WOSL, Li added, demonstrates fruitful organizational and operational achievements and takes global science literacy development and cooperation to a new stage.

Wu Xiangping, president of the organization, pointed out the uneven levels of science literacy worldwide, highlighting persistent gaps across regions, genders and communities.

"Barriers to knowledge sharing continue to exist, and the benefits of science have yet to reach everyone," he said, adding that the organization will pool global wisdom to narrow science literacy gaps, contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

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SOUTHWEST CHINA TAPS ACOUSTICS OF ITS KARST LANDSCAPES

Experiential tourism offerings, wellness retreats and special concerts resonate deeply

By GUO JIATONG
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In a cave in Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, sound-healing practitioner Xiong Liying gently strikes the rim of a singing bowl with a soft mallet, and a clear, bell-like note rises from the bowl. As she circles the mallet steadily around its rim, the note swells into a long, even hum.

However, the bowls are only part of what Xiong listens to. Near the cave entrance, rain patters on leaves and wind moves through the foliage. Deeper inside, drops of water fall intermittently from the rock above.

"They fall from different heights and in different places, so each one can make a different sound," Xiong said. "Sometimes a drop falling into a metal vessel sounds different from one landing in a ceramic bowl, while the size and shape of the container can alter the note further."

For some young urban dwellers, the experience offers a moment to turn inward.

Chen Shiyu, a Shanghai resident who has been attending singing bowl sessions for the past two months, said: "Life in a big city moves fast. I'm constantly trying to keep up with work and everything else. But as soon as I hear the bowl, I feel grounded. My breathing slows down, and although I'm still aware of everything around me, I feel peaceful inside."

In Southwest China, where extensive karst landscapes are home to many caves, underground rivers and striking rock formations, sound is becoming another way to experience these subterranean spaces. Long visited for their visual spectacle, some caves are now being explored not only as places to see, but also as places to listen and reflect.

In Guizhou province, the sounds were not quite as calming, and the music scene was literally underground when the annual Colorful



Long Guohong, head of the Guizhou Provincial Ethnic Orchestra, conducts during a cave concert staged beneath a natural karst cave dome in Xiuwen county, Guizhou province, on Sept 6.

QU HONGLUN / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Guizhou Cave Music Week returned to Shuanghe Cave in Suiyang county for its fourth season. Performances spanning traditional, rock and electronic music were staged inside the cave, where organizers have developed "cave + music" alongside other experiential tourism activities.

Similar experiments have appeared elsewhere. In Yunnan province, a five-day cave coffee concert held in Lushui during the May Day holiday combined live music with a space already used for coffee, local culture and other tourism experiences.



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