

Mamdani wins: a slap in the face for Trump!

ZOHRAN KWAME MAMDANI is a member of the Democratic Party and the Democratic Socialists of America. He has served as a member of the New York State Assembly from the 36th district since 2021, representing the Queens neighbourhood of Astoria. Last week he was elected the city's first Muslim mayor beating former Governor Andrew Cuomo and Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa.

That Zohran Kwame Mamdani won an election in New York City with more than 50 per cent of the vote was a smack-down to the vicious campaign of Islamophobia, hatred of migrants and communist-baiting that infested the anti-Mamdani ads, such as those shown non-stop during the World Series baseball championship. That a camarilla of billionaires, Zionists and real estate moguls wasted \$50 million of their ill-gotten profits on those ads was more than encouraging.

The New York City mayoral election had become a referendum on those issues. Trump called Mamdani a communist, then endorsed Cuomo, a former Democrat. Cuomo baited Mamdani about 9/11 and ran AI-generated anti-Muslim ads too disgusting to describe.

That New York's voters flipped a finger at the vicious attacks on Muslims and the

vicious anti-communism is a step forward for the working class. After the election victory, *The New York Post* published a caricature of Mamdani holding a hammer and sickle flag and calling New York the 'Red Apple'.

Mamdani is no communist, nor does he claim to be a revolutionary. He declares himself to be a democratic socialist, that is, he supports reforms. His overall strategy is to move the Democratic Party, which is a pro-imperialist party, in a more progressive direction to win more workers and poor and oppressed people to active support.

Mamdani's mayoral election campaign has made a few very appealing, limited demands. Free and fast buses. Affordable housing. Universal child care. As limited as these demands are, the Wall Street and real estate billionaires who own New York City consider them an existential threat.

There is no way that the demands will be won merely through legislative manoeuvring or the words of an individual, no matter how eloquent or charismatic. It always takes struggle. And whether they call themselves reformists or revolutionaries, no one's aptitude for struggle is known until the struggle



breaks out.

But class struggle is possible, and the election victory can create a momentum that makes it more likely. Mamdani said his campaign attracted 100,000 active volunteers, mostly youths. Their activity and their enthusiasm won his election.

In his victory speech, Mamdani, talking about migrants, also said the following: "So hear me, President Trump, when I say this: to get to any of us, you will have to get through all of us".

This comment sets the stage for a serious struggle. There's little doubt Trump plans to send his Immigration and Customs Enforcement thugs (ICE) to go after migrants in New York as they have in Los Angeles, Washington, Chicago and elsewhere. An early test of the new administration might be how it helps mobilise to stop Trump from "getting to any of us".

The only way to defend migrant workers will be by keeping the election volunteers mobilized and recruiting others to join the resistance to ICE assaults on migrants as has already begun with small-

er forces. If this is done, those with a more revolutionary and anti-imperialist outlook should join the resistance struggle and, as the opportunity arises, demonstrate how a revolutionary approach makes victory possible.

It's not by disappointment or disillusionment with reformism that people turn to the necessary revolutionary solution. It's by revolutionaries showing how to win.

Workers World (USA)

FUND

Bumper last minute rush brought in £1,475 last week thanks to a generous donation of £1,000 from a supporter in Chigwell and contributions from Scotland, the Midlands and the North Country. All in all the grand total for October was £3,016 – sadly a few hundred pounds short of our target. But communists live to fight another day so let's see if we can make it up in November!

Back in 1917 the workers and peasants in the Czarist empire took destiny in their own hands. Led by the Bolsheviks they swept out the old order in a revolution that ultimately led to the establishment of the Soviet Union and the end of the First World War. Though the USSR is no more – brought down by revisionism and treason – the people's democracies in Asia and the Caribbean remain red beacons for the struggling masses all over the world.

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To save a stamp you can also use your credit or debit card to send contributions here:

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THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

The lessons of Huntingdon

THOUGH THE knife-man who went berserk on a train at Huntingdon is now safely behind bars we will have to wait for the police investigation to shed some light on the motives behind his apparently senseless rampage that wounded ten passengers and a member of the train crew whose timely intervention saved many others from getting hurt. What we can say is that many lives were saved by the cool response of the driver, who diverted the train to Huntingdon where the police and ambulance crews were waiting, and the member of the train crew who was seriously injured as he tried to stop the bloodshed.

Jeremy Corbyn has called on the Labour government to now look at “the very serious problem of some trains operating without any staff on at all”. The former Labour leader who leads the Independent Alliance bloc in parliament is urging the Home Secretary to “pause” the operation of trains without crew in the carriages while the rail unions call for no cuts as well as stab-vests for train crews and more transport police on platforms and carriages to prevent further tragedies. These demands must now be treated as a matter of urgency to restore confidence on our rail and underground networks.

This year alone, 522 transport police posts have been cut, with another 51 expected to go over the next two years through natural wastage. But RMT, the main railway union, says around 1,000 additional officers are needed to return to historic policing levels and ensure a visible police presence on stations and trains.

The union says new figures show the number of full-time equivalent British Transport Police officers has fallen to just over 0.8 per million passenger journeys, down from over 0.9 per million last year – an 11 per cent drop and almost a third fewer than in 2009/10, when there were 1.2 officers per million journeys.

RMT says these figures underline the need for a strong, visible BTP presence to protect passengers and rail workers alike. The union is calling on the Chancellor to ensure funding is made available in the upcoming Budget to rebuild policing levels and restore safety and confidence on Britain’s railways.

The return of the main-line services to public ownership is a golden opportunity for the government to ensure that the new “Greater British Railways” puts passenger safety top of the agenda of the restored national network. Whether they do, however, depends on the continued support for the passenger groups and railway unions who’ve been campaigning for years against the cuts.

As for those Tories who want to get rid of all the staff – drivers, train crews and platform staff – the facts speak for themselves. Computers and cameras may be able to operate some train systems like children’s train-sets but they cannot provide the safety and security that the public require and expect in this age of hi-speed travel.

Call for heightened railway security after stabbings

RAIL UNIONS have called for more protection for staff and passengers after the mass stabbings attack on a London North Eastern Railway (LNER) train in Cambridgeshire that took place last weekend. The incident has cast a fresh spotlight on transport safety in the country after budget cuts affecting police number and rail staffing.

Eddie Dempsey, the general secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, commonly known as the RMT, said he would be “seeking urgent meetings with government, rail employers and police to ensure that we have the strongest possible support, resources and robust procedures in place”.

The *Guardian* report said the attack on Saturday evening recalled the killing of a passenger on a train in Guildford in 2019 which made headlines because of its randomness and rarity.

The report also revealed that the only one railway operator and station with the kind of airport security that might have located weapons used on the LNER train is Eurostar at London St Pancras. And the report also argued that even a scaled-down version in everyday rail travel would probably prove unworkable, causing more queueing and delay than most passengers would regard as tolerable, and requiring a far bigger investment in infrastructure and people than the cash-strapped rail industry and the Treasury would countenance.

According to data provided by the *Guardian*, the overall number of recorded assaults on the railways in the UK has risen in recent year: it rose another 7 per cent to an annual high of 10,231 in figures released last week.

The Transport Salaried Staffs’ Association’s general secretary, Maryam Eslamdoust, urged LNER and the government “to act swiftly to review security, to support the affected workers, and to ensure nothing like this happens again.” Eslamdoust was also quoted in the *Guardian* report as saying that “safety and staffing go hand in hand. You cannot talk about safety while cutting back on the very people who keep others safe”.

Five casualties have now been discharged and one – a member of LNER rail staff who tried to stop the attacker – remains in a life-threatening condition, British Transport Police (BTP) said. “Having viewed the CCTV from the train, the actions of the member of rail staff were nothing short of heroic and undoubtedly saved people’s lives,” the transport police said.

Police earlier said the two men arrested included a 32-year-old male, a black British national, and a 35-year-old man, a British national of Caribbean descent. Both were born in the UK. In an update, they said the 35-year-old, who is from London, was not involved.

The high-speed train departed from Doncaster at

6.25 pm on Saturday evening, bound for London. The train had just left Peterborough station when the attack took place.

Police received their first emergency call at approximately 7.42 pm and immediately deployed armed officers. Within eight minutes of the first call, the two initial suspects were arrested after the train made an unplanned stop at Huntingdon station.

At this stage in the investigation, there is “nothing to suggest” that the stabbing attack is a terrorist incident.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the attack as an “appalling incident” that was deeply concerning. “My thoughts are with all those affected, and my thanks go to the emergency services for their response”.

The Tory leader, Kemi Badenoch, initially said she was “deeply disturbed” by events. Later, she posted an update online suggesting “there’s clearly something going wrong in our society right now. We cannot be a country where people are innocently going about their business and facing this level of violent crime”. Ed Davey, the Liberal Democrat leader took a different approach, focusing on the “very best of Britain” and the “extraordinary bravery” of those at the scene.

Senior Reform UK politician Zia Yusuf told the BBC that he would not like to see increased security at train stations, saying it would impose “enormous friction” on the lives of law-abiding people “as a result of the actions of a tiny minority”. But he argued for a significant increase in the use of stop-and-search powers “to saturation”, saying this would remove deadly weapons from circulation.

Global Times



RMT members protest against Driver Only trains.

Workers Notes

Stop arming Israel!

by New Worker correspondent

PROTESTERS rallied in Whitehall near the Prime Minister's residence in Downing Street last Thursday evening for an emergency demonstration condemning Israel's latest bombing of the Gaza Strip, which killed more than 100 Palestinians including 46 children. They called for an end to the genocide and an immediate arms embargo on the Zionist entity.



every day across England and Wales, the highest rate in over a decade, and nearly 60 per cent higher than in 2012-13.

Vehicle crime adds to the picture. According to the Guardian, about 11 cars are stolen every hour in Britain, prompting insurers and car-makers to strengthen vehicle security. Meanwhile, rising homelessness and visible drug use in urban areas have contributed to an atmosphere of disorder. Government figures estimate that 4,667 people were sleeping rough in England on a single night in autumn 2024, almost 20 per cent more than the year before and the third consecutive annual increase.

persistent

Knife crime remains one of the most persistent concerns. The Office for National Statistics recorded about 50,000 knife-related offences in England and Wales between March 2023 and March 2024. In the previous year, knives were used in 41 per cent of all homicides, averaging four deaths per week. High-profile attacks, including the recent stabbing outside a Manchester synagogue and a string of fatal incidents in London, have kept public fears heightened.

Young people are both victims and perpetrators. Between 2023 and 2024,

53 teenagers aged 13 to 19 were killed in knife attacks, accounting for 83 per cent of youth homicide victims. Many lower-level incidents of vandalism or disorder are handled informally to avoid criminalisation, leaving gaps in enforcement that police officials acknowledge.

Beneath these trends lies a steady erosion of neighbourhood policing. Years of budget cuts have reduced visible patrols and response times. Even with new funding, the Metropolitan Police faces a projected £260 million shortfall next year, a strain police leaders say will further weaken their ability to respond quickly, particularly to lower-level offences that shape public confidence.

Major violent incidents like the Halloween train stabbings remain rare. But for many people, the steady rise in thefts, rough sleeping, youth violence, and street-level disorder has fostered the sense that everyday safety is becoming more fragile. For newcomers from countries with lower street crime and more visible policing, the adjustment can be stark.

Without sustained investment in prevention and community policing, experts warn, public anxiety is likely to deepen, even if the statistical risk of violence remains relatively low.

Xinhua

Union victories in Museum -land

by New Worker correspondent

In 'Albertopolis', the academic nickname for the London home of colleges and museums that go back to the Victorian era, a small street union has at last won a recognition battle with the Science Museum.

On the advice of Albert, the Prince Consort, this slice of Kensington was purchased out of the profits from the Great Exhibition of 1851 to become a centre for the arts and science in the heart of the capital. This seat of learning soon became a magnet for students, scholars and visitors who still throng the hallowed halls of London's great museums. But behind the scenes there's been a protracted struggle between the poorly-paid workers who guard the galleries and a Management that, until now, had turned a blind eye to their just demands for more pay.

Now the United Voices of the World (UVW) has, after a long battle, secured recognition at the Science Museum after a ruling by the Central Arbitration Committee, the court which decides such matters.

Earlier this year this independent union, that organises beyond the bureaucratic reach of the TUC, and was involved in a long campaign involving not just the Science Museum, but the neighbouring Natural History and Victoria & Albert museums, won pay rises ranging from 13 to 23 per cent after months of strike action. The union boasts that in seven months, security guards secured more than they had in the entire previous decade from their employer, contractor Wilson James.

Prior to the strike many guards earned just £11.95 an hour, below the London Living Wage (LLW) of £13.15 at the time. Despite agreeing to pay the LLW, the highly profitable Wilson James delayed implementing it and initially refused to backdate payments.

On securing victory, the union quoted a female security officer at the Science Museum who said "with UVW, we put up a massive fight and won more in seven months than in years. We protested in the streets, went to trustees' offices, and stood up for ourselves across all three museums. It showed what's possible when you're united. We're proud of what we achieved, but we know the fight isn't over. The cost of living keeps going up, and pay needs to keep up too. We can't let them drop the ball".

On Tuesday, UVW announced its recognition victory by stating that the security guards are now preparing to negotiate a strong first pay deal in 2026. UVW say that for years, Science Museum bosses have ignored the guards but now they have no choice but to sit down and negotiate with UVW workplace representatives over pay, hours and holidays and their working conditions.

Petros Elia, the UVW General Secretary, said "this is a major breakthrough for security guards at the Science Museum, their bosses have tried to ignore, but they can't ignore them anymore. Now, UVW members will have a seat at the table and a collective voice in shaping their working lives. This victory is not only a testament to the unity, determination, and courage of the Science Museum's security team – it's

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a message to every worker across the UK; when workers stand together and refuse to back down, we win”.

One wonders why it has taken so long. Non-Departmental Public Bodies are not the worst employers, and in theory at least, support trade union membership. Directly employed staff at these museums belong to the mandarins' FDA (First Division Association), the high-castes' Prospect and the biggest civil service union in the country, PCS. But as the arbitrators say in the ruling in favour of UVW “in December 2024, it [the Employer] approached PCS union in a bid to extend its recognition agreement to cover the Science Museum. To its credit, PCS rejected this offer, knowing it was a tactic to exclude UVW. PCS proposed a joint recognition agreement with UVW, which the Employer was willing to accept despite knowing PCS had no mandate. This history confirms a pattern of behaviour: the Employer is not seeking the most representative union but the most convenient one. It is attempting to choose the union for its workers, a fundamental violation of the principle that this choice belongs to the workforce alone”.

Meanwhile at the British Library, in the slightly less lofty surroundings of King's Cross, strike action by PCS seems to have taken the scalp of the Library's CEO.

The union which repre-

sents the national library's support staff and library assistants, called 300 staff out on strike in a pay dispute. The Library initially proposed a pay award of 2 per cent at most, with some receiving as little as 1.6 per cent, the threat of action increased the offer to 2.4 per cent (or £800 if higher) which is only slightly more than half the rate of inflation. The Library claims it cannot afford more because of rising energy costs and building materials.

The dispute has caused the closure of the reading rooms. Access to exhibitions has been hit. A number of speakers at planned events have pulled out in solidarity.

The local PCS Branch Chair said “we have quite a few colleagues here who are forced to take a second job in the evenings in order to make ends meet each month”. He added that if there is no immediate movement by management to resolve the dispute amicably, the mandate for industrial action which stretches well into next new year will be used.

He also pointed out that staff have no confidence in management's abilities to run a national institution. Two years on from a cyber-attack in 2023 on-line access has only been partially restored with many research services remaining unavailable. Yet another restructuring plan is underway, which staff with experience of such matters fully expect to be a disaster.

On Tuesday the Library's

recently appointed CEO Rebecca Lawrence, suddenly resigned, for as yet unknown reasons, but presumably as a result of the dispute. Another side effect of the dispute is that plans to award directors with a £5,000 were abandoned when discovered by PCS.

The picket line has been visited by the grandees of the labour movement including PCS General Secretary Fran Heathcote, RMT General Secretary Eddie Dempsey and UCU General Secretary Jo Grady, largely because their own HQs are nearby and thus handy for a photo-shoot. Neighbouring MP Jeremy Corbyn turned up as did TUC General Secretary Paul Nowak. Oddly enough local MP, Sir Keir Starmer, has not put in an appearance...

...and at the Tate

...over 100 PCS members working at the Tate Gallery's four sites may soon be joining them. They are being balloted for possible strike action over pay this week.

The Tate initially offered a 2 per cent rise for workers in 2025/26. “This has now been increased to 3 per cent, but is still lower than the Civil Service Pay Remit and does not address the issues of low pay at the institution,” say PCS.

Again Tate bosses do well for themselves, with

senior leaders at Tate taking home total remuneration packages ranging from £195,000 to £320,000. The Art Newspaper partly refuted this by saying that these figures cited include increases in the value of Tate pensions and that all salaries at Tate are below £195,000 – so that's alright then.

The Tate Management said “Tate has made careful savings this year in order to invest in staff pay and still achieve a balanced budget. This includes a 3 per cent salary increase for most roles, including all employees on the lowest three pay bands, while directors are taking a zero per cent increase to help balance the overall costs.” An unimpressed Fran Heathcote declared that “food prices, rent, energy bills, and transport costs are all surging, but they expect our members to live off crumbs.”

As the Tate workers gear up for industrial action, the struggle at the National Coal Mining Museum in Wakefield, which began in August is continuing. As the 40 workers include mine guides who are veterans of the 1984 miners' strike they are no pushovers.

Unison has demanded an increase of 5 per cent or £1 per hour for all staff, whichever is greater, which it says is simply what Management agreed to recommend to the trustees. Management deny making any such promises and are now offering an extra 80 pence hourly.

Labour-run Wakefield Council recently passed a motion to withhold future grants to the Museum in solidarity with the striking workers in an effort to get management back to round the table. This means a loss of a £15,000 grants programme to support local schools and young people that was awarded through a competitive application process.

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**20 years ago
this week
in the New Worker**

**11 November
2005**

People making emergency calls to the police have been left waiting for up to 48 hours because of the failings of a new centralised system of call centres, according to a report issued last week by Her Majesty's

Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

But instead of returning to the old system, the Government is using the failings of the new system to urge for it to be privatised.

The police handle 67 million calls from the public every year, including 999 calls and the report, First Contact, says the police are now struggling to match the speed of response and professionalism of private sector call centres.

One experienced police communications officer contrasted the old system with the new. He said that

when he worked in a police station, he knew how long it would be before a police officer was sent to answer the call.

He added that “Jobs are prioritised so it is not uncommon for a caller to be waiting 24 or 48 hours (or longer) for an officer to attend. Ringing a caller back for the sixth or seventh time to apologise that no one has attended while trying to deal with an active queue of 40-plus incidents leads to stress.”

The report has stiffened the resolve of the Fire Brigade's Union to fight the introduction of the regionalised emergency fire

control rooms. The union's fears were backed up by the regional management boards (RMBs) and fire authorities, who have called on the Government to drop the plans for centralising control rooms.

The West Midlands RMB said: This is clearly a high-risk project. The impact of project failure or even the transitional period includes a very high likelihood of endangering lives.

FBU national officer Geoff Ellis said: “It is clear that almost the entire fire service doubts that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister knows

what it is doing. If it gets this wrong - and their track record suggests it may go badly wrong - it will endanger our lives and the lives of firefighters”.

The union has recently stepped up its campaign against centralised control rooms, with Labour MP John McDonnell raising the issue in Parliament. He told the House of Commons: “Front-line firefighters are deeply sceptical about whether the issue will work, about the cost savings and about whether it will lead to privatisation”.

Capitalism's finished – not us!

by Andy Brooks

NCP leader Andy Brooks joined social scientists, businessmen, solidarity workers and other communists for an economic seminar at the Chinese embassy in London on 24th October 2025. The Chinese ambassador, Zheng Zeguang, opened on the important decisions made at the Fourth Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China that week and the new developments in China and the opportunities it gave to the world that was the theme of the symposium and the discussion that followed.

THE WORLD TODAY stands at a crossroads of profound transformation and turbulence, with uncertainty pervading the globe. This is a time of sharpening contradictions – and the primary contradiction in the world today is between United States imperialism and the rest of the world it seeks to control and exploit.

While the imperialists live in the past with their “American Dream”, their “new world order” and “Making America Great Again” the Global South aims for the future – a better tomorrow that was charted out in Beijing by the leaders of the people’s democracies and the leaders of the Global South during the top-level discussions on the sidelines of the Victory Day celebrations in the Chinese capital in September.

Donald Trump and the other old men who lead the bourgeoisie in America and Europe have nothing to offer the new generation apart from tales of an imagined glorious past when imperialism in all its forms ruled most of the world. And all they can promise is never-ending pov-



Ambassador Zheng Zeguang at the seminar.

erty, forever wars and endless austerity in the future.

These venal politicians and the ruling class that they serve maintain that capitalism is the only game in town. And it is – but only for themselves. Capitalism, in the final analysis, is simply a system designed to perpetuate the rule of the landowners, industrialists and capitalists to ensure that a tiny handful of parasites can live the lives of Roman emperors off the backs of millions upon millions of working people. There is only one solution to

the capitalist crisis – socialism.

Humanity has passed through a number of historical epochs from the first glimpses of primitive communism in the Stone Age to the growth of feudalism and the emergence of capitalism and imperialism in the modern era. Today a new stage of development is underway in the people’s democracies on the road of socialist advance which will in turn make the qualitative advance to communism.

Now a new economic and

political counter to US-led imperialism is being built by China, Russia and the rest of the Global South. BRICS and the Belt & Road initiative provide an alternative to imperialism’s one-sided “deals” and “partnerships” that solely serve the interests of the trans-national corporations of the imperialist world.

In Beijing the Chinese leader Xi Jinping outlined five core principles that should be the driving force for global reform: sovereign equality, adherence to international law, multilateralism,

a people-centred approach, and focus on practical action. The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, backed China’s new initiative on global governance, calling it “timely and positive”. He reaffirmed Russia’s support for China’s proposals, which aim to build a more effective and fair international system amid Western dominance.

Today socialism in forms suited to specific local conditions is back on the agenda. The social progress and economic might of People’s China has been amazing. Measured in terms of real GDP (the real value of goods and services without such American features as exorbitant medical fees, high rents and legal costs) China is on a par with the USA. Its mixed economy does have certain risks but the cardinal task of the Communist Party of China is to ensure that no one is left behind. A prosperous society is being created for everyone to enjoy.

The other people’s democracies are also making excellent progress. Cuba has endured a blockade by the USA for over 60 years and Democratic Korea, Laos and Vietnam, who all took on and defeated the might of American imperialism in their fight for freedom, have recovered from almost total destruction and their governments have led the drive to build strong, prosperous, democratic and equal societies with the people as its true masters.

In China the government, led by the Communist Party, ensures that the fruits of economic and social progress are shared by the vast majority of the people, effectively avoiding issues such as wealth polarisation and social fragmentation that we see all the time in the West.

In Britain and the rest of the imperialist heartlands politics has become a game for those who serve the ruling class. Venal politicians tell us that we have free speech and democracy, but it’s democracy and freedom only for themselves. They have elections but only so that the



China’s Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric dam in the world.

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smallest number of people can manipulate the maximum number of votes. They have parliaments but they are all frauds designed to mask the fact that bourgeois government rests on the bourgeois state, which exists solely to serve the interests of the ruling class.

committed

In China the people's government remains committed to advancing the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of its people. This commitment has laid a solid foundation for long-term social stability and harmony. When people realise that the nation's development blueprint is closely linked to their own interests, they will come together with tremendous strength and unity to strive forward.

Stable growth, stable policies and stable expectations – this is what the people want. China's development follows a clear direction that is taken with confidence and determination – whether it is a top-level design for developing new quality productive forces based on local conditions, the solid advancement of common prosperity through high-quality development, or a systematic plan to accelerate the formation of a new development project.

serving

This is China's answer to Western calls for tariff walls and trade wars. China's approach to development is not about fighting for your own corner but about serving the people for the benefit of the entire world.

The 15th Five-Year Plan, which starts next year, is a carefully designed blueprint for realising the Chinese people's aspiration for a better life. Serving the people, the plan charts

the way forward for the People's Republic in building a community with a shared future for humanity that will make ever greater contributions to world peace and global development.

The history of humanity is a history of exploitation and class struggle. For century after century working people – the slaves, the peasants, the artisans, dreamt of justice and equality. But in the modern era with the rise of the working class and the development of scientific socialism it is now possible not only to dream of a better world but also to concretely build it.

proved wrong

The imperialists think that their guns will ensure that they can ignore the will of the people for as long as they like. But they were proved wrong in the 20th century and they will be proved wrong today. The days when people listened to the rich men who told us that the greatest virtue of humanity was the possession of the largest amount of money are over.

Great mass movements are again sweeping the continents. The masses are demanding social justice, democratic rights and an end to exploitation. It's capitalism that's finished – not us.

shaping

Everywhere we look in the capitalist world we see unemployment, homelessness, poverty, drug abuse and crime. The symptoms of industrial decline, inflationary pressures, stock market volatility and economic stagnation. This is capitalism. And working people are being made to carry the burden of its failure. But in People's China working people aren't simply reacting to global challenges – they are shaping the very future of our world.

Left landslide in Irish presidential election



by Vijay Prashad

CATHERINE Connolly, who was born in 1957, only became involved in active politics in 1999. Michael D Higgins, the outgoing president of Ireland (2011-2025), encouraged Connolly to join the Labour Party and stand for election.

Both Connolly and

Higgins (known in Ireland as Michael D) come from Galway, a city on the west coast of Ireland. Connolly was born there, the ninth of fourteen children – seven girls and seven boys – in a working-class family. Her mother died when Catherine was only nine, and her father, a home builder, relied on his older

children to care for the younger ones. In this household, Catherine Connolly developed a keen sense of service and discipline, which included involvement in local Catholic charities such as the Legion of Mary and the Order of Malta. This was, as she describes it, Connolly's road to 'her socialism'.

As a lawyer in Gal-

way with a young family (two boys), Connolly ran for and won a seat on the Galway City Council in 1999, later becoming Mayor of Galway from 2004 to 2005. Michael D had been Mayor from 1990 to 1991. Just as she followed him to City Hall, Connolly has now followed Michael D to the presidency of Ireland.



Michael D Higgins with Catherine Connolly on a peace demo.

Ireland is a country divided by British colonialism: most of the population lives in the Republic of Ireland (population 5.2 million), while a part of the island's population lives in the northern counties (population 1.5 million) still controlled by the United Kingdom. There are between 50 million and 80 million people around the world, mostly in the Americas, who claim Irish descent (the most famous person, now featured on an Irish stamp, was Che Guevara). Half the population in the six northern counties have Irish citizenship (while there are nearly three million diaspora Irish with citizenship), making them eligible to vote for the president.

all of Ireland

While the president strictly speaking represents the Republic – and even then, in a largely ceremonial role – the post has been shaped by its previous nine holders as a pulpit from which to speak for all of Ireland. Michael D, a poet as well as a politician, has transformed the post, shaping it into a moral lectern from which to advocate for Ireland's role in the world based on larger values. This is a post that Catherine Connolly will undoubtedly enjoy.

Both Catherine Connolly and Michael D are unabashedly left-wing, absorbed by the struggle for people to live with dignity in Ireland itself and gripped by severe global challenges, particularly those posed by US imperialism. Connolly said she first entered politics twenty-six years ago because of the housing crisis, the 'defining social crisis of our time'. This remains the most important problem for young people in Ireland, many of whom find it impossible to rent decent accommodation near their places of work.

In the 1990s, Ireland's economy

boomed through the liberalisation of finance, earning the country the nickname 'Celtic Tiger' (a phrase first used by a Morgan Stanley analyst). A low corporate tax rate and membership of the European Union allowed the country to attract tech money and real estate investment. This drove up housing prices, which have not collapsed despite the bust of the Celtic Tiger after the 2008 credit crisis (Ireland suffered a similar fate as Iceland, but with less prison time for its own banking elite). It is estimated that the country suffers a housing shortage of a quarter of a million units, that a new teacher in Dublin would have to use their entire salary to pay rent for a modest apartment, and that while wages rose at 25 per cent between 2012 and 2022, property prices increased by 75 per cent. Connolly spent most of her campaign focused on the direct problems faced by the Irish people, although the presidency can only lift issues into the public debate and advise the elected government.

more problems

When I visited Michael D in the presidential residence in 2014, he was gripped by the waste of human resources on war and war-making to the exclusion of solving problems of human life. He was interested in why so much of social wealth was being spent on warfare, when it was clear that war-making (such as with the US War on Terror) merely created more problems than it solved. We discussed the issue of Irish neutrality and how Ireland had slipped from that core principle by allowing the Americans permission to land warplanes and CIA planes at Shannon airport, the closest airport to Galway. Connolly will follow Michael D into the presidential office with this same concern. She

has made vital statements not only against US war-making, but against the Israeli genocide of the Palestinians. In June, Connolly called Israel a 'terrorist state'. It is likely that these sorts of statements will continue to be made from Dublin.

Since Éamon de Valera won the prime ministership in 1932 as the leader of Fianna Fáil (the Republican Party), the country has been led back and forth by Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael (the Irish Party). Both are now parties of the right (with close links to the political elite in the United States) and have, since 2020, been in a grand alliance for the prime ministership. Connolly ran against Fine Gael's Heather Humphreys, who put up a very poor show.

backed by left

Though running as 'independent', Connolly was backed by the broad left: Cúiteamh 100 (100% Redress), the Communist Party of Ireland, the Green Party, the Labour Party, People Before Profit, Sinn Féin, the Social Democratic Party, and the Workers' Party, as well as a raft of organisations and movements. The backing of Sinn Féin, the second largest party in parliament, was crucial; the party brings to bear the weight of the republican tradition, which is focused on the unification of Ireland, and the weight of the party's working-class roots in the cities where the housing question is paramount.

While Connolly has said that she will represent the entire country, she will be largely the voice of the working-class and the oppressed – not the Irish landlords and bankers. Nor will she be kind to US imperialism and its allies.

People's Democracy (India)

France: Ex-president's jailing reflects political turmoil

by G Dunkel

FORMER French President Nicolas Sarkozy began a 5-year prison sentence Oct. 21. He was convicted of conspiring to use money from the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in his 2012 re-election campaign. He lost that year's run-off election by a close vote.

Beyond corruption, the youth of Paris's impoverished suburbs had much to protest when Nicolas Sarkozy was interior minister.

In 2011 Sarkozy ordered French jets to attack Gaddafi's government in Libya as the first step in a massive Nato intervention, with the USA being the major player. The Nato war tore Libya apart, destabilised much of North Africa and the Sahel and resulted in the murder of Gaddafi. None of the Nato war-makers were tried for this crime.

Sarkozy is also known for his gratuitous insults against youths of the suburban housing projects who were rebelling against police brutality. He was the minister of the interior at that time, 2005.

After Sarkozy's one presidential term ended in 2012, he developed a very

profitable consulting and advising business using his connections to some of the biggest French companies. His conviction in 2025 was the result of an extensive examination of his fraudulent activities over many years.

While the details of his conviction focus on fraud and corruption, that a former president was jailed is a reflection of the intensified class struggle in France and how this sharpens the conflict within the pro-capitalist parties vying for office.

Sarkozy's connections got him a private cell with a TV; since he is a former president (the first French president to be incarcerated), he has two bodyguards, but he still is in prison. His closest supporters claim that French presidents should be above the law. The French Communist Party in an official statement said the law applies to everyone and Sarkozy was treated justly.

Current President Emmanuel Macron is in a weak position to grant Sarkozy clemency. (Sarkozy had endorsed the current banker-president.) Macron's prime minister, Sébastien Lecornu, is just hanging on by the thinnest of margins.

Lecornu had to resign on 6th October after losing a vote of no-confidence in parliament. Macron appointed him for a second time on 10th October. Lecornu survived a new no-confidence vote only because the Socialist Party abstained after he promised to suspend the detested pension reforms. (The Socialist Party is socialist in name alone. It has frequently directed the government at the service of the imperialist French ruling class.)

The French parliament is divided into three, nearly equal parts: a popular left called the New Popular Front, a centre including Macron's Renaissance party and the right wing, which includes Marine Le Pen's National Rally along with Sarkozy's Republican party.

The government will not survive a vote if the left and right both vote against it.

The Socialists claim its opposition is what forced the government to suspend the very unpopular pension reforms, which are really cuts to pensions. The big union confederations in France – the General Confederation of Labour (CGT) and the French Democratic Confederation of Labour (CFDT) – point instead to the months of general strikes and mass mobilisations that they held against the pension cuts.

The budget Lecornu is proposing funds the suspension of the pension cuts with cuts in other services and higher taxes. The CGT has called for a mobilisation against his planned 2026 budget starting on 6th November and continuing for several days.

CGT Secretary-general Sophie Binet told the media: "This budget is very dangerous. It absolutely must be fundamentally amended."

Workers World (USA)



Sarkozy waves goodbye on prison day.

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

There is a remarkable difference in the way world leaders behave and react. We have on the one hand the arrogance of the bully who attempts to intimidate and coerce others into acceptance of a dodgy deal. A shallow individual who basks in his own glory before departing to leave others to sort out the mess. On the other hand we have a world leader who stands tall, is sincere and seeks co-operation and understanding for mutual benefit. A leader who does not make unreasonable demands or threats but one whom seeks peaceful development and friendship.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting took place in Gyeongju, south Korea from 31st October to 1st November 2025. This year's theme for the gathering was 'Building a Sustainable Tomorrow: Connect, Innovate, Prosper'. President Trump did not attend as he wanted to be in Washington to host the vitally important annual

White House Halloween party. President Xi Jinping of China arrived at Gyeongju following a conference with Donald Trump at which a partial truce had been agreed in the American trade war. The APEC leaders were meeting at a time of uncertainty with the fragile global economy hit by the threats of tariffs and trade restrictions imposed by the USA.

Chinese President Xi Jinping played a key centre stage role at the conference. He called for multilateralism and free trade and said that China's door will not close but will open wider. The Chinese leader said that the Asia Pacific region faces growing uncertainty and destabilisation factors. He stressed that "the rougher the seas, the more we must pull together". Xi also took the opportunity to have discussions with Japan's new leader Sanae Tajaichi, south Korea's Lee and Mark Carney of Canada.

Washington's attempts to maintain its world hegemony and cripple China's development remain cardinal objectives of current American policy. An agenda based upon an

assumed exceptionalism with a neo-colonial mindset. States are starting to ask what does it mean to be an ally of the USA?

They are promised great things but in reality they are pawns to be exploited. A number of those attending APEC 2025 now seek to break away and re-establish friendly win-win relations with People's China.

**John Maryon
Suffolk**

Dear Comrades

The deep state in Britain is beginning to copy what they do in the USA. We are quite familiar with reading about random shootings and killings in the USA carried out by strange people who are passed off as nutcases.

There are always political reasons for these killings. It's about giving the state more power or moving society in a particular direction. The people who carry out these attacks on others are mind-controlled deep state assets. These individuals will usually be found to have some previous connection with law enforcement. Or they are from psychiatric institutions. They are then put through a process of mind control hypnotherapy, and programmed to attack others, with someone using a trigger word to set them off, usually shooting in the case of the USA, or knife attacks in the case of Britain.

The reactionary elements in the British deep state appear to have a clear agenda. Since the election of the Labour Party with a large majority in Parliament, the right-wing elements in the media and the reactionary elements connected to the deep state are going all out to turn people against Labour. They are not only using the immigration issue but also mind controlled young black men

or youth who have fallen into their clutches, most probably gleaned from psychiatric institutions are being used to carry out horrendous, mindless attacks on members of the public. These mentally ill people have no idea what is being done to them, or what they are being used for.

Most of the Left have no idea that the deep state exists and what it is capable of getting up to. The Left does no research into the deep state, and is certainly not in a position to expose it. The deep state agenda in Britain is to turn the country to the right. Having mentally ill mind controlled black men launching mindless attacks on members of the public, is one of the ways they are seeking to turn the country to the right.

**Tony Clark
London**

Dear Comrades

John Maryon, Lucas Leiroz and a Kiev observer (New Worker 17th October 2025) all gave

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Diary

UNTIL 14 NOV

P21 Gallery: Each Child a Light, collaborative quilt project in memory of children killed in Gaza. P21 Gallery, 21-27 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD.

TUE 11–SUN 16 NOV
Havana Glasgow Film Festival. 10th Anniversary Details from <https://hgfilmfest.com/>

WED 12 NOV

Manifesto Press: Book launch: John McNally's State of Struggle on Civil Service trade unionism. 18:15, MML 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU.

THURS 13 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: UK plc in crisis: what can Marx tell us? 18:30 Hybrid panel discussion. Book on MML website.

SAT 15 NOV

Viva Venezuela: stand against fascism, imperialism and war. 13:00-18:00, Bolivar Hall, 54 Grafton Way, London, W1T 5DJ

Book on Eventbrite.

SAT 15 NOV

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: March for peace and planet. 13:30, All Saints Park, Oxford Road, Manchester.

SAT 15 NOV

Friends of Korea: Stand of the DPRK and its People Against Imperialist Intervention. 15:00-17:00, Hybrid: Vida's Café, 2b Saltoun Rd, London SW2 1EP. For Zoom link email friendskorea@yahoo.co.uk by 14 Nov.

SUN 16 NOV

Working Class Movement Library: Radical Readings. 14:00-17:00, Maxwell Hall, University of Salford, Crescent, Salford M5 4WT.

THURS 20 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: Vic Clarke: Reds on the Green: Clerkenwell and Chartism. 16:00, In person, MML.

SAT 22 NOV

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Workers Organising Against Genocide Trade Union Conference. 10:00-17:00, London. Register on PSC website.

SAT 22 NOV

CND: Stop British nuclear expansion: how to reverse the government's disastrous war drive. Conference. Green House, 244-254

Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9DA.

SAT 22 NOV

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Séan Scullion on his book, Churchill's Spaniards, about Spanish Republicans in the British army in WWII. 14:00, Central Hall Manchester, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ.

TUES 25 NOV

Peoples Assembly Against Austerity: Eve of budget protest. 18:00, opposite Downing Street, Whitehall, London SW1

THURS 27 NOV

General Federation of Trade Unions Educational Trust: The Matchwomen's Strike. 19:00. Online talk. Book on GFTUET website.

SAT 29 NOV

Scottish TUC: St Andrew's Day Anti-Racism & Anti-Fascism March and Rally. Muster 10:30 Barrowlands Park, Glasgow G1 5BG for march to 12:00 rally at Adelaide Place, 209 Bath St, Glasgow G2 4HZ

SAT 29 NOV

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: International Day for Palestine. Demonstration, central London Details TBA

SAT 29 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: Manfred Sohn: Engels and Historical Optimism. Engels Memorial Lecture. 11:00 - 12:30. Online. Book on MML or WCML website.

SAT 29 NOV

Society for the Study of Labour History: Book Launch: Hery Dee's Militant Migrants: Clements Kadalie, and Black Workers in Southern Africa, 1896-1951. 16:00, MML.

SUN 30 NOV

Scottish Morning Star Autumn Conference: Fighting for Women's Liberation in 2025, 12:00-16:00, Scottish TUC, 8 Landressy Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow G40 1BP. Book on Eventbrite

UNTIL 8 DEC

Prince Charles Cinema: Films of Andrei Tarkovsky's season. (Soviet film director 1932-86.) PCC, 7 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BY. Detail and tickets on PCC website.

readers not only historically valuable insights but also quite disturbing ones regarding Ukraine.

In February 2022, when Russia began its special military operation to aid the resistance in eastern Ukraine against the murdering neo-fascist regime of western Ukraine, it was far from being unprovoked.

For example, a long list of senior Western military experts and political commentators had repeatedly made clear that the eastern expansion of Nato, and particularly talk of incorporating Ukraine was likely to lead to war.

There is no question that the Western leaders knew that plans to bring Ukraine into Nato, first discussed in 2008, would be seen by Russia as an act of aggression.

A key aim of the West's war propaganda is to stop the Western public from even trying to understand why the war in Ukraine happened. This, of course, is a deliberate policy. Foreign Office officials rake over the historical causes of past and present wars in immense detail in internal documents and discussions. In public, however, the Ukraine war is justified

in the simplest possible terms, normally as a response to "senseless Russian aggression".

Any attempt by critics of this Nato proxy war to bring it, for instance, into a historical context, is considered to be virtually treasonable – the background has to be buried.

A McKerl
Fife

Dear Comrades

Good News from Russia. Jose Adrian Gallardo whose nom de guerre was 'Rogy' aged 53. Ariel Achor aged 25. Mariano Franco, alias 'Sisu', 47 years old. All from the delightful country of Argentina who came to Ukraine to murder Russians have themselves been killed in action. In July this year a similar fate met another Argentinian mercenary, 39 year old Emmanuel 'Coca' Vilte. This clown had been out and about in Ukraine since 2022 so it was about time. A large number of Argentinians have been likewise sent to meet their maker. The bells are ringing in Hull and being drank too.

Elijah Traven
Hull

Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political
affairs correspondent

YET ANOTHER charity is involved in an industrial dispute. This time it is the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA). On Wednesday a 24-hour strike by staff belonging to Unite took action after rejecting a two year pay offer which amounts to a significant real terms pay cut.

The offer amounted to an average of only 1.6 per cent, with some workers having their pay frozen. According to Third Force News, the trade paper for Scottish charities, a one-off payment worth around two per cent for this year along with a two per cent offer for 2026 has been tabled. The SSPCA recently became a 'living wage' employer, but Unite fear they are planning to opt out.

Unite's members at the SSPCA look after the feeding, cleaning, and general health of animals. This includes the veterinary team, animal rescue workers, inspectors who deal with animal neglect and enforce entry to rescue animals, along with helpline workers who deal with calls from the public.

Unite points out that despite years of low pay the new CEO earns about £100,000 annually. The last accounts show it had unrestricted funds of £39.34 million. It is not surprising that SSPCA is loaded, it is much easier to raise money for cute little animals than drug addicts.

Unite industrial officer Billy Thomson said "Unite's members at the SSPCA have to take this action because their employer will not reward them with a decent pay rise. The SSPCA seem to have no issue giving their new chief executive a bumper pay award while also sitting on tens of millions in reserves". He added that, in contrast: "the workers feel utterly let down and undervalued by their employer".

The SSPCA dismissed the action saying "62 out of 139 members have voted in favour of strike action. That equates to 14 per cent of our paid workforce. The total number of helping hands, including volunteers, is 1,342, so 19 out of 20 did not choose strike action".

Another grouse the workers have is that until recently workers were carrying and using a controlled substance to euthanise animals despite SSPCA having received advice that this would be illegal for anyone except qualified veterinary surgeons.

It is common for multinational oil companies to deplore taxes on multinational oil companies. However, they have found an unexpected ally in the shape of the Aberdeen

branch of the Cyrenians, the homeless charity. Its CEO, Donna Hutchison, said the energy profit levy (EPL – invented by that friend of the poor, Rishi Sunak) was contributing to "declining investment, job losses, and growing economic insecurity" as "each job lost in the energy supply chain increases pressure on housing, mental health services and support networks".

That is certainly a novel argument for allowing billionaires to keep more of their billions. The charity's official pre-budget submission argued that the levy on oil industry profits

will worsen rather than assist the poor of Aberdeen. This might just be because the charity is one of those which is largely funded by the SNP government and local council who both disprove of taking money from shareholders. It also brings them into line with the Tories who have been demanding that Chancellor Rachel Reeves does not wait until 2030 to axe the windfall tax.

At the Parish Pump Again

October saw two local authority by-elections which enable us to take the pulse of the nation. In Ayr's North ward a contest was held due to the death of an Independent councillor. On

a 27.8 turnout another Independent known for installing garden fences triumphed, but only after eight counts. The winner secured only a quarter of first preference votes, with the SNP slightly behind. Labour declined slightly from 23 to 20 per cent, with Reform in fourth place, leaving the Tories, two other Independents and the Liberal Democrat to share out the remaining 14 per cent. There was better news for the SNP when an 18-year-old captured the Stirling East ward on Stirling Council.

The contest was caused by a Tory councillor resigning for work reasons. On a turnout of 26 per cent he gained 36 per cent of the first preference votes, before finally triumphing on the sixth count. Labour came a distant second on 23.5, with Reform snapping on their tails with 23, with the Tories, Greens and Liberal Democrat sharing out the remainder.

Hot Air

A Scottish TUC report has thrown interesting light on the success of the late Alex Salmond's promise to make Scotland the "Saudi Arabia of renewables" in the energy stakes. For every million pounds invested precisely one job has been created in the low carbon and renewable energy sectors (LCRE). In contrast £1 million invested in old-fashioned fossil fuel companies generated 14.2 jobs in 2022 and 13.4 jobs in 2023.

At present LCRE firms employ 33,500 people, a figure which

has risen in recent years. In contrast the number working in oil and gas is over 90,000. STUC General Secretary Roz Foyer said "our research shows that despite wind continuing to make up more than half of the exports, imports and turnover in the low carbon economy, there is a chronic disconnect in the number of jobs being created".

not the first time

The STUC demands (not for the first time) that the SNP Government needs to support the domestic manufacturing of wind turbines. Indonesia and China are the main sources of wind turbines even though there are plenty of Scottish shipyards and oil rig yards lying empty.

However, with the education system in free-fall it might be difficult to find skilled workers these days. Colleges Scotland warns that the further education sector was in a state of crisis, with eleven colleges nearly bankrupt, after years of "chronic underinvestment". Little wonder that BAE, the naval shipyard, had to hire 300 welders from the Philippines due to a shortage in what was once the world's leading shipbuilding nation.

The lessons of the sorry saga of the now derelict BiFab yards in Fife have not been learnt. In February 2021 BiFab was sold off for a pittance by the SNP Government after investing £37 million in the failing company whose yards were perfectly capable of producing components for wind turbines...

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Dark thoughts for dark times

by New Worker correspondent

SLAVERY, oppression and the fight for freedom. That's Dark Thoughts – a project by Therapeutic Productions that highlights the work and impact of significant African intellectuals in the Western world. The project aims to influence urban society's culture, foster positive engagement, and increase community knowledge.

Therapeutic Productions is a non-profit initiative that uses film, music and art to raise awareness of social issues and provide arts-based therapy services to young people, particularly those in gang-affected environments and/or with mental health difficulties. They advance participation in arts to both upskill and empower communities by creating stories and delivering interventions focused on technical skills, soft skill development, employability and cultural awareness.

They worked in collaboration with the award-winning Two Side studios, the Museum of London Docklands and a range of figures to preserve, identify and promote the work of black philosophers

and intellectuals in Western countries. The project was funded by Croydon Voluntary Action, the MSN fund, Westfields and the Woodward charitable trust.

Part one of the series is focused on the life of abolitionist Ottobah Cugoana, a freed slave, who in the 18th century campaigned to end the slave trade as a philosopher, activist and author in London.

Jerome Sewell, the Managing Director of Therapeutic Productions, said "we are proud to champion this important history and preserve the work of an inspirational figure. We thank our partners, funders and artists for making this a

reality".

The series features a range of leading thinkers, scholars and community advocates including professors who are the world's leading authorities in their subject areas.

They worked with illustrators, animators, musicians and film-makers to create this production and collaborated with the Museum of London Docklands who provided a workshop and allowed them to film in their galleries. In the end the artists created over 20 soundtracks, paintings, animations and filmed interviews which went into this work. You can check it out yourself for free on YouTube.



The legendary Jack White and his Ho Chi Minh city-based Skeleton Goode.

Missing the big gigs

by A F Reeves

I MISS the big gigs. Just over a week after my jaunt to Tokyo, with the sound of Oasis still ringing in my ears, it is possibly an unfair time to write this. It may also feel a little unfair on local artists who graft and put on great shows, and on those in the industry who've already successfully brought international acts to Vietnam. I don't intend to sound unappreciative. I just want to start a conversation.

Back in the UK, gigs and festivals were a big part of my life. I covered the country and booked holidays off to get my fix. Like travel and football, they were the things I worked hard to afford, my respite from the mundanity of working life. The little X on the calendar that made the tougher weeks easier and I'm grateful to the Loud Minority crew for bringing over the likes of Jack White and Frank Turner in recent years and giving me that feeling back.

I'm excited for

whatever the music scene in Vietnam conjures up next, and I'll support it with my time and money. I've put up posters, handed out flyers, even worked the door. I've written in support of the local scene in Hanoi and events such as last Friday's multi-artist Halloween special at Outpost will always pack a punch. But still, I miss the big gigs.

What even is a 'big gig'? Was Blackpink not a big gig? Hard to say. Alicia Keys is coming to town, but I know neither Ho Chi Minh City nor Hanoi will be on the next Oasis tour, and I'm not expecting the Arctic Monkeys to jet in anytime soon. More likely, the artists I follow, the ones that make me viscerally excited, just don't have Vietnam on their radar, and they're not on the average Vietnamese fan's radar either. That, it seems, is a lethal combination for my hopes of seeing larger, predominantly Western acts play in my adopted homeland.

My question, why? If Seoul and Tokyo can command these tours and have the fan

bases to sell out arenas over multiple nights, why not Vietnam too? The answer's surely multifaceted: history, distance, stature, venues, politics and more but I'd genuinely like to hear from both fans and those within the industry. In fact, if this piece can be a platform for context, corrections or counterpoints, even pointing out the narrowness of my perspective, I invite it.

I'm sure all of these aspects paint a broader picture. My thoughts? That interest is patchy among local fans and, disappointingly, in the expat crowd too. I remember being surprised and a tad disappointed to see tickets for Jack White's last Ho Chi Minh City show still available, despite knowing fans of his who didn't attend. Their reasons, I'm sure valid, but still potentially contributory to the wider issue.

Am I out of touch on this one? Will we ever see a steadier stream of recognisable names here? Definitely, maybe?

VNS

by New Worker
correspondent

LAST Saturday Theo Russell represented the New Communist Party at a rally in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin demanding “Hands off Venezuela”, organised by the Coop Anti-war Café.

Speakers at the rally included Nancy Larenas from the Communist Party of Chile, Maren Crosnest and Renate Döhring from the United Front for Latin America, Heinrich Buecker from the Anti-war Café, and Cornelia Praetorius from Mothers against War.

In his contribution Theo Russell said that “Five or ten years ago, some people were comparing the current world situation with the 1930s,

Hands off Venezuela!



but it is now clear that the capitalist system is now in a deep and very dangerous crisis”.

He noted that across Western Europe the old political order was crumbling with new right wing

parties gaining millions of votes, but said “we also need to be positive, last year we saw the far-right an-

ti-migrant, anti-Muslim rioters in Britain vastly outnumbered by people from the local communities,

we have seen millions marching on solidarity with the people of Palestine, and two weeks ago over five million people protesting in cities across the United States against Donald Trump’s repressive and autocratic policies”.

The Coop Anti-war Café (<http://coopcafeberlin.de/>) runs a café, gallery, shop and meeting venue two blocks from the Alexanderplatz at 3 Rochstrasse and it is usually open from Monday to Saturday from 5.30 pm to 2 am, however it’s best to confirm before visiting by emailing info@hbuecker.net or calling 0049 15154 161869.

It has been a centre for organising anti war and political action for 25 years.

Does artificial intelligence kill jobs?

by Jim McMahan

DONALD Trump was well-known before becoming president by the image of him mouthing “You’re fired” on television. Now Trump is exposed for trying to cover up the built-in problem of unemployment under capitalism. His attempted cover-up was the firing of the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dr. Erica McEntarfer, for simply reporting the news that the 4.3 per cent unemployment rate remained steady and very few jobs had been added.

But there is a relatively new feature to

the employment picture, and that’s artificial intelligence (AI), a great acceleration of automation. Opinions about automation tend to depend on whether you’re a worker or a boss. The bosses say automation creates jobs, ignoring losses of working-class jobs, while the workers say automation kills jobs. Workers under capitalism know that great advances in productivity aren’t in their interest.

The crisis of jobs can best be seen at Amazon which, along with a few other monopolies, is trying to take over the distribution markets of capitalism. If the top bosses had their way, Amazon would

dominate the whole retail and wholesale sectors of the capitalist economy. Amazon has opened many warehouses and hired thousands of workers in recent years, but now comes the news that the company’s hiring is going to be over, and the company hopes to replace more than half a million workers with robots! Who knows what the final cost of jobs lost because of Amazon’s monopoly practices will be?

This revelation is outlined in internal strategy documents viewed by the New York Times. While Amazon wants to eliminate hiring by using robots instead of people, the com-

pany expects to sell twice as many products by 2033. At Amazon’s most “advanced” warehouse in Shreveport, Louisiana, entry workers make only \$20 an hour. There are 1,000 robots in the warehouse which, along with AI, have allowed Amazon to eliminate 25 per cent of its workers. Amazon aims to spread the Shreveport plan to about 40 more warehouses soon.

“Once they figure out how to do this profitably, it will spread to other employers,” says Daron Acemoglu, an MIT economic scientist.

But the workers have a right to a job for their own maintenance and survival,

and they will fight for it! The right to a job is a life-or-death issue.

Beyond Amazon there has been a big increase in lay-offs at high-tech and AI companies, with 76,000 workers having been cut in 2025. Rivian laid off 800; Intel, 21,000; HP, 2,000 and Salesforce, 1,000. Microsoft laid off 15,000 workers in May and June on top of 10,000 in 2023. The Tech Layoff Tracker says that so far in 2025 there have been 579 separate lay-offs impacting 161,859 people at tech companies.

AI has been called the greatest technological transformation of the modern era. But don’t let anyone

tell you it creates jobs under the capitalist social order. Under capitalism AI is a technology that can and will be used to increase the exploitation of the working class and oppressed peoples globally.

AI by itself could help eliminate the drudgery of work and open up many possibilities for enhancing workers’ quality of life. The working class needs to be informed of its possibilities and dangers, but it’s not even consulted and has been misinformed. There are efforts among the working class and unions to reign in the damages caused by artificial intelligence.

Workers World (USA)

Gaza officials warn thousands still buried under rubble



by Ed Newman

GAZA OFFICIALS have warned that the bodies of more than 10,000 Palestinians remain buried beneath the rubble of buildings destroyed during Israeli bombardments, urging immediate international intervention to assist recovery efforts.

Gaza's National Committee for Missing Persons said in a statement on Thursday that the "humanitarian situation in Gaza requires urgent intervention to end the suffering of thousands of families waiting to know the fate of their children."

It called for the immediate entry of international rescue teams and heavy equipment to help retrieve the trapped and missing.

The committee condemned Israel's ongoing restrictions on vital rescue machinery as "clear violation of international humanitarian law" and appealed

to the global community "to act swiftly to save lives and uphold human dignity".

Only 28 per cent of the required number of aid trucks have entered the Gaza Strip since the American "peace plan" was announced, according to Gaza's Government Media Office.

The Gaza Government office said that Israel is carrying out "its policy of strangulation".

The occupation, it said, allows the entry of larger quantities of "nutritionally worthless goods such as soft drinks, chocolate, processed meals, and chips, which reach the markets at prices more than 15 times their real value due to the occupation's control over supply chains".

This, the office said, confirms Israel's "reliance on a policy of engineering starvation, controlling food security, and directly targeting civilian lives".

Officials said that the shortage of special-

ised rescue equipment has made it nearly impossible to continue searching for the thousands of victims still trapped beneath the ruins.

Meanwhile, Israel has continued violating the ceasefire as its forces have killed more than 200 Palestinians since the truce went into effect.

Hamas's military wing, the Qassam Brigades, said it had lost contact with its resistance fighters in Rafah, which was largely destroyed and taken over by Israeli forces during the genocide.

Approximately 200 Palestinian resistance fighters are thought to remain trapped within the city's underground tunnel network. Israeli extremist finance minister Bezalel Smotrich claimed this week that Israel is "close to killing" the 200 trapped resistance fighters, after reports indicated Tel Aviv had rejected proposals for their safe passage.

Reports also sug-

gest that the United States is attempting to persuade Israel to allow the fighters to surrender their weapons to a third party – Egypt, Qatar or Turkey – in exchange for amnesty.

An American official told *Axios news* that Israel "needs to grow up" and not let a "tactical" issue undermine the Gaza ceasefire agreement.

Since October 2023, Israeli shelling and airstrikes have continued to level Palestinian homes, hospitals, and water networks all across Gaza, leaving the Palestinian territories' infrastructure in ruins. Gaza's Health Ministry puts the death toll of the Israeli genocidal war at over 68,875.

The US-brokered ceasefire came into effect on 10th October. However, the Israelis have committed more than 200 violations of the ceasefire agreement, according to the director of Gaza's Government Media Office.

Radio Havana Cub

Putin–Trump summit back on track

by Anton Kulikov

HUNGARIAN Prime Minister Viktor Orbán says that the long-awaited meeting between the presidents of Russia and the United States, Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump, could soon take place in Budapest. Only one or two key issues remain unresolved between the two sides in their negotiations on the Ukraine conflict, Orbán told the media. "If these remaining questions are resolved, a peace summit in Budapest could be held within days" said Orbán, adding that a ceasefire and eventual peace in Ukraine could follow the meeting, depending on the consent of both parties.

The Hungarian leader hoped that his scheduled meeting with President Trump at the White House this week would help accelerate preparations for the summit with President Putin. Orbán has also stated his readiness to hold a phone call with the Russian leader to finalise details of the meeting.

"This poses no political or personal difficulty for me. Unlike Western leaders, who over the past three years have destroyed their channels of communication with Russia, I remain ready for direct dialogue," Orbán said. He confirmed that the Russia–US peace

summit is expected to take place in Budapest, though one "important issue" still remains unresolved. Negotiations, however, are actively ongoing.

The Kremlin responded cautiously to Orbán's statements. Dmitri Peskov, the official spokesman for President Putin, said that while such a meeting is theoretically possible, it is not currently deemed necessary. "Hypothetically speaking, it is possible, but at the moment, there is no need for it," Peskov said. He added that progress in resolving the Ukraine conflict has slowed due to Kiev's reluctance to pursue a "political and diplomatic path". When asked about President Trump's earlier comments on "progress in talks," Peskov said that the Kremlin had no additional details to share and would refrain from further comment.

Peskov also declined to predict any specific timeline for a possible Budapest summit between Putin and Trump, noting that "any forecasts would likely be unreliable".

Earlier, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov remarked that a final decision on the summit will depend on the substance of the discussions. He noted that Moscow expects to define more concrete parameters within the framework established by the two leaders' earlier meeting in Alaska.

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