

Lifestyle

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018



English artist Grayson Perry poses during a photo session at "La monnaie de Paris" for his exhibition in Paris.— AFP

Malay Gamelan ... A combination of traditional music instruments

Gamelan orchestra is a traditional music using a combination of instruments made of copper and wood such as "Gendang" which is barrel drum, "gongs" which represents pairs of hangings, "Bonang Barung" a set

of 10 small kettle gongs and many others. The Malay gamelan, which existed in the 14th century in Malaysia, is basically from Java island in Indonesia. — KUNA



Blooming early! Japan's famed cherry blossoms make unexpected appearance

The delicate blossoms of the cherry tree might be synonymous with the onset of spring in Japan—except this year they're also blooming in autumn, a weather forecasting company said yesterday. Experts told local media that the rare late blooms could be the result of this year's unusual weather, including a particularly active typhoon season. Weathernews, a meteorological firm, said more than 300 people across Japan had reported cherry blossoms were blooming in their neighborhood, in a survey conducted last week. Local media spotted clusters of the famous pink and white blooms at several popular cherry blossom spots.

Hiroyuki Wada, a tree doctor at the Flower

Association of Japan, speculated that unusual weather patterns could be responsible for the blooms' surprise appearance. He told public broadcaster NHK that violent storms had stripped trees of their leaves, which usually release a chemical that inhibits blooming before spring. A series of unusually warm days after typhoons could also have confused the plants into flowering, he said. "This has happened in the past, but I don't remember seeing something of this scale," he said.

Japan has been battered by a series of typhoons this year, including Jebi, which claimed 11 lives and shut down Kansai airport in September. But Wada said the freak flowering should not affect the hugely popular

cherry blossom season, which draws tourists from around the world and sees Japanese flock to hold 'hanami' picnics in the shade of the blooms. "The buds that opened now won't blossom in the coming spring. But only a small number of them are being observed. I don't think it will affect cherry blossom viewing (next year)," he told NHK. — AFP

Thousands gather in Tokyo's Ueno Park for the annual cherry blossom festival known as 'hanami'. — Reuters

