



**TEST RAISES  
NEW CONCERNS  
OVER TAISHAN  
NUCLEAR PLANT**

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**LOCAL MODELS  
AWARDED**

Two local models were awarded at the Best Global Model 2017 held in the Azores, Portugal

P4 MDT REPORT



**AT LEAST 6,700  
ROHINGYA KILLED**

International aid group Doctors Without Borders said its field survey has found at least 6,700 Rohingya Muslims were killed

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# Confucius Institute to open in Macau

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## Hunting Season wins Best Film as IFFAM wraps up 2nd edition

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**WORLD BRIEFS**



**CHINA-S. KOREA**  
Chinese President Xi Jinping told his South Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in yesterday that Beijing wants to improve ties that have nosedived over China's objections to the deployment of an American anti-missile system. *More on p11*

**INDONESIA's** top court yesterday ruled against petitioners seeking to make gay sex and sex outside marriage illegal in a victory for the country's besieged LGBT minority.



**INDIA** Against the backdrop of a bitterly fought local election, India is witnessing the unusual spectacle of Prime Minister Narendra Modi locked in a bitter verbal duel with his predecessor and accusing the opposition of holding secret meetings with Pakistani officials to impact the vote.

More on backpage



**Extra**  
times  
weekend Guide  
INSIDE

**T**HE University of Macau (UM) recently received approval from the Office of Chinese Language Council International to establish a Confucius Institute. The institute is expected to become operational in early 2018.

According to a statement issued by the UM yesterday, the move is “a response to the Macau SAR government’s effort to participate in China’s ‘One Belt One Road’ initiative and to develop Macau into an international platform for Chinese language education, for overseas countries, and in particular Portuguese-speaking countries.

UM Rector Wei Zhao and Faculty of Arts and Humanities’ (FAH) Dean Hong Gang Jin recently attended the 12th Confucius Institute Assembly held in Xi’an. At the opening ceremony, Zhao and Jin received a plaque inscribed with ‘Confucius Institute’ from Liu Yandong, vice premier of the State Council and council chair of the headquarters of the Confucius Institute.

UM’s Confucius Institute, which will be under the FAH, will be located on the ground floor of E34 and is currently in the design and construction process. UM will establish a temporary office in early 2018 to carry out the work plan of the institute.

EDUCATION

# University of Macau to establish Confucius Institute



FAH’s Dean, Jin, and Associate Dean Shi Jianguo will serve as the director and deputy director of the institute, respectively.

According to the UM statement, “the institute will make good use of Macau’s unique status as a special administrative

region, its advantageous geographic location, as well as its cultural and linguistic diversity to develop into an international

platform for Chinese language teaching, training, and exchange for students from Portuguese-speaking countries and countries with relations with Macau.”

Courses in Chinese as a foreign language, offered by the Department of Chinese Language and Literature, will make up the core of the programs offered by the institute. In addition, teaching and research resources both inside and outside the university will be integrated, for example, the Department of Portuguese, also within the FAH, will be involved. The institute will carry out various training and research activities, cultural exchange activities, as well as Chinese language proficiency examinations.

The Confucius Institute is an important platform to promote the study the Chinese language. 525 branches have been established in 146 countries and regions since 2004, when the first Confucius Institute was founded.

## Cracks found in Taishan nuclear power plant

**O**NE of the key power generation system components of Unit 1 of Taishan nuclear power plant cracked during an earlier pre-production test, according to a report by FactWire News Agency.

“A ‘boiler’ in Unit 1 appeared to have cracked during functional testing and must be replaced, according to a nuclear plant employee,” the FactWire News Agency report reads.

“He also told FactWire undercover reporters when they visited the site last month that representatives from Harbin Electric, the Chinese manufacturer of the ‘boiler’, came to the plant for a week in late October to discuss with the plant operator, Taishan Nuclear Power Joint Venture, a plan to replace the faulty ‘boiler,’” according to FactWire.

Taishan Nuclear Power plant is being made by

the joint venture between the China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN), which is a China state-owned company, and the French electricity company Électricité de France.

CGN, in a reply to FactWire News Agency, said “the Unit 1 of of Taishan nuclear power plant has already completed the cold functional and thermal functional tests. The test results were in line with design requirements. The deaerator is a common equipment of a conventional island thermal system, [...] it does not belong to the nuclear safety related system.”

**■ Last year, a Macau delegation visited the Taishan nuclear plant to check the safety of the infrastructure**

“China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN), the developer of the Taishan nuclear project, said on Tuesday afternoon that there were ‘partial defects’ in the welding of the deaerator in question, but insisted ‘replacement work was near completion,’” FactWire News Agency writes.

CGN’s official document says that the deaerator of Taishan Unit 1 is 46.6 meters long and 4.76 meters in diameter.

“Last week, a Dongfang Electric engineer also confirmed to FactWire that the deaerator was supplied by Harbin Electric and the



welding on the deaerator was ‘problematic,’” the FactWire News Agency report reads.

Dongfang Electric is also co-responsible for manufacturing components for the Taishan nuclear power Unit 1.

The power plant is located 67 kilometers from Macau and 130 kilometers from Hong Kong, and is still under construction.

Safety concerns were raised last year after compo-

nents of the nuclear plant were discovered to have been made in mainland China, not in France as previously thought.

According to FactWire, China had been hoping to launch Unit 1 this year, whereas French engineers who were sent to Taishan for the project, told FactWire that it could only be launched in 2018 at the earliest.

“The National Nuclear Safety Administration of

China stipulates that a nuclear plant must seek permission from the agency before loading fuel assemblies to conduct tests. But public records show that Taishan Unit 1 has yet to have received such a permit,” FactWire reported.

Last year, members of the civil society had asked the MSAR government to clarify both issues related to the emergency plan and possible risks posed by the nuclear plant to Macau’s population. A local delegation visited the nuclear plant to check the safety of the infrastructure.

The head of the Security Forces Coordination Office, Choi Lai Hang, led the local delegation and explained that Macau would not require protective measures, even in the event of a very serious nuclear incident (level 7) at the Taishan nuclear power plant.

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IFFAM

# Hunting Season wins Best Film Award as festival wraps up second edition

Daniel Beittler

**T**HE award ceremony for the 2nd edition of the International Film Festival and Awards Macao (IFFAM) was held last night at the Macau Cultural Center, where 10 films from around the world were considered for a total of 14 awards.

The Best Film award - perhaps the most prestigious of the evening - went to *Hunting Season*, Natalia Garagiola's 2017 Argentine drama that explores the relationship between two overtly masculine characters; a son and his separated, biological father. *Hunting Season* had been previously screened at the 74th Venice International Film Festival where it won the Audience Award.

Garagiola said she was humbled by last night's award. "I always think these things happen to other people - not me - but I am really happy for it to be me," she said while receiving the award. "Thank you so much, Macau!"

Hong Kong actor, filmmaker



The night's big winners. From left to right: Natalia Garagiola (director), Lautaro Bettoni (actor), Matias Roveda (producer) and Gonzalo Tobal (editor)

and martial arts practitioner, Donnie Yen, was awarded International Star of the Year. The action movie star was recognized for his work in 2016 - including *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: Sword of Destiny* - as well his roles earlier this year in *xXx: Return of Xander Cage* and Hong Kong crime drama *Chasing the Dragon*.

The press asked him what made last year particularly exceptional, leading to the prestigious award.

"I've been in the business for over 35 years. What I did this year was the same as [what I have been doing throughout my career]," Yen explained. "I set a goal to make good films; to make myself better as an actor and as a director."

Meanwhile, prolific filmmaker Samuel Maoz won the Award for Best Screenplay for his film *Foxtrot*, which he described as "a philosophical puzzle between father and son."

Speaking to the press last night, the Israeli director expressed his gratitude to the Macau festival but admitted that each film award only makes aspiring filmmakers more "hungry" for the next.

"As much as you eat; you are [ever] more hungry," he said answering a specific question about whether he was aiming for an Oscar award.

A total of 10 Israeli films have been nominated for the Oscars' Best Foreign Language Film award since 1964, but none have been successful. *Foxtrot* stands for possible nomination this year. If it is nominated, it will become the first Israeli film considered for the award since 2011.

"Israel has never had a director win a foreign language film Oscar and so I would like to be the one to do that," admitted Maoz.

The Macau Audience Award went to Borg McEnroe, the tennis sports drama set at the 1980 Wimbledon Championships, which IFFAM creative director Mike Goodridge had previously described as the festival's "most

broadly accessible film."

Goodridge also introduced the Best Technical Contribution award, explaining that it was "for those whose technical contributions have made a significant impact on the motion picture industry." The award was presented to cinematographer Benjamin Kracun for *Beast*.

French child actor Thomas Gioria was presented in absentia the Best New Young Actor or Actress Award for his role in *Custody*, while Song Yang and Jessie Buckley won the Best Actor and Best Actress awards respectively. Best Director went to Xavier Legrand, the man behind *Custody* and the Jury Prize was presented to *Wrath of Silence*.

As announced in November, Udo Kier was presented last night with the Career Achievement Award. The German-born actor - who has appeared in more than 200 films - took the stage to praise organizers for the title of the award, which he considered superior to the usual "Lifetime Achievement" award.

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## Air Macau expects MOP80 million profit in 2017

Air Macau is expecting a full-year profit of MOP80 million in 2017, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The president of the Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer of Air Macau, Chen Hong, expects profit for 2017 to triple that of the previous year, due mainly to improvements in the airline's operational efficiencies. Air Macau will introduce three new aircraft in 2018 and plans to launch routes to Wenzhou, Qingdao and Phuket. It also intends to commence daily flights to Taipei in the year ahead.

## 'Sports for All Day' tomorrow at Iao Hon Market Park

To continue to pass the message that is the motto of Sport Bureau (ID) "Practice Sports, Strengthen Your Health," the ID will organize "Sports for All Day" tomorrow. The event will be held from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Iao Hon Market Park. During the event, the ID informed that specialized staff from several sports associations would be introducing several sports like gateball, wei qi, badminton, table tennis and a kiosk for mini Grand Prix games. The bureau said that through such activities, they are aiming to encourage citizens to practice sport and raise their interest in sporting activities, two positive changes which can result in the strengthening of their physical health.

# Local models awarded in global modeling contest

**T**wo local models were awarded at the Best Global Model 2017 held in November in the Azores, Portugal.

The annual competition gathers models from different countries to compete for a contract with a modeling agency in Portugal.

Representing Macau in the competition, Sam Lam and Annabelle Lin were awarded with Best Catwalk 2017 and 2017 Best Global Award - Photogenic, respectively.

The two models, each with a few years of experience, were selected to represent Macau by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and in cooperation with the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM).

For the final selections, the bureaus held a mini modeling competition in a bid to review the candidates and select the best to travel to the Azores.

According to Lam, the mini contest attracted around a dozen local models.

Lam, who has been modeling in Macau for two years, said that the contest was the first competition he had joined, since the region does not have a platform for careers like his.

"In Macau, I joined many fashion shows but it wasn't really professional. So when I went to the Azores, I met professional models who are top models from their respective countries so I learned a lot from them," Lam told the Times.

Lam says, he aims to continue to introduce Macau to modeling competitions as he "had a hard time introducing where Macau is" to his fellow models in the competition.

The male model also expressed his hope that Macau would create a platform for them to showcase their talents by holding competitions and through parti-

cipating in global modeling contests.

He said he is interested in cooperating with relevant departments to assist other models like him who want to train and compete across the globe and represent the region, and also to promote local models in Macau.

"There aren't many chances for us, even for fashion designers," he shared.

Currently, there are only a few modeling agencies in Macau which assist models to search for designer clothes, accessories and contracts with brands.

Meanwhile, Lam also plans to join a modelling competition in Taiwan to help improve his skills.

"Maybe it's a chance for me and chance for Macau's models. When they go out of Macau and compete elsewhere, they will think that Macau's models have potential, so I want it to start from me," he shared.

Lam was invited to sign a



Annabelle Lin and Sam Lam

contract with a modeling agency in Milan, who discovered him during the Best Global Model 2017.

According to him, it is likely that he will sign the contract before the year ends. LV

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ART

# AFA celebrates 10 years with collaborative exhibition

Daniel Beittler

**T**HE Art For All (AFA) society celebrated its 10th anniversary on Tuesday night with the opening of a special collaborative exhibition featuring the works of 29 member-artists.

Titled "Ten for Perfection", the exhibition includes 39 pieces divided between two floors. The ground floor exhibits works by founding members of the society such as architect-artist Carlos Marreiros, while the upper level is reserved for younger artists like Eric Fok, Tang Kuok Hou and Kay Zhang.

A blank canvas was put up yesterday on one of the exhibition walls, and guests and AFA member-artists were invited to contribute to the shared piece. Among the contributors were Marreiros and lawmaker Angela Leong.

AFA – a group of nearly 50 artists, mostly Macau locals – was established in 2007 to enhance the development of contemporary art in the territory. It aims



An exhibition guest contributes to the blank canvas



Mio Pang Fei (center) among other artists and curators who attended the exhibition

to do so by providing a space for local artists to exhibit, offering the use of studios within their Art Garden headquarters and facilitating their access to international art buyers.

"Looking back at the past ten years in Macau's art development, we see that what was once considered 'a cultural desert' has now entered into a highly dynamic phase of our time," AFA president Alice Kok noted in a curator's message near the exhibition entrance.

"The path of art and culture is a long one; it develops through

the filters and layers of time and history toward an eventual maturity."

According to Kok, the society has in the past decade "become a representative and symbolic art platform of contemporary art in Macau."

It has also "helped [to] create an environment of art appreciation among the public," with the stated purpose of building a local market of art consumption.

Sio Kit Lai, a young local artist and managing director of AFA for about three years, told the Times on Tuesday that the second

decade of the society would hopefully look much like the first, and continue to focus on supporting Macau artists in holding solo and joint exhibitions.

"In the past 10 years, we have provided many opportunities for our artists to hold exhibitions as well as bringing them to places outside of Macau," he said. "For the next 10 years we will continue to do this, hoping to bring them to more international exhibitions."

Lai said that the society, which consists of around 90 percent "local contemporary artists", is

like a network for shared learning and mutual promotion.

Lai also noted that the society has had to overcome many obstacles to establish itself at the center of Macau's artistic community, most notably finding a permanent home for itself.

**“**We see that what was once considered 'a cultural desert' has now entered into a highly dynamic phase of our time.  
**”**

ALICE KOK  
AFA PRESIDENT

"It's very difficult for AFA to have survived for 10 years and we have overcome many difficulties. This is our fifth time we have moved location, and finally we have arrived somewhere where we can feel this is our final place. Here [at the Art Garden] we have the space to provide studios for our artists as well as exhibition halls. This [...] can assist in their careers," he explained.

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### 30 locals sought help from Chinese embassies

The director of the consular section of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in Macau, Liu Yufei, said that this year, between 20 and 30 Macau residents sought protection or services from China's overseas consulates. Incidents such as the volcano eruption in Bali and the fire in Yangon led Macau residents to seek help from the consulates while traveling. According to Liu, residents' primary concerns in recent years have been natural disasters, personal injuries and passport issues.

### Guangdong extends foreigners' visa-free scheme

According to mainland reports, Guangdong will implement its visa-free transit policy for visitors from more cities, as well as extend the visa-free period from 72 to 144 hours from next year. Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport is currently the province's only airport to implement the policy, which covers passengers from 53 countries. Shenzhen and Jieyang's airports will be among those to implement the updated policy. During these 144 hours, foreign visitors will only be allowed to travel within Guangdong province. The policy applies to visitors from South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Canada, among others.

### EDUCATION

# IPM collaborates with Porto Uni in leisure industry research

A forum on the creative industries and the development of art was held this week at the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM).

IPM's president, Lei Heong Iok, mentioned to the Times on the sidelines of the forum that IPM is trying to collaborate more with universities from Portugal in order to conduct research and development projects concerning the arts and recreational industries.

"Besides communication between students and teachers, [...] we have now established cooperation across many fields," said Lei, who also noted that yesterday's forum marked the first event organized by IPM after the school signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Porto.

"Our teachers and our students [both from the University of Porto and IPM] will carry out research in this field, such as whether China's blue-and-



Lei Heong Iok (center)

white porcelain has some internal connection with Portugal's azulejos. It is worth researching, as well as worth discussing. In regard to this aspect, we want to inspire the creativity of our students," said Lei adding that Portugal can bring "new concepts, new theories, new ideas, and some of their [Portugal's] successful experiences" to Macau to aid in Macau's reflection on how to develop its recreational industry.

Regarding the forum, Lei said that "Macau has been

doing research on the relationship between art and the recreational industry. [...] The SAR government has already [advanced its success] within the recreational industry, and [make the recreational industry] a pillar industry of Macau," the IPM president said.

Commenting on the Macau government's efforts at promoting the recreational industry, Lei said "actually, it [the promotion] has already been out there for several years, [we] can't say there haven't been effects, but they are not

obvious. If Macau wants to walk this way successfully, [...] then there is still a long way to go."

The forum invited José Emílio Cardoso Rodrigues da Silva, vice-president of Árvore Cooperativa de Atividades Artísticas, to share Portugal's experience in combining art and the recreational industry.

According to the IPM president, some of Portugal's successful examples will be a point of reference and will help IPM students to explore Macau's own roads in the art and recreational industries.

In September, IPM signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Porto. Following the agreement, students and professors from the University of Porto will visit Macau as part of the commitment established in the agreement.

In return, IPM will also send students and professors to the University of Porto. **JZ**

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# Anima to work with international organizations to pressure Canidrome

Lynzy Valles

**A**NIMA (Macau) president Albano Martins is planning, along with international animal rights organizations, to continually pressure the city's government and authorities regarding the status of the greyhounds after the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome closes in July 2018.

In a press conference held yesterday at Anima, Martins revealed that it had sent several emails to the government and related authorities requesting a dialogue and that to date he had not received a reply.

According to Anima's data, there were a total of 605 active greyhounds, while 66 are inactive – a contradiction to Canidrome's figures of 301 active racing dogs and 66 inactive.

Currently, 44 owners own the greyhounds, a figure lower compared to the 66 owners last year.

Martins lamented that Anima has sent letters to the Chief Executive, lawmaker Angela Leong, and just a few weeks ago to the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, without



Albano Martins (center)

receiving a reply from any of the parties.

Martins also asked Stanley Lei, executive director of the Canidrome, for a public debate on TV regarding its capabilities to handle the greyhounds when it closes next year.

Martins' letter, sent on November 30, read, "if you still think that you can handle them better than us, and your project for those greyhounds still alive

is better than our's, why do we not discuss this subject in a public debate in English language."

Martins remarked that there has been no progress since 2012. "We are still exactly in the same position of asking the government to give the greyhounds to us," he said.

Anima is asking the government and the Canidrome to grant them the greyhounds

when it closes in July. They have pledged that they will facilitate and complete the adoption process in one year.

Currently, Martins revealed that there are 37 international associations, willing to assist Anima in the adoption process by finding adopting homes.

Around 317 homes from 15 countries and regions have already signed up to adopt these greyhounds.

"According to our sources, since 1963 to 2017, only eight dogs went out alive and were all adopted," Martins told the press, fearing, left under the control of the Canidrome, only a few will only be adopted by next year.

The animal rights group president again criticized lawmaker Angela Leong for planning to establish a new animal rights association called the Macau General Association for Animal Protection, which would contact private owners concerning their greyhounds' retirement – a move he slammed, as it will only delay the rehoming of the greyhounds.

Angela Leong previously questioned why Anima is so insistent

in wanting to assume responsibility for the greyhounds once the Canidrome closes in July 2018. In October, she said that Canidrome will take responsibility of the dogs and is discussing the possibility of sending some to New Zealand or Australia if needed.

Martins argued yesterday that plans need to be made in advance, because it will take some time to transport these greyhounds to respective countries.

"Greyhounds are required to undergo medical tests three months before they depart a city," he argued, noting that because of this, Anima needed to know whether or not they will receive the greyhounds.

"One year is the only time I'm asking. They have to make public tenders, make plans, how long will that take? It's impossible to finish it by one year," he said.

This week, Martins revealed, Anima facilitated the sending of two greyhounds to France, while another one was adopted in the region. "We're working in advance to save as many greyhounds as possible," he said.

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

25 property questions we were asked this year - part V

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers investment property & homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



JULIET RISDON

www.JMLProperty.com
info@JMLProperty.com

5. Question: Can my landlord throw me out of my apartment?

Yes, but only under certain circumstances. These include; If a tenant does not pay rent at the appropriate time; If a tenant uses the property for illegal purposes; If all or part of the property is sub-leased without the express permission of the landlord; If the usage of the property is different from the original purpose, for example if the apartment is used as an office or workshop space; If alteration work on the apartment is carried out without the express permission of the landlord.

4. Question: What the best way to get a cheap property?

As a tenant, the cheapest option for property is to remain in the property that you are in, paying rent on time and negotiating with the owner for the longest possible rental term. You will find that many agencies charge lease renewal fees nowadays, and these vary from agency to agency. Especially when rents are rising, paying a renewal fee is far cheaper than arranging a new lease. However, do make sure you know what the fees are before you agree the renewal.

As a buyer, the best way to get a property at a knock down price is to be

ready to place a substantial deposit on a property instantly. In a dynamic market, properties sometimes move faster than the blink of an eye.

3. Question: Is there a maximum that the landlord can increase the rent?

No, not yet. According to Macau Law, the rental amount paid by a tenant is in agreement with both parties. Macau law states that a rent increase must be 'reasonable'. By definition this means that as long as both parties agree to it, it is deemed reasonable. The government are currently reviewing measures to try to 'cap' rent increases. However, it is probable that interference in the market would have a reverse effect as we have seen many times in the past. For example, if rent increases were capped at 15 percent, many owners would not rent properties. As supply falls and demand grows, this would push rental prices even higher in the mid and long term.

2. Question: Can I use the security deposit to pay the last two months rent?

No. Deposits may not be used to cover rents. A deposit is for the fixtures, fittings and furnishings of the property. Macau Law is very specific about this.

The moment that a rent is unpaid for 30 days, the landlord is entitled to the amount of rent owed plus an additional penalty equal to 100 percent of the rent.

In other words, if you don't pay rent for the last two months, you will owe four months rent.

1. Question: What's going to happen to property prices in Macau?

As we are all very much aware, Macau is extremely small. Even with the addition of Hengqin Island, land and space are limited. There is only one way to build; Up. Macau's economic future looks as certain as anything can be, at least until 2049. Over the long term, it is difficult to see anything other than a rise in property prices.

Every increase is met with similar attitudes from prospective buyers; It can't continue to rise, there is a limit of 'x' beyond which it will never go etc.

We can see many arguments for continued growth, whilst slowdowns like the one we are currently experiencing are usually the result of something happening outside of Macau.

As such it is difficult to draw a conclusion other than this; Provided you have a long term view of five years or more, Macau property prices are likely to rise.

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PokerStars LIVE Macau advertisement for Saturday SuperStack. Features stacks of chips with a spade symbol, the text 'SATURDAY SUPER STACK', and details about the tournament: 'PokerStars LIVE Macau hosts the Saturday SuperStack with a HK\$100,000 guaranteed prize pool. With a buy-in of HK\$3,000, you start with a huge 15K starting chip stack. Don't miss out on the biggest tournament of the week. Every Saturday from 4th November to 30th December.' Includes location: Level 2, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai and the PokerStars LIVE Macau logo.

# China suffers natural gas shortage as coal ban backfires

Joe McDonald, Beijing

**C**HINESE authorities have commandeered supplies of natural gas to heat homes, forcing chemical plants and factories to shut down, after efforts to clear smog-choked air by banning coal use backfired by causing energy shortages in frigid weather.

The disruption highlights the government's difficulties in its campaign to clean up China's smog-choked cities and reduce reliance on coal.

The latest shortages stem from Beijing's effort since 2013 to shift 3 million households in China's north to gas. That boosted demand while supplies failed to keep pace.

The overall economic impact is unclear, but gas supplies to factories and other industrial users in areas throughout China have been reduced or cut off.

"The situation is quite serious due to the suspension of gas supplies to industrial and commercial consumers in hopes of meeting the demand from civilian use," said Chen Yunying, a gas industry analyst for ICIS in Shanghai.

On Tuesday, German chemical giant BASF invoked "force majeure," or forces beyond its control, for a disruption in supplies of MDI, an ingredient in polyurethane used in packaging, from its facility in Chongqing in the southwest. BASF said it had no word when gas supplies would resume.

The gas company in the central city of Wuhan, a center for auto manufacturing and other industries, announced last week supplies to commercial customers were being shut off "to ensure people's basic needs."



China, the world's biggest energy consumer, is investing heavily in solar, wind and other renewable energy to help clean up its despoiled environment. But it is forecast to rely on coal for at least two-thirds of its energy for the foreseeable future.

## ■ The country's annual gas production is forecast to more than double to 340 billion cubic meters in 2040

On Monday, the Chinese-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank announced it approved a USD250 million loan to connect some 220,000 rural Chinese households to a natural gas distribution network

State-owned energy companies have invested billions of dollars to develop shale gas

and other sources, but supplies have failed to keep pace with surging demand.

Total gas consumption from January to August rose 17.8 percent from a year earlier, outstripping a 10.8 percent production increase, according to a Cabinet planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission.

Combined with unexpectedly low imports, that left China with a 10 billion-cubic-meter shortfall this winter, according to Chen of ICIS. He said that compares with total annual consumption of about 220-230 billion cubic meters.

News reports say the swift switch in northern China left some households without heat after coal was banned.

The business news magazine Caixin said its reporters found nearly half the 300 households in Zhouzhou, a village in Hebei province, which surrounds Beijing, had no heating for several weeks in temperatures as low as -6 C (21 F). It said farm families had been ordered to dismantle coal-fired furnaces before gas pipelines were laid to their homes.

"The government's effort to shift from coal to gas as an energy source is a good policy that can improve air quality," said Chen of ICIS. "But during implementation, some governments went too far and rushed to cut coal supplies when they hadn't found supplemental gas supplies yet."

The city government of Beijing, which in March closed its last coal-fired power plant, issued an emergency order last week to restart a coal-burning generator.

Natural gas supplies about 7 percent of China's total energy, according to the government. Beijing wants to raise that to 10 percent by 2020 and to 15 percent by 2030, according to the NDRC.

China's annual gas production is forecast to more than double to 340 billion cubic meters in 2040, with shale gas a major contributor, according to a report this week by the International Energy Agency. But it said consumption should grow even faster, reaching 600 billion cubic meters.

To boost imports, government oil companies are spending billions of dollars to build pipelines from gas fields in Russia and Central Asia.

On Wednesday, China National Petroleum Corp. announced it was speeding up laying pipe for a 3,371-kilometer-long line from Russia. Construction began in 2015 and is due to be finished in 2020.

Imports of Russian gas "will have far-reaching significance for optimizing China's energy structure, cutting emissions and improving air quality," the official Xinhua News Agency said. **AP**

# Singapore Air says capacity still a challenge

**S**INGAPORE Airlines Ltd.'s chief executive officer said that surplus capacity in the industry remains a challenge and the marquee carrier's focus continues to be on delivering cost-efficient services.

The group is in the midst of a review to fend off intensifying competition from Middle Eastern carriers at the premium end and low-cost operators at the budget end. The transformation may include job cuts, the company said in June, and two months later it offered its cabin crew three months of voluntary unpaid leave.

"As we change the way we work the new processes, as new technologies are introduced, some jobs our staff is performing will no longer be required," CEO Goh Choon Phong said in Singapore Thursday on the sidelines of an event marking the delivery of an A380 aircraft from Airbus SE. "Our people fully understand the need for transformation."

The airline said profit almost tripled in the quarter through September, aided by an increase in passenger and cargo traffic. It reported a surprise loss in the quarter through March, the first in five years, prompting Goh to kick off bold and potentially radical actions to tackle costs and "to better position the group for long-term sustainable growth across its portfolio of full-service and budget airline operations." **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### SANDS CELEBRATES OUTSTANDING TEAM MEMBERS

Sands China Ltd. held its eighth "Because We Care" Team Member Awards recently at The Parisian Macao's Parisian Theatre, where it honored outstanding team members who exemplify Sands China's service culture.

The awards celebrate dedicated team members for exceptional levels of service to the company and its customers.

From a pool of 326 total nominations, 133 team members received awards, including 17 individual and four team awards. Gold, silver and bronze awards were given in seven categories: Influential Service, Exceptional Spirit, Impressive Performance,



ECO360 Live Green, People's Choice, Best Leadership and Outstanding Teamwork.

In addition, a special award presentation was held in honour of 50 Sands China departments, whose hard work and contributions during Typhoon Hato fully exemplified the cultural values of "Because We Care". A trophy was given to a representative of each department to honour their team's contributions.

### ASSOCIATIONS HOLD TENNIS TOURNAMENT



The Macau Civil Servants' Tennis Association and the Zonta Club of Macau jointly held a tennis tournament, called the "Reunification Cup 2017" and a celebration luncheon in commemoration of the 18th anniversary of Macau's Handover to China during this festive season.

The event kicked off with a tournament played by the members, according to a statement released

by the association.

The event featured charity fundraising activities onsite.

"Through this event, we hope to foster the bonds within the members and their families, it demonstrated a successful reunification after 18 years, and a more multicultural and harmonious Macau today," Christiana Leong, chartered chairperson of Zonta Club of Macau concluded.

### WYNN SHOWS GRATITUDE TO VOLUNTEER TEAM

In celebration of the seventh anniversary of the Wynn Employees (WE) Volunteer Team, Wynn recently organized an annual dinner at the Grand Theater of Wynn Palace to express gratitude to all the WE volunteers for their contributions over the past year.

During the occasion, Thomas Lau, director of Human Resources of Wynn Macau and the Captain of WE Volunteers, delivered remarks encouraging all volunteers to continue their ongoing commitment to extend their reach in caring for the Macau community.

A group of WE volunteers were deployed to affected areas after Typhoon Hato to deliver necessities and aid those in need of help.



In recognition of their long-term support and contribution to the local community, Wynn presented a "Certificate of Appreciation" to 12 community partners who have always brought compassion and comfort to those in need.

Wynn also took the opportunity to speak highly of 31 outstanding WE volunteers, with each of them receiving the annual "Outstanding Volunteer Award."

# Another deadly blaze strikes Beijing as evictions draw fury

Gerry Shih, Beijing

**FIVE** people died in an east Beijing fire, underscoring the challenges for the Chinese capital as it struggles to balance building safety with providing housing for its poor.

Local media reported that the residents of Chaoyang district died before dawn Wednesday after electric bike batteries plugged into a home-rigged charging system caught fire and belched noxious fumes into a three-story apartment building. The accident came a month after an inferno killed 19 in south Beijing's Daxing district, prompting a controversial safety campaign that included the sudden eviction of thousands of migrant workers from unregulated slums.

A spate of deadly fires — and the authorities' response — have generated an unusually intense debate in China about class, safety regulations and the Communist Party's heavy-handed leadership.

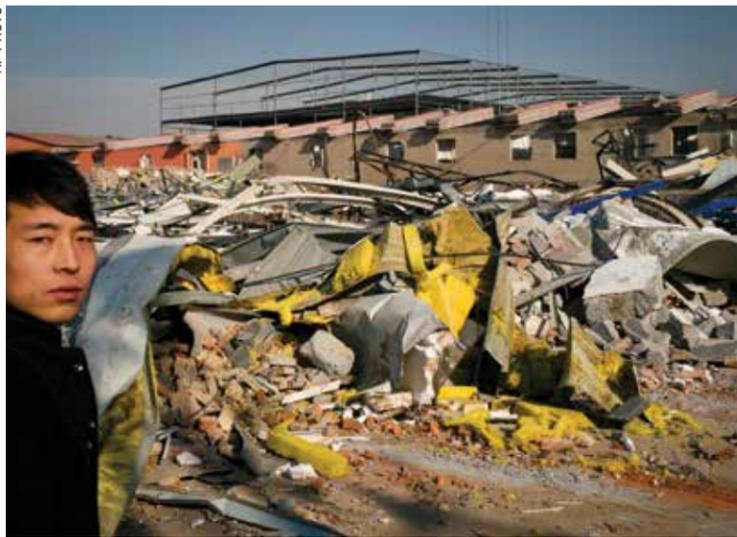
Beijing officials argue the mass evictions are a precautionary measure to protect migrants

and have razed vast tenements in a matter of weeks. But the campaign has drawn widespread condemnation on social media from laborers as well as China's middle class, who say it is part of a longstanding government plan to control Beijing's ballooning population by thinning out the so-called "low-end" socio-economic class.

■ **There were 15,000 workplace fires in the first 10 months of 2017**

Even before the fires this year, Beijing officials had been shuttering many working-class small businesses, citing building code violations and forcing migrant workers to go back to rural China.

But the sweeping fire safety campaign has become a flashpoint. Hundreds of migrant workers held a rare protest on



Demolished buildings following a citywide fire safety campaign after a deadly fire which killed a dozen people in an apartment block at Xinjiaocun in Daxing district in Beijing last Saturday

Sunday against what they said were violent evictions, while scores of academics and white-collar Beijingers have signed an open letter expressing sympathy for the laborers cast into the winter cold with just days' notice.

Beijing Communist Party boss Cai Qi appeared to double down

on his safety campaign on Wednesday as he visited the scene of the latest fire. The state-run Beijing News quoted him as saying that the fire was a reminder that safety work must not be stopped "for a moment."

Faced with popular criticism, the government launched a pro-

paganda counteroffensive this week with Cai going on a talking tour to visit delivery boys and sanitation workers and thank them for their "sweat and contributions to the capital's prosperity."

"We need to give these workers respect and show even more care and love for them," he was quoted by the Beijing News as saying.

Authorities have tightly controlled domestic reporting on the Beijing fires, censored some search results and pursued activists and artists who have shared videos of razed migrant worker villages on social media.

During a recent visit to the razed Xinjian village in southern Beijing where 19 died, police patrols were seen blanketing the site and shooing away any visitors taking photographs.

Still, news reports of deadly fires have surfaced on a nearly weekly basis across the country. Apartment fires this month in Tianjin and Guangdong province killed 10 and eight people, respectively, while workers have perished in factories.

There were 15,000 Chinese workplace fires in the first 10 months of 2017, said Keegan Elmer, researcher at China Labour Bulletin, a Hong Kong-based advocacy group. He said knee-jerk measures such as mass evictions will prove ineffective without better day-to-day fire safety oversight. **AP**

AD



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### Venezuela quickly resolves financial dispute with China

VENEZUELA'S cash-strapped government has quickly settled a lawsuit filed by a state-run Chinese company, making good on an unpaid bill and appeasing an important ally that holds billions in the South American country's debt.

The state-owned oil company PDVSA agreed to pay USD21.5 million to a U.S. subsidiary of the Chinese company Sinopec. The payment is for a 45,000-ton shipment of steel rebar delivered in 2013.

The countries reached the settlement this week, two weeks after Sinopec filed suit in a Houston federal court.

The dispute arose at a time when Venezuela is trying to renegotiate billions of dollars in foreign debt amid soaring inflation and U.S. sanctions.

China is an important ally for Venezuela, bankrolling its socialist administration to the tune of \$65 billion. AP

# South Korean President Moon in Beijing on visit to repair ties

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in met his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping yesterday on a visit to Beijing aimed at repairing ties frayed by a dispute over the deployment of an anti-missile system.

The two leaders were to preside over a document signing ceremony following their talks, although there was no indication they would be issuing statements. While the visit is a sign of progress toward resolving the more than one-year-old dispute, China continues to demand the removal of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, known as THAAD, saying it allows South Korea and its U.S. ally to spy on military activity in northeastern China.

South Korean businesses in China have suffered as a result of the dispute. China suspended group tours to South Korea that are a mainstay of the local tourism industry, pulled South Korean soap operas off television



and banned the country's popular K-Pop stars from visiting.

South Korea's Lotte business group, which provided the land for the missile-defense system, had to suspend business amid the anti-South Korea sentiments.

Moon has strived to balance South Korea's close political and military ties with the U.S. with its economic dependency on the Chinese market. While South Korea has resisted China's demands to withdraw

THAAD, which it says is needed to counter the threat of North Korean missiles, Beijing has said it approves of a pledge from Seoul not to expand it.

That set the stage for a visit by South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha to Beijing last month at which she and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi affirmed their commitment to repair relations.

Beijing is North Korea's most important political and economic partner, but has enforced

increasingly strict United Nations sanctions against its neighbor while seeking to persuade all parties to return to denuclearization talks.

A visit to Pyongyang by Chinese special envoy Song Tao last month appears to have created no breakthroughs. Song visited as part of a tradition of exchanges between the ruling parties of the two countries, but left apparently without meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. AP

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**INTERNATIONAL** aid group Doctors Without Borders said its field survey has found at least 6,700 Rohingya Muslims were killed between August and September in a crackdown by Myanmar's security forces.

The group, known by its French acronym MSF, said in a statement made available yesterday that it had conducted the survey in refugee camps in Bangladesh and estimated that at least 9,000 Rohingya died in Myanmar's Rakhine state between Aug. 25 and Sept. 24. About 630,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar into Bangladesh to escape what the United Nations has called "ethnic cleansing."

The estimate of the number of deaths announced by the group compares to Myanmar's government figure of 400 in September as a result of attacks on police posts by Rohingya militants.

According to MSF, the dead included at least 730 children younger than 5.

Myanmar's Information Ministry had said that most of the 400 dead were "extremist terrorists" who died during the military's "clearance operations." International aid and rights groups have accused the military of arson, killings and rapes of Rohingya villagers. Myanmar authorities blamed Rohingya militants for the violence.

Though more than 1 million ethnic Rohingya Muslims have lived in the country for generations, they were stripped of their citizenship, denied almost all rights and labeled stateless.

"The peak in deaths coincides with the launch of the latest 'clearance operations'

## MYANMAR

# Aid group says at least 6,700 Rohingya killed in crackdown



by Myanmar security forces in the last week of August," MSF Medical Director Sidney Wong in a statement.

She said the findings were staggering, both in terms of the numbers of people who reported a family member dead as a result of violence and horrific ways in which they said they were killed or severely injured.

MSF said that among children below the age of 5, more than 59 percent who were killed during that period were reportedly shot, 15 percent burnt to death in their homes, 7 percent beaten to death and 2 percent died due to land mine blasts.

Since the Myanmar's military conducted operations against the Rohingya in northern

Rakhine state, the civilian government has barred most journalists, international observers and humanitarian aid workers from independently traveling to the region.

MSF said the numbers of

deaths are likely to be an underestimation "as we have not surveyed all refugee resettlements in Bangladesh because the surveys don't account for the families who never made it out of Myanmar." **AP**

## REUTERS DEMANDS RELEASE OF TWO JOURNALISTS

**REUTERS NEWS** agency called on Myanmar to immediately release its two journalists who were arrested for possessing "important secret papers" obtained from two policemen who had worked in Rakhine state, where violence widely blamed on security forces has forced more than 625,000 minority Rohingya Muslims to flee into neighboring Bangladesh. The Ministry of Information said Wednesday the journalists and policemen will be charged under the country's colonial-era Official Secrets Act, which carries penalties of up to 14 years in prison. Reuters said Wa Lone and Kyaw

Soe Oo had been missing since Tuesday night. "Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo have been reporting on events of global importance in Myanmar, and we learned today that they have been arrested in connection with their work," Stephen J. Adler, president and editor in chief of Reuters, said in a statement. "We are outraged by this blatant attack on press freedom. We call for authorities to release them immediately," he said. The ministry posted a photo [below] of the two journalists in handcuffs, standing behind a table bearing documents, cellphones and currency.



# UN investigator to review North Korean abduction claims

**Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul**

**T**HE United Nations' independent investigator on human rights in North Korea said yesterday he plans to examine North Korean claims that South Korea abducted 12 North Korean women.

Tomas Ojea Quintana said he raised the issue in a meeting with South Korea's vice foreign minister and requested that his government set up a meeting with the women, who had worked at a North Korean-run restaurant in China before coming to the South in April last year.

While North Korea re-

gularly accuses South Korea of abducting or enticing its citizens to defect, Quintana said he was obliged to look into the case because his office has been gathering what seemed to be conflicting accounts of what happened. He didn't elaborate on the accounts.

He said he needed to be "exactly precise" about the women's situation and whether they decided to come to South Korea "according to their own will."

"Parents of these women living in North Korea are claiming that their daughters were abducted, so all these factors oblige

me to pay attention to the case and understand exactly what happened," Quintana said at a news conference in Seoul as he wrapped up a four-day visit to South Korea.

In response to Quintana's comments, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said the government had "sufficiently confirmed" the workers' "free will" in escaping from North Korea and resettling in the South. It wasn't immediately clear whether South Korea would allow Quintana to meet the workers.

The South Korean government has kept the workers' location secret

and prevented the media from contacting them.

North Korea, which often makes extreme claims about defectors, insists that the workers were abducted by South Korean spies and has repeatedly demanded their return. South Korea denies the accusation, saying the workers chose to resettle in South Korea on their own. South Korea also rejected a highly unusual overture by North Korea last year to temporarily send the workers' relatives to the South to meet with them.

It was the largest group defection by North Koreans to the South since



**Tomas Ojea Quintana, the United Nations special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea**

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un took power in 2011, according to South Korea's government.

South Korean officials earlier said North Korean-run restaurants overseas have been suffering economically because of strengthened sanctions in response to the country's nuclear weapons program. The workers who defected

last year said their restaurant was struggling to meet demands from North Korean authorities for foreign currency earnings, South Korean officials said.

More than 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, according to the South Korean government. **AP**

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Edith M. Lederer, United Nations

UNITED NATIONS

# Guterres: Iran may be defying halt call on missiles, OK on nukes

**SECRETARY-GENERAL** Antonio Guterres is warning that Iran may be defying a U.N. call to halt ballistic missile development even as it complies with the nuclear deal with six world powers.

The U.N. chief says in a report to the Security Council that the United Nations is investigating Iran's possible transfer of ballistic missiles to Houthi Shiite rebels in Yemen that may have been used in launches aimed at Saudi Arabia on July 22 and Nov. 4.

The report on implementation of a U.N. resolution that endorsed the July 2015 nuclear agreement was obtained yesterday [Macau time] by The Associated Press. The U.S. Mission to the United Nations said Ambassador Nikki Haley would hold a news conference today in Washington to highlight its findings as well as Iran's "destabilizing activities in the Middle East region and elsewhere in the world."

In the report, Guterres stressed that the nuclear deal remains "the best way" to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program.

He said President Donald Trump's Oct. 13 decision not to certify the agreement under U.S. law created "considerable uncertainty" about its future. But, he added, "I am reassured that the United States has expressed its commitment to stay in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for now."

Trump, however, has left open the possibility of pulling out of the nuclear deal.

AP PHOTO



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

Guterres welcomed support for the treaty from its other parties — China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany, the European Union and numerous other countries.

"I encourage the United States to maintain its commitments to the plan and to consider the broader implications for the region before taking any further steps," he said. "Similarly, I encourage the Islamic Republic

of Iran to carefully consider the concerns raised by other participants in the plan."

Trump has called the agreement a bad deal, and the U.S. has focused especially on its time limits and a provision in the Security Council resolution that calls on Iran not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Guterres said the U.N. is stu-

dyng debris from missiles fired at Yanbu in Saudi Arabia on July 22 and at the capital of Riyadh on Nov. 4 and also is reviewing other information.

He said France, Germany, Britain and the United States sent a letter saying the Simorgh Space Launch Vehicle that Iran launched on July 27, if configured as a ballistic missile, is "inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons."

But Guterres said Russia, an ally of Iran, sent a letter Aug. 16 that the Security Council resolution contains only a "call" for Iran to forgo missile work — not a prohibition. He said Iran says the launch vehicle was "part of a scientific and technological activity related to the use of space technology" that it is determined to pursue.

The Security Council discussed the launch on Sept. 8, and "there was no consensus among council members" on how it related to the 2015 resolution, Guterres said.

He said Israel protested that Iran's test of a Qiam ballistic missile on Nov. 15, 2016 "used a Star of David as the intended target," and cited other ballistic missiles it reportedly launched at targets in Syria on June 18-19. France, Germany, Britain and the U.S. also raised these tests as well as the test of a medium-range missile July 4.

The secretary-general said Iran called Israel's claim of a specifically marked target "a sheer falsehood." Iran also said its "military capabilities, including ballistic missiles, have not been designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons and thus are outside the purview of the Security Council resolution," Guterres said. **AP**

USA

# Omarosa exits the White House with a dose of drama

**TRUE** to form, former "Apprentice" star Omarosa is ending her time at the White House with a dose of drama.

Omarosa Manigault Newman, one of President Donald Trump's most prominent African-American supporters, was escorted off the White House grounds after resigning her post as a presidential adviser, according to two White House officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said yesterday [Macau time] that Manigault Newman's resignation is effective Jan. 20, one year after Trump's inauguration. "We wish her the best in future endeavors and are grateful for her service," Sanders said.

The president also bid her farewell, tweeting: "Thank

you Omarosa for your service! I wish you continued success."

Manigault Newman was an assistant to the president and director of communications for the White House Office of Public Liaison, working on outreach to various constituency groups. But the office languished under her watch and White House chief of staff John Kelly had indicated that changes were forthcoming — including her dismissal, according to the two officials, who insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about personnel matters.

Better known by just her first name, Manigault Newman was escorted from the White House complex the night before but was allowed to offer her resignation. The U.S. Secret Service, which pro-

vides security for the president, tweeted Wednesday that it was not involved in her termination or her escort from the grounds. Some published reports said Secret Service officers had physically removed Manigault Newman from the complex.

The agency confirmed that a pass granting her access to the complex had been deactivated.

"Our only involvement in this matter was to deactivate the individual's pass which grants access to the complex," the agency tweeted.

Manigault Newman's exit comes at the front end of what's expected to be a wave of departures. Deputy national security adviser Dina Powell is also departing early next year.

Manigault Newman, who drew a top salary of USD179,700, was one of

Trump's highest-profile supporters during the campaign. She also worked with Trump's transition team.

A former contestant on the first season of "The Apprentice," Trump's former reality TV show, Manigault Newman had long been unpopular with several senior West Wing officials, including senior adviser and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner and Kelly.

Kelly, the retired Marine general who had made it his mission to tighten White House operations and streamline how Trump gets information, has told aides that he wanted to curtail the number of White House officials with ill-defined positions and responsibilities.

Kelly took away Manigault Newman's ability to come and go from the

AP PHOTO



Omarosa Manigault

Oval Office as she pleased. During the first months of Trump's administration, aides were known to wander in and out of meetings, a practice Kelly ended across the board. She also drew Kelly's ire by occasionally going around him to slip news articles to the president.

Manigault Newman en-

joyed a close relationship with the president despite the fact that he once uttered the famous "You're fired!" line to her before dispatching her from the TV show. She held her April wedding at Trump's hotel blocks from the White House.

She had a knack for generating controversy. **AP**



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13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPI) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:30	Miscellaneous
17:20	Zig Zag
18:20	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:20	Portuguese Serie
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Tiananmen
01:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:05	RTPI Live

**SATURDAY**

10:30	Comedy
11:30	Miscellaneous
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPI) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Portuguese Serie (Resume)
16:30	Fotobox
17:20	Miscellaneous
18:15	Miscellaneous
19:55	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Drama (PT)
21:45	Portuguese Serie
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPI Live

**SUNDAY**

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPI) Delayed Broadcast
14:55	Celebration of the 18th Macao's Handover Anniversary to China - Macau International Parade 2017 (Live)
19:05	Luisa Sobral
19:30	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary Serie
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Bocage
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPI Live

**Offbeat**

**THOUSANDS OF PASSENGERS AFFECTED BY NIKI AIRLINE'S GROUNDING**

Thousands of European travelers could be left stranded by the bankruptcy of Austrian budget carrier Niki.



The airline ceased flight operations yesterday. Hopes for a swift rescue of Niki, a division of bankrupt Air Berlin, were dashed Wednesday when Lufthansa dropped its bid for the airline following resistance from the European Commission.

Niki posted a notice on its website saying passengers should contact their tour operator if possible. It said several other airlines have offered to fly passengers back to Germany, Austria and Switzerland for a small fee if they booked directly through Niki.

Austria's transport minister said up to 10,000 passengers could be affected by the bankruptcy over the coming two weeks.

The airline's founder, ex-Formula 1 driver Niki Lauda, has expressed interest in buying back the company.

**cinema**

**CINETEATRO**

14 Dec - 20 Dec



**STAR WARS EPISODE VIII**

ROOM 1  
(2D) 2:15, 9:30pm  
(3D) 6:50pm

ROOM 2  
(2D) 4:15, 7:00pm

Director: Rian Johnson  
Starring: Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Mark Hamill  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 150 min



**MY LITTLE PONY: THE MOVIE**

ROOM 1  
5:00pm

ROOM 3  
2:30pm

Director: Jayson Thiessen  
Starring: Emily Blunt, Kristin Chenoweth, Liev Schreiber  
Language: Cantonese  
Duration: 99min



**WONDER**

ROOM 2  
2:15, 9:45pm

Director: Stephen Chbosky  
Starring: Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay  
Language: Chinese (English)  
Duration: 113min



**MY TOMORROW, YOUR YESTERDAY**

ROOM 3  
4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Takahiro Miki  
Starring: Sota Fukushi, Nana Komatsu  
Language: Japanese (English & Chinese)  
Duration: 111min

**this day in history**



**1974 NEW SPEED LIMIT TO CURB FUEL USE**

British drivers must adhere to reduced speed limits from midnight tonight as the government tries to save fuel.

Speed limits on motorways will remain 70mph (112kph), but on dual carriageways they will become 60mph (96kph), and on all other roads 50mph (80kph).

Motorists could previously drive up to a limit of 70mph.

Anyone breaking the new restrictions will be reported, though not necessarily summoned.

The maximum penalty for speeding has been doubled to £100.

Police patrols in unmarked cars will be looking for drivers not observing the new restrictions and will also be using speed traps.

A major publicity campaign informing drivers of the new restrictions was launched last week and so road signs will not be changed.

Police expect the new speed restrictions to lead to a rise in the number of speeding offences but a fall in the number of road accidents.

The measures have been introduced indefinitely by Energy Secretary, Eric Varley, as part of a 12-point package of energy conservation measures aimed at saving £700m in imports annually.

The Ministry of Transport said even a speed reduction of 5mph would save about £10m a year in fuel costs.

Mr Varley unveiled the package six days ago to the House of Commons as the landed price of imported oil is now five times higher than a year ago.

Prices rose after the Middle East oil embargo during the Arab-Israeli war last year.

The plan includes restrictions on heating levels and on the use of electricity for outdoor display and advertising.

There will also be loans to industry for energy-saving investment and a doubling of the standards of thermal insulation for new homes.

The strict controls on energy consumption will form the British way of life for the foreseeable future, he said.

Last November petrol ration coupons were introduced and in February 1972 a three-day working week was imposed on British industry to conserve power supplies due to the coal miners' strike.

Courtesy BBC News

**IN CONTEXT**

In the wake of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, the Arab oil-producing countries (OPEC) imposed an embargo on supplies to the US on 20 October 1973.

For the wider world, oil prices went through the roof, from around \$3 a barrel before the war to over \$11 by early the following January. The crisis led to a recession in 1975, the first of four world downturns where oil price increases caused by events in the Middle East played a key role.

The finger of blame was also pointed at Opec when prices spiked in the second half of 2000 and prompted fuel protests across much of Europe.

In 1974, the US Congress imposed a nationwide 55 mph (89 km/h) speed limit - it was estimated that a speed of 55 mph used 17% less fuel per mile than a speed of 75 mph.

The limit was unpopular, especially in Western states and in 1987 states were allowed to raise speed limits to 65 mph (104 kmh) on rural interstate highways.

All federal speed limit controls were lifted in 1995, leaving speed setting to the states.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're famous for your love of the unexpected...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You may not be prepared for everything that happens today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're a clever, witty person, and it takes a lot to confuse you...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're great at keeping secrets - you know exactly how to keep quiet...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 No one thinks of you as a slacker. You work as hard as you possibly can...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Someone you've been close with for a long time - someone who's always acted like a good friend...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Relationships are what you're best at, so when someone you know shakes things up...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Sudden change is coming - and it's likely to be quite surprising...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're accustomed to not only accepting the unexpected, but also learning to embrace it...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're an expert at keeping plans in motion, and at avoiding anything that could come between the beginning and the end of those plans...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You may be sweet on someone, and the feeling is almost certainly mutual...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've been privy to top-secret info lately, and also on the receiving end of several monologues...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



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Easy

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Easy+

2 7 5 1 2 8 3 6 9 8 4 7 7 6 2 3 6 1 7 5 4 4 1 9 9 2 1

Medium

1 2 6 8 9 7 7 3 9 3 9 6 8 9 1 7 4 1 5 6 4 3

Hard

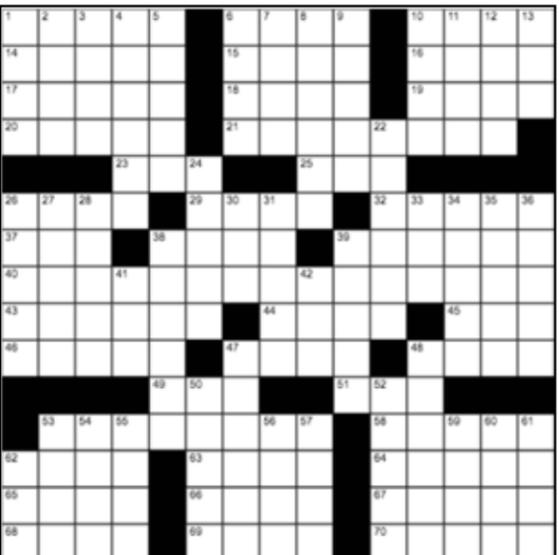
5 3 2 6 1 4 2 3 4 7 3 2 8 1 8 2 5 8 7

WEATHER

Table with columns: CHINA, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists weather for cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Clear the board; 6- Blackbird; 10- Thom of footwear; 14- Broaden; 15- \_\_\_ fixe; 16- Car; 17- Actress Verdugo; 18- Italian resort; 19- Smooth-tongued; 20- Now you \_\_\_; 21- Precise; 23- Not 'neath; 25- Climbing vine; 26- Former Russian ruler; 29- Girder type; 32- Atty.-to-be exams; 37- Startled cries; 38- Spring; 39- Keeper, in football; 40- In spite of; 43- Attic; 44- Morays; 45- New Zealand parrot; 46- Remains; 47- 'The Thin Man' dog; 48- Actual; 49- Overtime cause; 51- U-turn from NNW; 53- The day following today; 58- Halved; 62- Sand hill; 63- 'Othello' villain; 64- 1986 Indy 500 winner Bobby; 65- 007's alma mater; 66- WWII battle site; 67- Practice piece; 68- Yours and mine; 69- Back part of the foot; 70- Gymnast Comaneci; DOWN: 1- More than one female sheep; 2- Make angry; 3- Zip-\_\_\_-Doo-Dah; 4- Elder; 5- Maternally related; 6- Temperate; 7- 'What I Am' singer Brickell; 8- Abies magnifica; 9- Ninth-century pope; 10- Biblical trio; 11- Sect; 12- Play to \_\_\_ (draw); 13- San Francisco's \_\_\_ Hill; 22- Hose; 24- Role for Clark; 26- Forceps; 27- Weaned pig; 28- Latin stars; 30- Phooey!; 31- Church recesses; 33- Blue; 34- Similar; 35- Fungal infection; 36- George of 'Just Shoot Me'; 38- Deceives; 39- Festive occasions; 41- Twisted; 42- Lunar New Year; 47- Add fizz; 48- Soprano Scott; 50- Whiskey type; 52- Seductively beautiful woman; 53- Ballet skirt; 54- \_\_\_ about (roughly); 55- Department store department; 56- Eyeball; 57- Fleece; 59- Dull sound; 60- Dry watercourse; 61- Olive genus; 62- \_\_\_ volente (God willing); Yesterday's solution: POSH, RIPPED, ARONE, ELLO, ALAR, BATOR, RIOT, MONA, ASTOR, INTERPRETATION, LOLA, FEEL, UNUS, SELECTS, ALE, LANES, LAN, ODEA, NOTWITHSTANDING, AMIE, TILL, IDEAL, GIL, INSECTS, USE, SOMNAMBULISTIC, ATRIA, TILSA, ANNA, HYATT, MEAN, TUGS, SENSE, TRIBLE, STAT



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Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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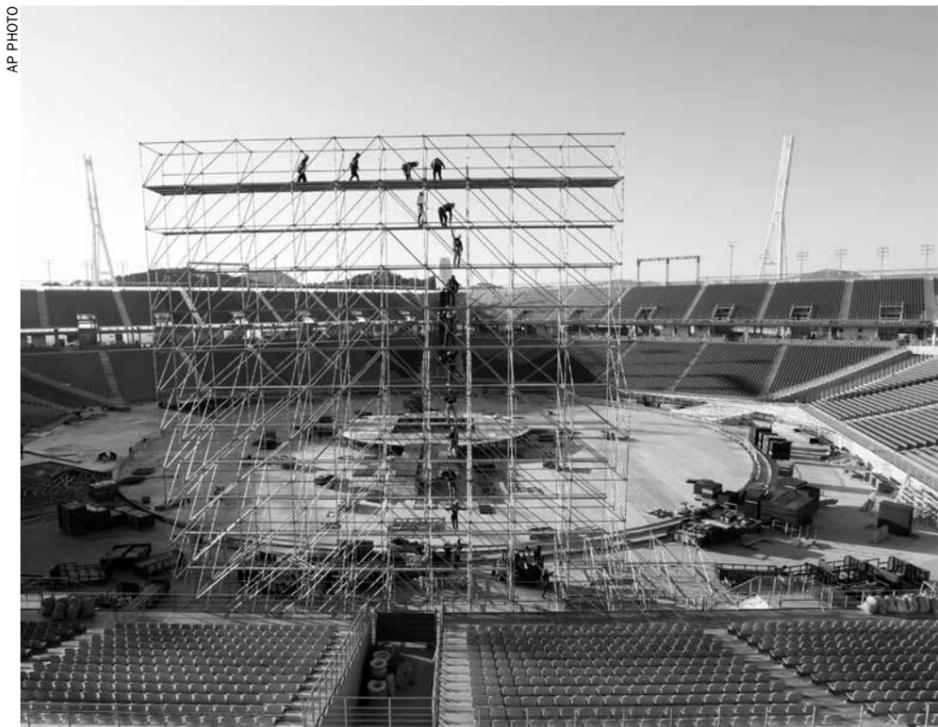


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In this Oct. 30, 2017, file photo, the Pyeongchang Olympic Stadium is still under construction



The Alpensia Ski Jumping Centre pictured in October

Kim Tong-Hyung, Gangneung

# As Olympics near, South Korea agonizes over post-Games costs

**S**OUTH Korean officials have ruled out turning a state-of-the-art Olympic skating arena into a giant seafood freezer. Other than that, not much is certain about the country's post-Winter Games plans for a host of expensive venues.

As officials prepare for the games in and around the small mountain town of Pyeongchang, there are lingering worries over the huge financial burden facing one of the nation's poorest regions. Local officials hope that the Games will provide a badly needed economic boost by marking the area as a world-class tourist destination.

But past experience shows that hosts who justified their Olympics with expectations of financial windfalls were often left deeply disappointed when the fanfare ended.

This isn't lost on Gangwon province, which governs Pyeongchang and nearby Gangneung, a seaside city that will host Olympic skating and hockey events. Officials there are trying hard to persuade the national government to pay to maintain new stadiums that will have little use once the athletes leave. Seoul, however, is so far balking at the idea.

The Olympics, which begin Feb. 9, will cost South Korea about 14 trillion won (USD12.9 billion), much more than the 8 to 9 trillion won (\$7 to 8 billion) the country projected as the overall cost when Pyeongchang won the bid in 2011.

Worries over costs have cast a shadow over the games among residents long frustrated with what they say were decades of neglect in a region that doesn't have much going on other than domestic tourism and fisheries.

"What good will a nicely managed global event really do for residents when we are struggling so much to make ends meet?" said Lee Do-sung, a Gangneung restaurant owner. "What will the games even leave? Maybe only debt."

## TEARING THINGS DOWN

The atmosphere was starkly different three decades ago when grand preparations for the 1988 Seoul Summer Games essentially shaped the capital into the modern metropolis it is today.

A massive sports complex and huge public parks emerged alongside the city's Han River. Next came new highways, bridges and subway lines. Forests of high-rise buildings rose above the bulldozed ruins of old commercial districts and slums.

The legacy of the country's second Olympics will be less clear. In a country that cares much less now about the recognition that large sporting events bring, it will potentially be remembered more for things dismantled than built.

Pyeongchang's picturesque Olympic Stadium — a pentagonal 35,000-seat arena that sits in a county of 40,000 people — will only be used for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics and Paralympics before workers tear it down.

A scenic downhill course in nearby Jeongseon will also be demolished after the games to restore the area to its natural state. Fierce criticism by environmentalists over the venue being built on a pristine forest sacred to locals caused construction delays that nearly forced pre-Olympic test events to be postponed.

Gangwon officials want the national government to share costs for rebuilding the forest, which could be as much as 102 billion won (\$95 million).

## NO FISH

Despite more than a decade of planning, Gangwon remains un-

sure what to do with the Olympic facilities it will keep.

Winter sports facilities are often harder to maintain than summer ones because of the higher costs for maintaining ice and snow and the usually smaller number of people they attract. That's especially true in South Korea, which doesn't have a strong winter sports culture.

Not all ideas are welcome.

Gangwon officials say they never seriously considered a proposal to convert the 8,000-seat Gangneung Oval, the Olympic speed skating venue, into a refrigerated warehouse for seafood. Officials were unwilling to have frozen fish as part of their Olympic legacy.

Gangwon officials also dismissed a theme park developer's suggestion to make the stadium a gambling venue where people place bets on skating races, citing the country's strict laws and largely negative view of gambling.

A plan to have the 10,000-capacity Gangneung Hockey Center host a corporate league hockey team fell apart.

Even worse off are Pyeongchang's bobsleigh track, ski jump hill and the biathlon and cross-country skiing venues, which were built for sports South Koreans are largely uninterested in.

After its final inspection visit in August, the International Olympic Committee warned Pyeongchang's organizers that they risked creating white elephants from Olympic venues, though it didn't offer specific suggestions for what to do differently.

Cautionary tales come from Athens, which was left with a slew of abandoned stadiums after the 2004 Summer Games that some

say contributed to Greece's financial meltdown and Nagano, the Japanese town that never got the tourism bump it expected after spending an estimated \$10.5 billion for the 1998 Winter Games.

Some Olympic venues have proved to be too costly to maintain. The \$100 million luge and bobsled track built in Turin for the 2006 games was later dismantled because of high operating costs. Pyeongchang will be only the second Olympic host to dismantle its ceremonial Olympic Stadium immediately after the games — the 1992 Winter Olympics host Albertville did so as well.

## 'MONEY-DRINKING HIPPOS'

Gangwon has demanded that the national government in Seoul pay for maintaining at least four Olympic facilities after the Games — the speed skating arena, hockey center, bobsleigh track and ski jump hill. This would save the province about 6 billion won (\$5.5 million) a year, according to Park Cheol-sin, a Gangwon official.

But the national government says doing so would be unfair to other South Korean cities that struggled financially after hosting large sports events. Incheon, the indebted 2014 Asian Games host, has a slew of unused stadiums now mocked as "money-drinking hippos." It would also be a hard sell to taxpayers outside of Gangwon, said Lee Jae-soon, an official from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

Unlike the 1988 Olympics and the 2002 World Cup, which were brought to South Korea after bids driven by the national govern-

ment, the provincial government led the bid for the Pyeongchang games and it did so without any commitment from Seoul over footing the bill.

Under current plans, Gangwon will be managing at least six Olympic facilities after the games.

These facilities will create a 9.2 billion won (\$8.5 million) deficit for the province every year, a sizable burden for a quickly-aging region that had the lowest income level among South Korean provinces in 2013, according to the Korea Industrial Strategy Institute, which was commissioned by Gangwon to analyze costs.

Hong Jin-won, a Gangneung resident and activist who has been monitoring Olympic preparations for years, said the real deficit could be even bigger. The institute's calculation is based on assumptions that each facility would generate at least moderate levels of income, which Hong says is no sure thing.

He said that could mean welfare spending gets slashed to help make up the lack of money.

South Korea, a rapidly-aging country with a worsening job market and widening rich-poor gap, has by far the highest elderly poverty rate among rich nations, according to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development figures.

If Seoul doesn't pay for the Olympic facilities, and Gangwon can't turn them into cultural or leisure facilities, it might make more sense for Gangwon to just tear them down.

Park said the national government must step up because the "Olympics are a national event, not a Gangwon event." AP

opinion

**Bizcuits**

Leanda Lee



**EMOTIONAL LABOUR**

“Sir, may I see the children to say good-bye?”

On a day earlier this month a domestic helper was told by her boss that her contract and blue-card would not be renewed. The employer gave her no reason, but she believes it was because she was close to the children. The wife had become jealous of the relationship she had developed with them. Communication between employer and employee faltered and maintaining the contract became untenable.

“I know the eldest is crying for me, Ma’am,” she said to me, her eyes welling up. “I wasn’t able to say good-bye to her. No notice. No warning. They just cut the blue-card.”

She had been working for the family for nearly a decade. The eldest child she cared for was a toddler when she started, now a prepubescent teen. She had been the one to comfort the youngest to sleep as a baby. The worker was given no consideration for her years’ work, no return flight home to the Philippines, no severance payment, no long service remuneration: no sign of any appreciation.

More than the failure to abide by the law and common courtesy, she felt betrayed by the dismissive treatment. Relationships may sour, hurt may develop into hate, but surely at some point a generosity of spirit calls for a respectful acknowledgement by one human being to another. This woman, who had been working in their home for all those years, has feelings and fears, insecurities and joys, and deserves some recognition for her service.

Horror stories in domestic helper employment relationships are common enough and neither party is immune to poor behaviour. Given the power imbalance, the more dire crimes, as seen in headlines, are generally perpetrated against the employee.

Even good employers, however, can fail to see or to even be aware of the emotional labour involved in working so closely with a family, especially when they are a big part of the lives of the children. These workers are frequently with the children from birth and spend more time with them than the parents. A bond will certainly be created and the worker’s influence will contribute to making our children what they are.

For many domestic helpers, the employer’s children are closer to them than their own children left in the care of family in their homeland: distance does not usually make the heart grow fonder and constant physical contact binds people together. The hugs and kisses of a small child and that child’s dependence will develop a fondness, even love, in all but the hardest of hearts.

Although working within a family involves true feelings, emotional labour is also part of the deal. Emotional labour is work that involves regulating emotions to meet the requirements of a job. Nurses, teachers, social workers are examples of such roles. Controlling emotions, and especially to respond to people in ways one would not normally, is stressful. Highly charged situations increase the strain.

These ladies who work in our homes give more than their physical labour and time. They interact in the emotional lives of our homes, and they negotiate and navigate those treacherous paths of petty and real jealousies. They smile and hold their tongues when they would prefer to retort, and they tread carefully when nerves are frayed. They walk a fine line between friend, confidant, and employee. The constancy of their emotional labour deserves recognition and their stoicism distanced from their own loved ones deserves admiration.

**THE ANDREW NG AIMS TO BRING AI ‘ELECTRICITY’ TO MANUFACTURING**

The artificial intelligence researcher who called AI the new electricity is now trying to make sure every company is plugged in.

Stanford professor Andrew Ng, one of the leading figures in AI, is launching a startup called Landing.AI. Its aim initially is to help manufacturing companies use computer algorithms to cut costs, improve quality control, remove supply-chain bottlenecks, and more.

Landing.AI’s first strategic partner is Foxconn, the

Taiwanese manufacturing giant that helps Apple build iPhones. The company is helping implement a system to spot defects, such as tiny particles or scratches on camera lens units. Currently, thousands of people work to manually inspect such parts. Ng says the AI-powered system can work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and be more accurate than people.

“AI will transform manufacturing. That’s just a fact of life,” Ng told reporters at a briefing in San Francisco.

**In blow to May, UK lawmakers assert final say on Brexit deal**



MPs return their results in the House of Commons after a vote on a motion insisting a deal with the EU require an Act of Parliament before it can take effect

**BRITISH** lawmakers delivered a blow to Prime Minister Theresa May’s Brexit plans yesterday [Macau time] by giving Parliament the final say on any exit agreement the government reaches with the European Union.

The House of Commons voted 309-305 to give lawmakers what is essentially a veto on the terms of Brexit, a challenge to May’s fragile authority amid the already strained disentanglement process. The vote came on the eve of a major EU summit.

A dozen lawmakers from the prime minister’s governing Conservative Party sided with the opposition to insist that any withdrawal deal with the EU requires an act of Parliament to take effect.

May had promised lawmakers a “meaningful vote” on the departure agreement, but political opponents and some within her own party said her assurance was not enough of a guarantee.

The vote was the government’s first defeat in Parliament on its Brexit legislation.

It came as an amendment to the EU Withdrawal Bill, the government’s flagship piece of Brexit legislation. The bill itself, which still is moving through Parliament, would convert some 12,000 EU laws into British statutes on the day

the U.K. leaves the bloc in March 2019. Without it, Britain could face a legal black hole the day after Brexit.

The government said it was disappointed with the result and would see whether changes were now needed to the “essential” legislation.

If the amendment survives a final vote on the withdrawal bill, it would not have a direct impact on Britain’s negotiations with the EU. But it could reinforce perceptions in the bloc that May lacks authority.

It increases pressure on May, who is caught between the opposing wings of a government and Parliament deeply split over Brexit.

The vote was hailed by those who support a “soft Brexit” — in which Britain continues to align closely with the EU — as a sign that the government will have to pay more attention to Parliament, where pro-EU forces are in a majority.

Pro-EU Conservative lawmaker Dominic Grieve, who drafted the amendment, said it ensured Parliament did not give the government a “blank check” on Brexit.

EU leaders, including May, open a two-day summit yesterday during which they are slated to agree that there has been “sufficient progress” for Brexit

talks to move to the second phase of future relations and trade, a subject Britain wants to open as soon as possible.

Earlier, the EU’s chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, said there could be “no turning back” for Britain on commitments made during an initial divorce deal between the two. He spoke after his U.K. counterpart insisted it was merely a “statement of intent.”

Barnier told legislators at the European Parliament that the negotiations so far have been “extremely complex and extraordinary” but insisted he had made no concessions to the British side.

U.K. negotiator David Davis riled officials in Brussels by suggesting on the weekend that the deal was less than cast in stone. The initial deal involved agreement on keeping a transparent border between EU member Ireland and the U.K.’s Northern Ireland, as well as guarantees on citizens’ rights.

But, Barnier said, “progress has been noted and recorded and is going to have to be translated into a legally binding withdrawal agreement.”

Britain is due to leave the bloc in March 2019, but a Brexit deal will have to be agreed by the fall of 2018 to give national parliaments time to approve it. AP

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	70-105 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	70-105 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	70-105 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**IRAN** Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is warning that Iran may be defying a U.N. call to halt ballistic missile development even as it complies with the nuclear deal with six world powers. More on p14



**YEMEN** Suspected Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen have killed at least 23 people, including prisoners, and wounded dozens in the rebel-held capital, Sanaa, rebel officials and eyewitnesses said.

**SYRIA** At the doors of the Syrian capital, children with wrinkled faces and arms like sticks are going hungry because President Bashar Assad’s forces, supported by Russia and Iran, are blocking trucks filled with humanitarian relief.



**ROMANIA** A coffin carrying the body of Romania’s late King Michael I arrived at the Royal Palace in Bucharest, where it was met by applause and will lie in state ahead of his funeral this weekend.



**POLAND**’s new prime minister made his debut yesterday at a European Union summit, a first test of whether the Western-educated former banker can bridge a deepening rift between his right-wing government and Brussels.

**FRANCE** Authorities say there has been a “serious rail accident” in southern France involving a school bus and a regional train.



**ECUADOR**’s vice president was sentenced to six years in prison after a court convicted him of illicit association in a scheme to accept bribes from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht.