



**LANTERN FESTIVAL.** Visitors tour the Forbidden City, decorated with red lanterns and illuminated with lights, during the Lantern Festival in Beijing. For the first time since it was established 94 years ago, the Palace Museum, also known as the Forbidden City, extended opening hours until nighttime and lit up part of its cultural relics buildings. The Palace Museum was illuminated and opened for night visits to celebrate the Lantern Festival. (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

## Beijing’s Forbidden City illuminated for Lantern Festival

BEIJING (AP) — Beijing’s Forbidden City was illuminated and open to the general public for night visits for the first time to celebrate China’s Lantern Festival.

As night fell, visitors were welcomed by a light show at the Meridian Gate exhibition hall. A dazzling array of lights also lit up the Supreme Harmony Hall. Chinese characters and traditional decorations were projected on the outer

walls.

Along a corridor, the ancient Chinese painting “Along the River During the Qingming Festival” was projected on rooftops.

The Forbidden City, which served as China’s political center for more than 500 years, is now known as the Palace Museum. China’s Lantern Festival marked the end of Lunar New Year festivities.

## Indonesia makes 2032 Olympics bid official

By Niniek Karmini  
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesia has officially joined bidding to host the 2032 Olympics following its success staging the Asian Games last year, the deputy chairman of its national Olympic committee said, highlighting the rising ambitions of the giant but perennially underperforming Southeast Asian nation.

Muddai Madang said letters from President Joko Widodo and the national Olympic committee were delivered to the International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) president in Lausanne by Indonesia’s ambassador to Switzerland.

“Indonesia is ready to host the Olympics,” Madang told The Associated Press. “What we need now is support from all the Indonesian people and the international community.”

Widodo, who is campaigning for re-election, made a surprise announcement of plans to bid for the 2032 games after the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang co-hosted the 18th Asian Games in August, and the process has

gathered momentum. The Olympics have never been held in Southeast Asia.

There were doubts Indonesia could successfully host the Asian Games, an event involving more than 10,000 athletes, but its reasonably smooth execution was praised by the IOC, paving the way for a tilt at even bigger sports events.

India is planning to bid for the 2032 games and North and South Korea have confirmed an intention to launch a joint bid. Australia and Russia have also expressed interest.

Problems with the 2016 Olympics in Brazil, a developing country that like Indonesia suffers endemic corruption, may count against the chances of the Indonesian bid.

By some estimates it cost Brazil about \$20 billion to host the Olympics, the kind of bill that is likely to raise objections in Indonesia, despite projections it will be among the world’s 10 biggest economies by 2030 with a population nearing 300 million.

Tokyo is hosting the 2020 Olympics. Paris and Los Angeles have already been selected to host the following two games, in 2024 and 2028, respectively.

year as part of plans for a major cleanup of the mountain that straddles the border between the countries.

Expedition companies in Nepal say they are prepared for additional climbers.

“There should not be any problem to accommodate the flow of climbers to Everest from the Nepal side. We have the capability and are prepared,” said Pemba Sherpa of Nepal-based Xtreme Climbers Treks and Expedition.

Besides the hundreds of climbers and their support teams that camp at the base camp for months, more than 40,000 trekkers also hike to the camp, located at 17,400 feet. An increase in these hikers is also likely, but officials were unable to say by how much.

The tourism official said there are some environmental concerns due to the expected increase in climbers and

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## Honda to shut plant in Brexit-shaken Britain

By Kaori Hitomi  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese carmaker Honda plans to close its car factory in western England in 2021, a fresh blow to the British economy as it struggles with the uncertainty associated with leaving the European Union (EU).

The company announced the decision, which will imperil 3,500 jobs and possibly many more, at a news conference in Tokyo.

Honda’s president and CEO, Takahiro Hachigo, said the decision was not related to Brexit, but was based on what made most sense for its global competitiveness in light of the need to accelerate its production of electric vehicles.

Still, experts say the uncertainty surrounding Brexit will likely have been a contributing factor in a decision like Honda’s. There is still no clarity on what leaving the EU will mean. In a worst case it could lead to heavy tariffs and border checks, raising costs and slowing deliveries.

That comes at a time when the industry is already in serious flux, with manufacturers shifting to cleaner cars, coping with more tariffs, and a slowing global economy.

“We still don’t know what sort of changes Brexit will bring at this point,” said Hachigo. “We have to wait until we have a better idea about the situation.”

Hachigo said the company would begin discussions with affected workers at the factory in Swindon right away.

“I very much regret this,” he said, adding that “this was the best choice under the circumstances.”



**FACTORY FOLDING.** Honda cars leave the Honda car factory in Swindon, England. Japanese carmaker Honda has announced that its car plant in Swindon will close with the potential loss of some 3,500 jobs. (AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

Honda Motor Co. makes its popular Civic model at the factory, 70 miles west of London, with an output of 150,000 cars per year. Its restructuring is aimed at adjusting its operations to reflect stronger demand in Asia and North America, Hachigo said.

The next model of Civic to be sold in Britain will be exported from Japan, the company said.

Honda is also adjusting its operations in Turkey, where it makes 38,000 Civic sedans a year. It said it would continue operating there, however, and hold a “constructive dialogue” with local stakeholders.

British businesses are issuing increasingly urgent warnings about the damage being done by the lack of clarity surrounding Britain’s divorce from the EU. The U.K. has yet to seal a deal laying out the divorce terms and establishing what trade rules will apply after Brexit.

In presenting the restructuring plan, Hachigo stressed that Honda was striving to adjust to a fast changing global industry. Technol-

ogy is driving the change.

“We are facing increasingly severe competition from Chinese and Indian manufacturers,” he said. “We have to move more quickly.”

Japan and the EU have also struck a free trade deal, which makes a manufacturing presence in the EU less important. The U.K.’s decision to leave the bloc could create further uncertainty for Japanese companies in Britain.

Christian Stadler, a professor at Warwick Business School in England, said the loss of free entry into the European market from Britain undoes one of its top advantages as a manufacturing base.

Many businesses fear economic chaos if there isn’t an agreement on the rules and conditions that will replace the 45 years of frictionless trade that came with being an EU member. The uncertainty has already led many firms to shift some operations abroad, stockpile goods, or defer investment decisions.

In February, Japan’s Nissan announced that it

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I-5 ROSE QUARTER  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

### PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT

You are invited to review and submit comments on the Project’s environmental study, including Sections 106 and 4(f), from February 15 to April 1, 2019 at 5 pm. You may review the document and provide comments in the following ways:



#### OPEN HOUSE

March 7, 2019, 5:30 pm – 8 pm  
Leftbank Annex – Clubroom  
101 N Weidler St, Portland, OR



#### ONLINE OPEN HOUSE

February 15 – April 1, 2019  
www.i5RoseQuarter.org



#### EMAIL

info@i5RoseQuarter.org



#### PUBLIC HEARING

March 12, 2019  
Oregon Convention Center  
Room A108  
777 N EMLK Jr Blvd, Portland, OR  
• 4:30 pm – 6 pm – Sign up to speak  
• 5 pm – Event begins: Presentation followed by public comments

Visit [www.i5RoseQuarter.org](http://www.i5RoseQuarter.org) for a project overview, to review the Environmental Assessment and to learn additional ways to comment.

For ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) or Civil Rights Title VI accommodations, translation/interpretation services, or more information call 503-731-4128, TTY 800-735-2900 or Oregon Relay Service 7-1-1.

Si desea obtener información sobre este proyecto traducida al español, sírvase llamar al 503-731-4128.

