



**BEIJING AND MACAU REFUTED AN EU REPORT WHICH TACKLED POLITICAL RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS**

P3

**JACKSON CHANG SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT PROBATION**

P2

**261 SMES WHICH BENEFITED FROM GOVERNMENT SUPPORT MEASURES HAVE ALREADY CLOSED THEIR DOORS DUE TO BANKRUPTCY**

P5

AP PHOTO



**Australians** awoke yesterday to a new prime minister in Anthony Albanese, the center-left Labor Party leader whose ascension to the nation's top job from being raised in social housing by a single mother on a disability pension was said to reflect the country's changed fabric. The 59-year-old career politician referred to his humble upbringing in the inner-Sydney suburb of Camperdown while thanking electors for making him the country's 31st leader.

AP PHOTO



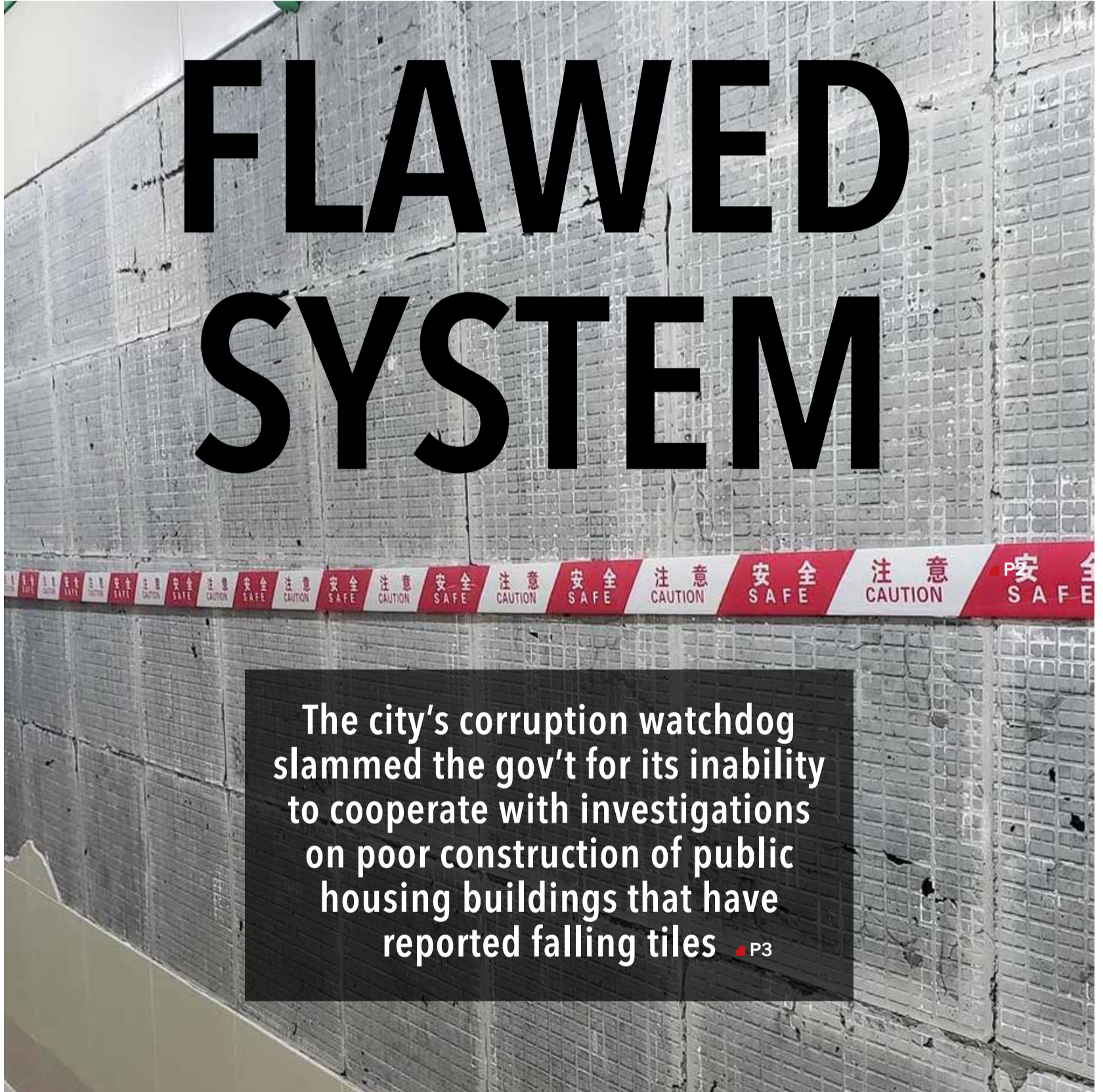
**Thailand** Voters in the capital headed to the polls yesterday to elect a new governor in a contest delayed by a military coup that still reflects a divided country with main candidates either supported by the conservative establishment or the liberal opposition. A record 31 candidates entered the race, but the battle being watched most closely is between two who registered as independents. One is former Transport Minister Chadchart Sittipunt, a front-runner, and the other Asawin Kwanmuang, who served as the military-appointed governor since 2016.

AP PHOTO



**India** Rescuers on Saturday found the bodies of nine more workers in a collapsed tunnel in Indian-controlled Kashmir, taking the death toll to 10. The tunnel is part of a mountainous highway tunnel system that was under construction in the Himalayan region when it collapsed last week. The body of one worker was recovered Friday.

More on backpage



**MACAU BORDERS TO OPEN TO PORTUGUESE VISITORS FROM MAY 27**

P2



**UN RIGHTS CHIEF TO TRAVEL TO XINJIANG**

P6



ANTHONY LAM



# MACAU BORDERS OPEN TO PORTUGUESE VISITORS: GOV'T

**M**ACAU health authorities announced Friday that non-resident Portuguese nationals will be allowed to enter the MSAR starting from May 27.

According to the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordi-

nation Centre, Portuguese travelers will be granted entry as long as they have only been to mainland China, Hong Kong, or Portugal within the previous 21 days, and not to foreign countries, "although transit is

permissible."

As the pandemic situation in Portugal has subsided, and in view of the close relationship between Portugal and Macau, the local authorities had decided to loosen entry restrictions for non-

-residents of Portuguese nationality.

"The health authorities have determined to loosen the entry restrictions, in a proper way, for non-residents with Portuguese nationality after assessment of the epidemic risk," the center said in a statement.

Last month, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U said that the Macau SAR government is currently studying the possible easing of entry requi-

rements for travelers from countries with close ties to Macau.

Ao Ieong U said that the measure is part of easing the city's border restrictions, which has been in place since March 2020, barring foreign arrivals.

She added that Portugal is one of the countries which the government hopes to examine as soon as possible, noting that Portugal is the country which the review will chiefly focus upon as it has a "close relationship with Macau."

"For example, many families from the countries [might have relatives] in Macau or vice versa. Some students from that country [might be] studying [in Macau] or vice versa. These types of countries will be on the preliminary list to serve as a reference", said Ao Ieong.

Meanwhile, Portuguese travelers will still be subject to standard entry regulations, such as holding a valid passport, and will have to show the documents required by the health authorities, namely a negative test result for Covid-19, prior to boarding a flight to Macau.

A 14-day hotel quarantine and other Covid restrictions apply to those coming from the "old country."

Portugal is one of the most vaccinated countries in the European Union, although its caseload had been on the rise recently. **MDT**

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE former president of Macau's technical immigration agency has been sentenced to five years of imprisonment without probation on several charges.

Jackson Chang, the ex-president of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), was found guilty of corruption, abuse of power and money laundering by the Court of First Instance in October 2020.

Disputing the verdict, Chang filed for a retrial. His lawyer managed to get bail approved by the court.

During the retrial in February this year, the court revisited all evidence, including Chang's travel records, text messages between Chang and another suspect, Ng Kuok Sao, as well as the flow of funds.

JACKSON CHANG

# Ex-IPIM chief sentenced to five years in prison

Following its analysis, the court found Chang accountable for abuse of power, violation of duty to confidentiality and accepting illicit interests. Chang was said to have obtained money from Ng in return for leaking internal and confidential data to the latter.

The former IPIM chief was sentenced in the first trial to 11 months in prison with six months of probation, on an accusation of inaccuracy in financial data.

The retrial extended his sentence to five years on the accusation, while eliminating the probation element of the sentence.

At the court, Chang's

lawyer, Álvaro Rodrigues, announced an application for appeal right after hearing the sentence. He later told the press that he was confident about winning the appeal.

After hearing from the defense, the court retained the measures levied on Chang, namely barring him from leaving Macau and requiring him to report to the court regularly.

Ng is now serving his prison term in Macau. He was sentenced to 23 years' imprisonment at the retrial, after being sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment while he was at large during the first trial. He was apprehended in Zhuhai last month.



www.macaodailytimes.com.mo

**REACHING OUT!**

**+23,000**

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報  
**Times**

**DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaodailytimes.com  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR** Lynzy Valles  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS** Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

**NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS** Alex Torrão, Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Jorge Costa Oliveira, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Sérgio de Almeida Correia, Viviana Seguí **DESIGNERS** Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, McME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua **SECRETARY** Yang Dongxiao amy@macaodailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

**ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaodailytimes.com

**OFFICE MANAGER** Juliana Cheang juliana@macaodailytimes.com

**ADDRESS** Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

**Advertisement** advertising@macaodailytimes.com

**For subscription and general issues:**

general@macaodailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd





# Beijing, Macau 'strongly oppose' EU report

ANTHONY LAM

**B**OTH the Chinese and Macau governments have expressed "strong opposition" towards a European Union (EU) report recently published which summarizes Macau's condition in 2021.

"The Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) of the People's Republic of China expresses strong opposition to the release of the 2021 annual report on the MSAR

issued by the EU," the local government said in a statement.

Reiterating the "successful implementation of the 'One country, two systems' principle," the local government described the report as containing "unfounded accusations and counterfactual claims."

"The Macau Special Administrative Region Government urges the EU to stop immediately its intervention in Macau's internal affairs, as they are part of China's domestic affairs," the

local government added.

In response to the same report, the Commissioner's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region said in a statement: "We express our strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to the EU's publication of the so-called 2021 Macau-related report, which repeats its old tricks, confuses right and wrong, and smears the successful practice of 'one country, two systems'

in Macau."

It further emphasized that "Macau affairs are purely China's internal affairs, and no external forces should interfere. We once again urge the EU to recognize the general trend, change its course, abandon its ideological prejudice and immediately stop interfering in the affairs of the Macau SAR and China's internal affairs."

In its report, the EU accused the government's implementation of the "One country, two systems" principle of "[undermining] the political rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Macau," in addition to making the situation "increasingly challenging for Macau's media to express a broad range of views, [noting that] they are practicing more self-censorship."

It noted specifically that authorities in Macau had, "for the first time [...] disqualified 21 candidates" before the parliamentary election last year. The EU issued a Spokesperson Statement calling the decision a detrimental step that ran counter to the rights guaranteed in Macau's Basic Law, the report highlighted.

The EU also emphasized the fact that its officials stationed in Hong Kong could not visit Macau, which "has hindered the [EU's] work and limited contact with SAR government officials and others."

Nonetheless, the EU said in the report that it "supports [the 'one country, two systems'] principle and its implementation." It added that the report was issued "in line with the commitment given to the European Parliament in 1997."

## SSM: MONKEYPOX TRANSMITTED BY SKIN CONTACT

In a statement, the Health Bureau (SSM) has reminded the public to stay vigilant against monkeypox, dozens of cases of which have been recorded in Europe. So far, no deaths have been recorded. The SSM said that most patients had reported lesions on or around their genitals, suggesting that transmission could have occurred during sexual intercourse. Contact with virus-containing materials, such as the bodily fluids of an infected person, usually facilitate transmission. Symptoms of monkeypox include fever, headache, muscle ache, back pain, enlarged lymph nodes, shivering and fatigue. Rashes similar to chickenpox can also appear. The incubation period for the virus ranges from five to 21 days.

## IAM FINDS NO CORONAVIRUS ON IMPORTED FROZEN FISH

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has ordered retesting of some products, following the announcement from Beijing that a sample of packaging from frozen pangasius fish imported from Vietnam with registration number DL476 tested positive in a Covid-19 nucleic acid test. The May 19 notice from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China led to the IAM undertaking measures such as source tracing, investigation and retesting of products of the manufacturer concerned. Local businesses have been asked to immediately seal products sourced from the manufacturer, and samples have been collected for retesting. IAM announced in a statement. No positive results have been found. The IAM has also suspended import applications for products from the manufacturer, effective immediately.

## FALLING TILES

# CCAC points out flaws in public housing construction, gov't disorganization

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has issued a report slamming flaws in the construction of public housing buildings, as well as the inability of government departments to cooperate with investigations of the case.

The case under investigation relates to tiles falling in several common areas of the Lake Building and Ip Heng Building, two buildings constructed as part of the government economic housing program.

In an extensive report

filed by the CCAC, the corruption watchdog said that the falling tiles had several causes and factors, such as the "design of wall finishes of common areas of the buildings by the design units, material selection and size of tiles, quality of tile-laying workmanship by construction workers, abrupt changes of ambient temperature, the stringency of oversight as well as inspection and acceptance [and] adequacy of the subsequent repairs and follow-up work."

The CCAC said that there was no proof of corruption in both the public

tender and the inspection procedures and materials approved by different government entities.

Nonetheless, the CCAC said that all involved, including government departments and contractors, "missed the favorable time to tackle the problem at its root, and it is, therefore, impossible to be a hundred percent certain about the underlying causes of the tile falling problem."

Given the risk caused by the situation, the CCAC suggested that "relevant departments proactively respond to the needs of households and find an ul-

timinate solution to the matter, together with them."

The CCAC also pointed the finger at the lack of cooperation in the process from the former Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) which refused to provide the necessary information to the Housing Bureau (IH) on the matter. The latter was not spared from responsibility, as the corruption watchdog considered that the IH should not just accept a lack of cooperation from the GDI, and instead should have sought a solution from the office of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, whom the two de-



partments were under.

The commission also added that, "judging from the design and selection of wall tiles in the public corridors of the future economic housing buildings at Zone A of the New Urban Zones, it was obvious that

the authorities had learned the lesson and made efforts to optimize the design and construction quality of economic housing buildings," expressing hope that the issue would not be repeated in the future.



# CITY SEES MORE SCHOOLS WITH LIGHTER BACKPACKS

ANTHONY LAM

**S**OME 31 further schools have lightened the weight of their school bags when compared with the last school year, education chief Kong Chi Meng has recently disclosed.

In reply to lawmaker Ella Lei's written inquiry, the director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEDJ) referred to the data. He added that the average weight of primary school students' school bags dropped from 4.14 kilograms in the 19/20 school year to 3.81 kilograms in the first spot check in the 21/22 school year.

Commenting on the finding, Kong attributed the change to cooperation between students and their families, as well as teachers. In addition, the education chief pointed out that schools in the city are "basically" equipped with lockers and drinking fountains.

Until that point, his reply focused on the first ques-



tion the lawmaker raised in the inquiry. Emphasizing that the guideline aiming at reducing school bag weight in the DSEDJ's "School Operation Guide" had been implemented for some time, the lawmaker wanted to learn about its overall impact.

"So far, how many schools have met the standard? Are the overall results as expected?" Lei asked in her first question.

Carrying on, the

lawmaker pointed out that the current "School Operation Guide" stipulates that the weight of students' school bags should not exceed 15% of the students' body weight.

As such, she asked whether the bureau would consider optimizing the relevant indicator and whether there would be supporting measures.

In response, the education chief did not foresee any change to the indicator

in the near future. In contrast, he emphasized that the indicator was agreed upon among professional groups. The 15% indicator is good for the protection of students' ankles, knees and hip joints.

Subsidies have also been offered to higher education institutions to evaluate the health of students' bones, "so as to assist schools and families to get [...] timely follow-up on students' conditions," Kong said.



## STUDIO CITY TO OPEN 'SUPER FUN ZONE' IN LATE JUNE

**M**ELCO is set to launch a "Super Fun Zone" at Studio City at the end of June, in a bid to promote diversification in Macau.

The new venue will feature five zones laid out across four levels and 29,600 square feet, with the themes of: Mountain, Forest, Under the Sea, Outer Space and Space Station.

According to a statement from the company, the zones include 50 gaming spots, a five-meter freefall ride and a giant hanging-net play platform spread across

two levels.

David Sisk, CEO of Macau Resorts of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, said the company is "pleased to introduce another new and unique attraction for our guests. Melco will continue to invest in and promote economic diversification by providing the most innovative entertainment offerings and facilities for the enjoyment of our visitors and guests, and for the continued long-term development of the integrated tourism and leisure industry in Macau and the Greater Bay Area." LV

AD

AMERICAN EXPRESS DON'T live life WITHOUT IT™

120th BNU

**AMERICAN EXPRESS**

SUSANNA K. LEE  
MEMBER SINCE 2014

BNU American Express® Gold Card presents:

**50% CASHBACK IN F&B SPENDING**

Be one of the first 300 clients to register and spend, and get up to a total of MOP 2,000 in cashback!

Promotion period: May 5 – June 20, 2022  
Register now: [www.bnu.com](http://www.bnu.com)

NOT YET AN AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD MEMBER?  
Apply now and enjoy many more offers!

Offer is only available for Macau F&B transactions, settled with a physical BNU American Express Gold Card, and valid for the first 300 registrations. Terms and conditions apply. American Express is a trademark of American Express. The American Express Card is issued by Banco Nacional Ultramarino S.A. pursuant to a license from American Express.

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER  
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

**General Surgery** : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

**Breast Surgery** : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

**Urology** : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

**Paediatric Surgery** : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

**Paediatrics** : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

**Obstetrics & Gynaecology** : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

**Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery** : Dr. Lam U Lin

**Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine** : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

**ENT** : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

**Cardiology** : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

**General Medicine** : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

**Dietitian** : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau  
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: [www.peddermacau.com](http://www.peddermacau.com)  
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed



BUSINESS

# 261 SMEs supported by gov't close down

RENATO MARQUES

A total of 261 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which benefited from government support measures have already closed their doors due to bankruptcy. Of these shutdowns, 80 were recorded in just the first three months of 2022, the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSEDT) said in reply to an enquiry from media outlet Plataforma.

According to the report, 181 companies from a total of 8,354 which benefited from the SME Aid Scheme, one of the most popular support programs, have already gone bankrupt, representing 2.7% of the total number of approved enterprises.

The DSEDT explained that this number might further increase as, under the scheme, beneficiary companies only need to start repaying their loans 18 months after receiving a payment. Payments made under the scheme are up to 600,000 patacas, interest-free, with repayments to be made over a period of up to eight years.

Additionally, 5,063 SMEs have applied for a different support plan, which includes subsidized interest of up to 4% for a maximum of three years on loans up to 2 million patacas.

DSEDT said that a total of 80 companies which accessed this scheme have already closed their doors, as of end March this year, with another four having their support plans canceled for being unable to repay their loans.

Statistics show that from 2020 until March this year, DSEDT approved a total of 18,541 requests



of the almost 21,000 received for the three major SME support plans offered by the government.

The measures represent a total investment of 8.7 billion patacas, of which 2.25 billion patacas comes from direct loans from the government and 6.15 billion patacas are related to loans issued by banks. The remaining amount, over 300,000 patacas, is related to adjustments of the reimbursement scheme launched by the government in an attempt to facilitate the repayment of loans previously granted.

## CALL FOR BORDER REOPENING WITH HK

Taking into account the current business environment, local busi-

ness and commerce associations have pointed out that reinstating quarantine-free travel with the neighboring region of Hong Kong as soon as possible will ease local companies' burden, saying that this will relieve some of the pressure on local SMEs.

To Plataforma, Melinda Chan, vice president of the Federal General Commercial Association of Macau Small and Medium Enterprises said that, according to a survey by the association, almost one-third of local SMEs have dismissed workers due to Covid-19 pandemic impacts, while some 10% are thinking of permanently closing their doors.

"SMEs are very pessimistic

about the future. Macau is in recession and the crisis is spreading to several areas," Chan said, noting that the impact on local companies is "huge," as the large majority of local SMEs emerged out of the "prosperity of the tourist sector," being extremely reliant on tourism.

Noting that there are no positive signs from authorities on the reopening of Macau to foreigners, tourists from the mainland will continue to be the only visitors.

"Macau cannot survive just on internal demand. A population below 700,000 cannot sustain the existing economy," Chan said, adding that "the tourism and the gaming industry are the main

engines of the economy. If these industries enter a decline, the expectation [is that] SMEs will fall apart, as happened with many small businesses in NAPE area."

"The tourists liked to go to local restaurants and eateries to taste the local food but now [even if they return] most of these businesses were forced to close," she concluded, noting that if the status quo continues, soon hotels will be closing down too.

In the same report, Lei Cheok Kuan, president of the Industry and Commerce Federation of Macau Central and Southern District also remarked that the fastest and most sustainable solution, for the time being, is to reopen the border with Hong Kong.

"The number of cases of infections should drop [soon] to two digits. This should be a great time for the [Macau and HK] governments to negotiate a way to ease the border restrictions," Lei said, suggesting that the vaccine passport in use in Hong Kong could be recognized in Macau as an entry requirement.

He also expressed hope that people on the mainland who are outside of risky areas could be allowed to enter Macau.

Asked about the debts accumulated by SMEs, Lei said that the association has already addressed the issue with the government.

According to the response received, an authorization from the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) is needed to enforce any added relief measures for repayments, adding that the association hopes the government can communicate with AMCM to find a solution.

TOURISM

# Visitor numbers drop 24% y-o-y in April

LYNZY VALLES

VISITOR arrivals rose by 15.2% month-on-month to 606,841 in April, yet the figure still represents a year-on-year drop of 23.7%, according to the Statistics and Census Service.

The number of overnight visitors (180,938) fell by 59.8% year-on-year, whereas the figure for same-day visitors (425,903) grew by 23.7%.

Although April's increase was attributable to the easing of entry measures, Macau saw its inbound visitor arrivals decline, partly due to the Covid-19

outbreak in Shanghai.

The average daily volume of tourists in April tallied around 11,000, far less than the average daily arrivals February, which was 23,000.

Previously, Macao Government Tourism Office director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes has noted that Shanghai remains Macau's major source of visitors.

The Ching Ming Festival, also known as Tomb-Sweeping Day, is observed in April, which boosted tourism arrivals in pre-pandemic times.

However, the Macau SAR

recorded only 48,536 tourist arrivals during the three days of the Ching Ming Festival holiday, a 50% fall from the nearly 99,600 arrivals reported last year.

Even in China, Beijing's Ministry of Culture and Tourism said that an estimated 75 million domestic trips were made during the festival, down 26.2% from last year.

Looking at the source of visitors, the number of visitors from mainland China decreased 26.8% year-on-year to 534,899, with 118,589 of these travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme.

Visitors from the nine Pearl River Delta cities in the Greater Bay Area totaled 394,246, of whom 66.2% came from Zhuhai. Additionally, there were 65,418 visitors from Hong Kong and 6,415 from Taiwan.

In the first four months of 2022, the number of visitor arrivals dropped by 2% year-on-year to 2,483,688. Overnight visitors (861,663) fell by 37.1% year-on-year, while same-day visitors (1,622,025) rose by 39.4%.

The casino sector also saw its gross gaming revenue drop steeply in April to MOP2.68 billion, the lowest



figure recorded since September 2020, as the city endured stricter border controls as fresh outbreaks arose in neighboring regions.

April's gaming revenue

is 68.1% lower year-on-year and 27.1% lower than in March, and only equates to about 11% of pre-pandemic figures for the same month.



# AS BIDEN VISITS ASIA, CHINA LAUNCHES SOUTH CHINA SEA DRILLS

CHINA is holding military exercises in the disputed South China Sea coinciding with U.S. President Joe Biden's visits to South Korea and Japan that are largely focused on countering the perceived threat from Beijing.

China's Maritime Safety Administration office in the southern island province of Hainan said the drills began last Thursday and will continue today.

It said other aircraft and vessels will be prohibited from entering the area but gave no further details. China claims virtually all of the South China Sea and the crucial waterway has become a potential flashpoint for conflict in Asia.

The U.S. does not take a position on the sovereignty issue but insists on the right to operate freely in the sea and frequently sails warships close to militarized Chinese-held islands in the area in what are termed freedom of navigation operations.

China routinely protests such missions, labeling them deliberate provocations that endanger peace and stability. To assert its claim, it has built airstrips and other military infrastructure atop human-made islands built on coral reefs and atolls.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan also exercise overlapping claims in the South China Sea. The Philippine coast guard said Friday it had established outposts on three islands in the contested waters, a move that will likely be frowned upon by Beijing.

Since the beginning of the month, China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, has been conducting a mission in the Sea of Japan. The Defense Ministry described it as "rou-



tine training" aimed at boosting performance that is "in line with relevant international law and international practice, and not targeting any party."

China also flew a pair of long-range nuclear-capable H-6 bombers through the area on Wednesday, Chinese media reports said.

Meanwhile Friday, the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its strike group left their home port at Yokosuka, Japan, for a "routine at-sea period," the 7th Fleet said.

The ships and the carrier air wing "are expected to work with allies and partners, promote adherence to a rules-based international order, as well as maintain presence and flexibility to meet the needs of the U.S. Department of Defense," the Navy said.

Biden arrived in South Korea on Friday. While in Japan, he will meet Tuesday with fellow leaders

## PHILIPPINES ESTABLISHES COAST GUARD OUTPOSTS IN DISPUTED SEA

THE Philippines has established three coast guard outposts on three islands in the disputed South China Sea to monitor ship movements and promote safety, officials said Friday, amid increasing maritime tensions with China.

The move reinforced the presence of Filipino troops on the islands in the hotly contested Spratly archipelago and will likely be frowned upon by Beijing, which has claimed the disputed waterway virtually in its entirety.

China has protested any new constructions in the region although it has transformed seven disputed reefs into military-guarded island bases in past years, alarming rival claimants and the United States, which has no territorial claims. The U.S. Navy and Air Force have been patrolling the area to ensure freedom of navigation and overflight in the contested waters.

Coast guard Adm. Artemio Abu said the outposts

on the islands, which were established this week, will be staffed by coast guard personnel and equipped with radio communications to report any incidents. Abu did not specify how many personnel will be stationed at the new outposts but said it's the largest deployment in the disputed region so far.

"Through these command observation posts, we improve our capabilities in promoting maritime safety, maritime search and rescue, and marine environmental protection," Abu said in a statement.

The three islands have been occupied by Filipino troops for years and are internationally known as West York and Nanshan islands and Northeast Cay.

Last week the coast guard installed five navigational buoys carrying Philippine flags just off the three islands and near Thitu island, the largest of nine islands and islets Filipino forces have occupied in the Spratlys. The Philippines considers much of the Spratlys as part of its western Palawan province. **MDT/AP**

of the Indo-Pacific strategic alliance known as the Quad, a group that includes Australia, India and Japan.

The four nations share concerns over China's growing regional assertiveness and increasingly capable armed forces.

China views the grouping as a part of a U.S.-led push to impede its economic and political rise and frustrate its attempts to intimidate self-governing Taiwan into accepting its demand to unify with the mainland.

On Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi criticized what he called negative moves by Washington and Tokyo against Beijing during a video call with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi.

"What arouses attention and vigilance is the fact that, even before the American leader has set out for the meeting, the so-called joint Japan-U.S. anti-China rhetoric is already kicking up dust," Wang said, according to China's Foreign Ministry. **MDT/AP**

# UN rights chief to visit China, travel to Xinjiang

THE United Nations' top human rights official will visit China this week on a trip that will take her to the Xinjiang region, where rights groups and some Western governments allege the Chinese government is committing genocide and serious abuses against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet will start her six-day visit today, her office said Friday. She will visit Guangzhou, Kashgar and the Xinjiang regional capital of Urumqi.

It will be the first such visit to China by a U.N. high commissioner for human rights since 2005, Bachelet's



Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

office said. She plans to speak with high-level national and local officials, civil

society organizations, business representatives and academics, and deliver a

lecture to students at Guangzhou University.

A five-member advan-

ce team arrived in China on April 25 to prepare for Bachelet's visit, traveling to Guangzhou and Xinjiang.

Bachelet announced in March that her office reached an agreement with China's government that she could visit Xinjiang. She has long talked about hoping to visit the region, and her office has also been compiling a long-awaited report into alleged human rights abuses there.

Almost 200 rights groups have urged Bachelet to release her report, which diplomats have said has been ready — or very close to it — for months.

Rights groups and researchers accuse China

of locking up more than a million Uyghurs, Kazakhs and members of other minority groups in re-education camps; forcing labor; separating children from incarcerated parents.

The U.S. government has declared that Beijing's policies against the Uyghurs amount to genocide and crimes against humanity. Legislatures in Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Canada have done the same.

China denies the allegations and maintains its policies were meant to de-radicalize those influenced by jihadi propaganda following years of violent outbursts against Chinese rule in the region. **MDT/AP**





# China becomes wild card in Sri Lanka's debt crisis

BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI,  
KRUTIKA PATHI & JOE  
MCDONALD, COLOMBO

**C**HINA says its initiative to build ports and other infrastructure across Asia and Africa, paid for with Chinese loans, will boost trade. But in a cautionary tale for borrowers, Sri Lanka's multibillion-dollar debt to Beijing threatens to hinder efforts to resolve a financial crisis so severe that the Indian Ocean nation cannot import food or gasoline.

Sri Lanka's struggle is extreme, but it reflects conditions across dozens of countries from South Pacific islands through some of the poorest in Asia and Africa that have signed onto Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative. The total debt of poor countries is rising, raising risks others might run into trouble.

Sri Lanka's 22 million people are in dire straits. Foreign currency ran out in April, leading to food shortages, power cuts and protests that forced a prime minister to resign. Payment on \$51 billion of debt to China, Japan and other foreign lenders was suspended.

Sri Lanka and other poor Asian countries welcome Chinese financing. The Asian Development Bank says the region needs to invest \$1.7 trillion a year in infrastructure to keep economies growing. But some, including Sri Lankan critics of their government's spending, say Chinese-led projects cost too much or do too little for their economies.

China ranks third among Sri Lanka's creditors after Japan and the ADB and accounts for 10% of the debt, but Xi's government has an outside potential to disrupt a settlement.

Beijing promised to "play a positive role" in talks with the International Monetary Fund on a possible emergency loan. China offered to lend more but balked at joining a process that might cut Sri Lanka's debt, possibly for fear other Belt and Road borrowers that owe tens of billions of dollars will demand the same relief.

"If China gives a concession to Sri Lanka, it will have to give the same concession to other borrowers," said economist W.A. Wijewardena, a former deputy governor of the Sri Lankan central bank. "They didn't want to get into that trouble."

If China tries to avoid debt cuts, that might disrupt the IMF talks or prompt private sector creditors to hold out for more money, experts say.

Lack of cooperation by Beijing "would complicate Sri Lanka's debt recovery journey," said Aditi Mittal of Verisk Maplecroft, a consulting firm, in an email.

The United States, Japan, the European Union and other governments also lend, but on a smaller scale. Many Belt and Road countries attract little non-government financing because they are deemed too risky or lack a legal framework for investment in infrastructure.

Some governments have run

into smaller crises. Truck drivers in Kenya protested after their government imposed a fuel tax to pay for a Chinese-built railway the drivers complained would compete with them.

Others have canceled or scaled back projects. Malaysia scrapped a planned railway in 2019 as too expensive. Thailand renegotiated a high-speed railway following protests that too little work went to Thai companies.

China has restructured some debt. Ethiopia persuaded Beijing in 2018 to forgive some interest and stretch out repayment of a 10-year loan for a \$4 billion railway to 30 years. That reduced annual payments but added two more decades of interest charges.

Chinese officials say Belt and Road projects are business ventures, not aid. Most lending is on commercial terms. Details often are secret.

## Sri Lanka owes USD7 billion this year to Chinese banks and other lenders

Belt and Road rankles Washington, Moscow, Tokyo, New Delhi and other governments that grumble Beijing, the biggest trading partner for all of its neighbors, is trying to expand its influence and undercut theirs.

Opposition figures say while Sri Lanka needs China to reduce its debt, blame lies with leaders who built unrealistic projects that cannot pay for themselves while

they failed to invest in economic development.

Foreign loans "built highways, airports and convention halls in the jungles which didn't give any returns" in foreign currency, said a lawmaker, Kabir Hashim. "Now we don't have the dollars to pay them back the dollar loans."

Critics cite a Chinese-built port in Hambantota in the southeast as a prime example of official recklessness.

It was built in the hometown of then-President Mahinda Rajapaksa and paid for with \$1.1 billion in Chinese loans despite the plan having been rejected by an expert panel.

Its promoters said Hambantota, on busy Indian Ocean shipping routes, would ease the burden on Sri Lanka's main port in Colombo. But it failed to generate foreign revenue.

Beijing bailed out the port in 2017 by having a state-owned company, China Merchants Group, buy a 99-year lease for \$1.1 billion. That includes land for an industrial park.

The deal gave Sri Lanka cash to repay Chinese banks but prompted accusations official bungling gave a foreign government control over part of the country.

Chinese loans also paid for an international airport near Hambantota. Few airlines use it.

The crisis reignited accusations Beijing used a "debt trap" to gain influence over the country.

"They knew we had no capacity to repay," said a legislator, Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe.

"We must convince China to forgo at least part of the loans," said Rajapakshe. "Ordinary poor people, without one meal per day, are paying this debt now."

Sri Lanka owes \$7 billion this year to Chinese banks and other lenders but suspended payment April 13 while it talks with the

IMF. The government also owes \$25 billion, or about half its total, to private sector bond investors.

A restructuring agreement with China or Japan would be a "positive signal" for a recovery, wrote Mittal.

In a written response to questions, the Chinese foreign ministry said Beijing is ready to "play a positive role in easing Sri Lanka's debt burden" but gave no indication whether the amount owed might be reduced.

"China is willing to support relevant financial institutions to negotiate with Sri Lanka," the ministry said.

In April, then-opposition leader Ranil Wickremesinghe told broadcaster Republic TV that China offered a \$1 billion loan instead of reducing Sri Lanka's debt. That would allow the government to make payments, but the total owed would rise.

Wickremesinghe took over as prime minister on May 12 after Majapaksa, who in an earlier role as president built the Hambantota port, resigned.

Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong told reporters April 25 that negotiating with the IMF would interfere with Beijing's loan offer. The IMF usually requires a borrower to work out a deal with all creditors to reduce debts.

China has avoided joining the London Club of government lenders, the forum for negotiating debt cuts.

The central bank governor warned that China and other creditors must accept the same terms.

"It is not fair to treat one creditor differently to others," said Nandalal Weerasinghe. "Then the others won't come onboard."

Even if Beijing balks, Sri Lanka can't afford to alienate China, its biggest potential lender and investor, said Wijewardena.

"Sri Lanka is not in a position to say no," he said. **MDT/AP**





DIPLOMACY

# Biden pushes economic, security aims as he ends S. Korea visit

JOSH BOAK & AAMER MADHANI, SEOUL

**P**RESIDENT Joe Biden tended to both business and security interests yesterday as he wrapped up a three-day trip to South Korea, first showcasing Hyundai's pledge to invest at least \$10 billion in the United States and later mingling with troops at a nearby military base.

Biden's visit to Osan Air Base, where thousands of U.S. and South Korean service members work side by side to monitor the rapidly evolving North Korean nuclear threat, was his final stop before continuing to Japan.

"You are the front line, right here in this room," the president said in a command center with maps of the Korean Peninsula projected across screens on a wall.

It was a day that brought together two key messages that Biden is trying to project during his first trip to Asia as president.

At a time of high inflation and simmering dissatisfaction at home, Biden emphasized his global mission to strengthen the American economy by convincing foreign companies like Hyundai to launch new operations in the United States. And he wanted to demonstrate solidarity with nervous Asian allies who live in the shadow of North Korea's

nuclear weapons and grew skeptical of U.S. security commitments while President Donald Trump was in office.

Earlier yesterday, Biden brushed aside questions about any possible provocation by North Korea, such as testing a nuclear weapon or ballistic missile during his trip, saying, "We are prepared for anything North Korea does."

Asked if he had a message for the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, Biden offered a clipped response: "Hello. Period."

It was another sharp departure from Trump, who once said he "fell in love" with Kim.

Biden's first appearance of the day was alongside Hyundai chief executive Euisun Chung to highlight the company's expanded investment in the United States, including \$5.5 billion for an electric vehicle and battery factory in Georgia.

"Electric vehicles are good for our climate goals, but they're also good for jobs," Biden said. "And they're good for business."

Chung also said his company would spend another \$5 billion on artificial intelligence for autonomous vehicles and other technologies.

The major U.S. investment by a South Korean company was a reflection of how the countries are le-

veraging their longstanding military ties into a broader economic partnership.

The pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February has forced a deeper rethinking of national security and economic

**"We are prepared for anything North Korea does."**

U.S. PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

alliances. Coronavirus outbreaks led to shortages of computer chips, autos and other goods that the Biden administration says can ultimately be fixed by having more manufacturing domestically and with trusted allies.

Hyundai's Georgia factory is expected to employ 8,100 workers and produce up to 300,000 vehicles annually, with plans for construction to begin early next year and production to start in 2025 near the unincorporated town of Ellabell.

But the Hyundai plant shows that there are also tradeoffs as Biden pursues his economic agenda.

The president has tried to link the production of electric vehicles to automakers with unionized workforces, and during his trip he called on Korean companies to hire union labor for their U.S. operations.

However, there has been

no guarantee that the Hyundai Georgia plant's workers will be unionized.

Georgia is a "right-to-work" state, meaning workers may not be required to join a union or make payments to a union as a condition of employment.

A Hyundai spokesperson did not respond to an email asking if the Georgia plant would be unionized. A senior Biden administration official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity, said there was no contradiction between Biden encouraging investors to embrace union workforces while his administration does "whatever it can" to encourage investment and bring jobs to the U.S.

Biden passed on visiting the demilitarized zone on the North and South's border, a regular stop for U.S. presidents when visiting Seoul. Biden had visited the DMZ as vice president and now was more interested in seeing Osan Air Base, said White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

Biden and Korean President Yoon Sook Yeol on Saturday announced they will consider expanded joint military exercises to deter the nuclear threat posed by North Korea.

The push toward deterrence by Biden and Yoon, who is less than two weeks into his presidency, marks a shift by the leaders from their predecessors. Trump had considered scrapping the exercises and expressed affection for North Korea's Kim. And the last South Korean president, Moon Jae-in, remained committed to dialogue with Kim to the end of his term despite being repeatedly rebuffed by the North.

Yoon campaigned on a promise to strengthen the U.S.-South Korea relationship. He reiterated at a dinner on Saturday in Biden's honor that it was his goal to move the relationship "beyond security" issues with North Korea, which have long dominated the relationship.

"I will try and design a new future vision of our alliances with you, Mr. President," Yoon said.

During the Japan leg of Biden's trip, he will meet with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida today and lay out his vision for negotiating a new trade agreement, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1998 LEADERS WELCOME 'YES' VOTE FOR N IRELAND



The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has welcomed the resounding "yes" vote in the referendum on the Good Friday Agreement on Northern Ireland, calling it "a day for joy".

The referendum, held yesterday on both sides of the border, returned a resounding "yes" vote with 71% of voters from Northern Ireland and 94% of those in the Irish Republic showing their support for the Good Friday peace agreement.

"This is the result we have worked for and wanted," said Mr Blair. "It's another giant stride along the path to peace, hope and the future."

The agreement signed last Easter seeks to resolve relationships within Northern Ireland - between Northern Ireland and the Republic and between both parts of Ireland and England, Scotland and Wales - and pave the way for devolution from Westminster with a new all-inclusive Assembly.

It was signed on 10 April - Good Friday - by all interested parties except Rev Dr Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and Bob McCartney's United Kingdom Unionist Party. They objected to the presence of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein in the multi-party talks leading up to the agreement.

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, told reporters she was delighted with the two nations' endorsement of the agreement.

Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble said: "It is quite clear that a majority of unionists - not as big a majority of unionists as I would have liked - but a clear majority - have endorsed this agreement. We have taken an important step forward."

John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP, said that for the first time the people of both sides of the Irish border were speaking as one.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said he was prepared to sit down with David Trimble in a new Northern Ireland assembly "now".

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said the overwhelming result was the true "voice of the people".

The British Government will press ahead next month with elections for a Northern Ireland Assembly.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

After the euphoria of the positive vote for a peaceful solution to the problems of Northern Ireland came the reality. The first three years of the agreement's implementation saw accusations and counter-accusation from both sides of the divide.

Unionists said the republicans had not complied with the spirit of the agreement's requirement for the decommissioning of arms.

And Sinn Fein accused the British government of failing to demilitarise quickly enough. It added that it could not force anyone to give up arms and that the agreement only stated that the parties should use all their power to influence the process.

Disagreement over decommissioning and policing led to the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly twice in 18 months - in February-May 2000 and in August 2001.

The issue has remained the major stumbling block in talks between all parties seeking to restore devolution since the Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended in October 2002 over alleged intelligence gathering by republicans. Direct rule finally ended in May 2007 when the Northern Ireland Assembly met with the return of devolution and DUP leader Ian Paisley as first minister.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 Use your head and do things to your liking. Take care that arrangements to spend quality time together are made in advance. Get involved in physical activities that will stimulate you.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Children could cost you more than you can afford. Turn things around, make sure that they do their share. You need time to make things better.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 Children's needs could be more costly than you anticipated. Look into alternatives that would better suit both your needs. Discuss your problems and complaints if you wish to rectify them.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 Don't go overboard; start small and work toward building it up slowly. Overexertion and negligence will be your worst enemies. If you can get away for a vacation, do so.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 Find a quiet spot where you can work diligently and stay out of the way. If you can, try to work out of your home today. Try to have patience and refrain from being judgmental.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 Don't think the worst if you hear something negative about your partner. Don't allow colleagues to stand in your way. Travel may change your attitudes with regard to your philosophy.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 You might find added popularity with those around you today. Keep an eye on your weight. Avoid extravagance or risky financial schemes.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 Your words will be taken out of context if you're evasive with coworkers or employers. Expand your knowledge and sign up for courses and seminars.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Don't believe everything you hear. You may have major blowups with someone you love if you don't back down. Your sensitivity toward those you love will capture their hearts.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 You will be emotional when dealing with coworkers or employers. You can enjoy short trips. You should take good care of your health; get lots of rest.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 You are best to get out of the house today. Minor accidents could occur if you don't take precautions. Don't shy away from potential mates they want to introduce you to.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 You'll have great insight. You can elaborate on your creative ideas and get involved in groups that relate to the arts. Dig deep, ferret out any hidden concerns before you sign your life away.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	20	33	cloudy
Changchun	14	31	cloudy
Chengdu	17	25	overcast
Chongqing	18	28	cloudy
Fuzhou	19	23	rain
Guangzhou	24	28	rain
Guiyang	13	19	rain
Haikou	25	32	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	19	25	overcast
Harbin	15	30	fine
Hefei	16	30	cloudy
Nanjing	21	28	overcast
Shanghai	19	24	cloudy
Taipei	22	26	rain
Wuhan	19	29	cloudy
Hong Kong	23	25	rain
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	6	14	overcast
Frankfurt	13	25	showers
Paris	11	19	rain
London	9	17	showers
New York	16	25	showers

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Chuck; 5- Swabbies; 9- Vinegary prefix; 14- Novelist Waugh; 15- Actor McGregor; 16- Brit's discharge; 17- Old Italian money; 18- Hindu hero; 19- New Brunswick neighbor; 20- Person who mends shoes; 22- Pattern of colorful curving figures; 24- Unit of computer memory; 25- Spirited horses; 26- Current unit; 29- Copper and zinc alloy; 31- "Otello" composer; 32- Milne creation; 33- Tear; 36- Lord, is \_\_\_?; 37- Disordered; 40- Med. care option; 41- Hoover, for one; 42- Cutting tool; 43- Zones; 45- Like Loki; 47- Violation of trust; 48- Catalog; 51- New Mexico art colony; 52- A ramjet; 54- Lack of reason; 58- Willow provision; 59- Russian river; 61- \_\_\_-majesté; 62- Unit of magnetic induction; 63- Pianist Peter; 64- Futile; 65- Staggering; 66- Midge; 67- Formerly, formerly.

DOWN 1- Bath powder; 2- Mixed bag; 3- Belgrade native; 4- Healed over, like a scrape; 5- Cylindrical; 6- Alert; 7- St. Louis griddle; 8- Break, card game; 9- Lets in; 10- Stops; 11- "South Pacific" hero; 12- In shape; 13- Follows orders; 21- Song part; 23- Japanese beer brand; 26- Gung-ho; 27- Intro to physics; 28- Prissy; 29- Alcoholic drink; 30- Routine; 32- Cushions; 33- She played Carla on "Cheers"; 34- Apple variety; 35- Ritz; 38- Firm; 39- Christmas song; 44- Determine; 45- Dried strip of egg dough; 46- Trying experience; 47- Round of voting; 48- Dreadlocks wearer; 49- Early anesthetic; 50- Pursue; 51- Ornamental coronet; 53- Manure; 55- Stuff; 56- Fertility goddess of Egypt; 57- Small change; 60- Stimp's pal;

**Friday's solution**

T	R	A	N	R	O	A	R	S	E	R	I	E
S	A	T	E	A	D	U	L	T	N	E	O	N
A	N	T	I	R	I	N	S	E	I	A	G	O
O	I	N	T	M	E	N	T	A	N	G	L	E
S	L	E	E	P	E	E						
T	E	A	R	S								
T	E	A	R	S								
A	L	L										
K	N	E	E	P	A	D						
A	D	A	G	E	S							
R	I	B	E									
A	N	I	L									
B	A	S	S									

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	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
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IAM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	

**IT'S A PRIME TIME TO BUY & RENT!**

**We have great properties available!**

**CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!**

BUY RENT

FOR RENT		FOR SALE UNDER HKD 5 MILLION	
PACIFICA GARDEN 3 BEDS	HKD 13,000	OLD TAIPA VILLAGE 2-BEDS	HKD 4,800,000
NOVA TAIPA 4 BEDS	HKD 14,800	TAIPA RENOVATED 2 BEDS	HKD 4,680,000
TAIPA 1 BED	HKD 7,900	CENTRAL TAIPA 2-BEDS	HKD 4,380,000
MACAU 2 BEDS	HKD 9,300	TAIPA CUTE & COZY STUDIO	HKD 3,980,000
TAIPA MARINA BAY 1 BED	HKD 8,500	TAIPA STUDIO WITH BALCONY	HKD 3,780,000
HELLENE GARDENS 3 BEDS	HKD 13,500	TAIPA GREAT POTENTIAL 1-BED	HKD 3,480,000
TAIPA STUDIO	HKD 6,800	CENTRAL MACAU 1 BED	HKD 2,850,000
COLOANE 1 BED	HKD 9,300	MACAU PARKING VA LONG	HKD 1,600,000

FOLLOW US!

[jmlproperty.com](http://jmlproperty.com)

@jmlproperty

jmlmacau

(853) 2835 2699

**jml property** 卓雅物業 since 1994

LICENSE NO. MI-10001398-6  
 有關樓宇廣告法定資訊資料請向職員查



jmlproperty.com  
info@jmlproperty

f jmlmacau

@jmlproperty

LICENSE NO. MI - 10001398 - 6



# IT'S A PRIME TIME TO BUY & RENT!

## We have great properties available!

RENT



BUY



# CONTACT US & SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY!

### FOR RENT

PACIFICA GARDEN 3 BEDS	HKD 13,000
NOVA TAIPA 4 BEDS	HKD 14,800
TAIPA 1 BED	HKD 7,900
MACAU 2 BEDS	HKD 9,300
TAIPA MARINA BAY 1 BED	HKD 8,500
HELLENE GARDENS 3 BEDS	HKD 13,500
TAIPA STUDIO	HKD 6,800
COLOANE 1 BED	HKD 9,300

### FOR SALE UNDER HKD 14 MILLION

LUXURY HELLENE GARDENS	HKD 13,500,000
NOVA TAIPA 4 BEDS	HKD 12,880,000
DESIGNER 3 BEDS IN MACAU	HKD 12,800,000
ONE CENTRAL 2 BEDS	HKD 10,980,000
NOVA PARK 2 BEDS	HKD 10,800,000
HELLENE GARDENS 4 BEDS	HKD 9,588,000
TAIPA 2 CONNECTED FLATS	HKD 7,980,000
QUIET APARTMENT HAC SA	HKD 7,380,000

### FOR SALE UNDER HKD 5 MILLION

OLD TAIPA VILLAGE 2-BEDS	HKD 4,800,000
TAIPA RENOVATED 2 BEDS	HKD 4,680,000
CENTRAL TAIPA 2-BEDS	HKD 4,380,000
TAIPA CUTE & COZY STUDIO	HKD 3,980,000
TAIPA STUDIO WITH BALCONY	HKD 3,780,000
TAIPA GREAT POTENTIAL 1-BED	HKD 3,480,000
CENTRAL MACAU 1 BED	HKD 2,850,000
MACAU PARKING VA LONG	HKD 1,600,000

Call us!  
(853) 2835 2699



Juliet Risdon  
(853) 66809804  
juliet@jmlproperty.com  
AI-1003469-6



Elda Lemos  
(853) 62268566  
elda@jmlproperty.com  
AI-10007134-2



Windy Lam  
(853) 68811007  
windy@jmlproperty.com  
AI-10010081-9



João Lam  
(853) 66841718  
joao@jmlproperty.com  
AI-10010563-6



BASEBALL

# Anderson says Donaldson made racist remark, MLB investigates

LARRY FLEISHER, NEW YORK

**C**HICAGO White Sox star shortstop Tim Anderson accused Yankees slugger Josh Donaldson of making a racist remark by calling him Jackie Robinson during Saturday's game against New York.

"He just made a, you know, disrespectful comment," said Anderson, who is Black. "Basically, it was trying to call me Jackie Robinson. Like, 'What's up, Jackie?'"

"I don't think it was called for," Anderson added after New York's 7-5 win at Yankee Stadium.

Major League Baseball is investigating the incident and speaking to those involved.

White Sox manager Tony La Russa called Donaldson's comment "racist," adding, "That's as strong as it gets."

Asked how he heard it, Anderson agreed with La Russa's charge, saying: "Same, along that same line, yeah."



Anderson, an All-Star who is among the leading Black voices in baseball, told Sports Illustrated in 2019: "I kind of feel like today's Jackie Robinson ... because he changed the game, and I feel like I'm getting to a point to where I need to change the game."

Donaldson said that early in the game, "I called him Jackie." The white ballplayer also said he has "joked around" with Anderson in the past using the same reference and mentioned that Sports Illustrated interview.

Robinson broke the MLB co-

lor barrier in 1947. Every team in the big leagues has retired his No. 42 to honor the struggle, sacrifice and social impact he had on the game and beyond.

"My meaning of that is not any term trying to be racist by any fact of the matter," Donaldson said. "Obviously, he deemed it disrespectful," he said. "And look, if he did, I apologize. That's not what I was trying to do by any manner and that's what happened."

Donaldson scrapped with Anderson on May 13 in Chicago after making a hard tag, and Anderson responded with a shove, resulting in the benches and bullpens clearing. Donaldson said Saturday that he was "trying to defuse" any lingering tension when the players crossed paths early in the game.

Anderson said Donaldson made a "Jackie" reference in an early inning: "I spared him that time, and then it happened again."

Later, in the third inning, Donaldson rounded second base after the final out and began jawing with Anderson as the teams came off the field. Donaldson was escorted to the dugout by Yankees manager Aaron Boone and Anderson was led off by third base coach Joe McEwing.

In the fifth, White Sox catcher Yasmani Grandal stood up from his crouch and confronted Donaldson as he approached the plate.

"Believe me, you don't want me to tell you guys what I told him," Grandal said to reporters.

The barking continued as relievers ran in from the bullpens and the benches emptied, with La Russa — a member of baseball's Hall of Fame — also yelling at Donaldson.

Anderson continued to shout at Donaldson while being restrained by White Sox slugger José Abreu and infielder Gavin Sheets. After a few minutes, umpires issued warnings to both sides and Donaldson struck out.

"This game went through a period in time where a lot of those comments were meant, and I think we're way past that," Grandal said. "And it's just unacceptable. I just thought it was a low blow and I want to make sure I've got my team's back. There's no way that you're allowed to say something like that." **MDT/AP**

AD



**ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS**

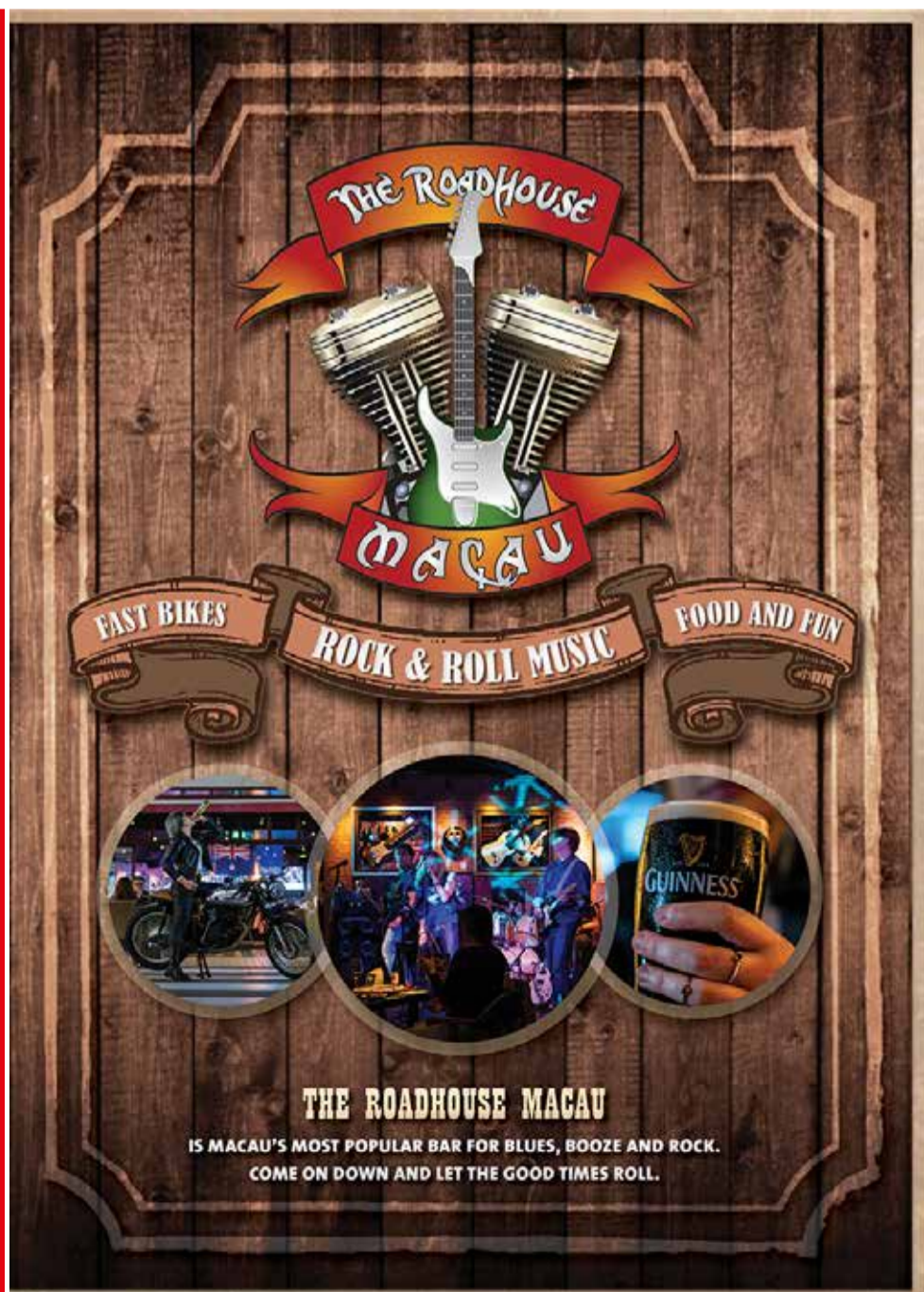
**Languages:**  
ENGLISH, CHINESE,  
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,  
KOREAN, SPANISH,  
FRENCH, ARABIC,  
RUSSIAN

**Services**  
TRANSLATIONS,  
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,  
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

**We translate +10,000 words a day**

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang  
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo  
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR



**THE ROADHOUSE MACAU**

FAST BIKES | ROCK & ROLL MUSIC | FOOD AND FUN

**THE ROADHOUSE MACAU**  
IS MACAU'S MOST POPULAR BAR FOR BLUES, BOOZE AND ROCK.  
COME ON DOWN AND LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL.



**OPINION**

**Multipolar World**

Jorge Costa Oliveira



**THE REAL ESTATE SECTOR AND THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN IN CHINA (I)**

Although China's gross domestic profit (GDP) growth reached 8.1% in 2021, in the second half of the year, China's GDP grew by only 4.9% in the third quarter and 3.9% in the fourth quarter. For 2022, the International Monetary Fund has revised China's GDP growth downward to 4.4%. There are several reasons for this economic slowdown, mainly measures related to the real estate sector. According to a 2020 World Bank report, the share of housing-related activities in both fixed assets investment and GDP in China today greatly exceeds levels in the US at the height of its real estate boom in 2006.

Real estate accounts for 30% of the country's GDP. Housing prices in urban China have tripled over the past 20 years, with the ratio of house prices to annual income hovering around 43.15 in Shenzhen, 42.47 in Beijing and 33.36 in Shanghai, compared to 13.37 in London and 8.76 in New York. Speculation is also relevant here, mainly because alternatives for investing the savings of families and companies — in the financial markets and banking system — have always offered very low rates of return. This is why, at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that "houses are for living in, not for speculation."

In order to stabilize housing prices, force real estate developers to reduce bank debt and reduce commercial banks' exposure to the sector, the Chinese government introduced three important measures in late 2020. The first was the imposition of "three red lines" for real estate developers: some large developers cannot have a debt-to-asset ratio of more than 70%, a net debt-to-equity ratio of more than 100% or a cash-to-short-term-debt ratio of  $\geq 1$ . Regulators will impose tighter debt limits on developers that cross these red lines.

China has also introduced new limits on banks' exposure to real estate. For large state-owned commercial banks, real estate loans cannot exceed 40% of the total, and mortgage loans are limited to 32.5%. Ultimately, China has revised the way in which local governments can dispose of real estate rights. As a result, the cumulative growth rate of real estate financing dropped from 54.2% in January 2021 to 4.2% in December of the same year. Over the same period, the cumulative growth rate of total home sales dropped from 133.4% to 4.8% in terms of square feet and from 104.9% to 1.9% in terms of value.

As a result, China's cumulative real estate development investment growth rate fell from 38.3% to 4.4%. Highlighting the relevance of real estate investment, China's total 2021 investment growth fell from 35% in January to 4.9% in December. To offset this fall, infrastructure investment could have been increased, but it grew by a mere 0.4% in 2021. The Chinese government still has leeway to adopt fiscal and monetary policies to stimulate growth. It hesitated to do so when there was no inflation, and now it be more difficult.

[linkedin.com/in/jorgecostaoliveira](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jorgecostaoliveira)

**CANADA BANS CHINA'S HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES FROM 5G NETWORKS**

THE BUZZ

Wireless carriers in Canada won't be allowed to install Huawei equipment in their high-speed 5G networks, the Canadian government said Thursday, joining allies in banning the giant Chinese technology company.

Canada had been the only member of the Five Eyes intelligence-pooling alliance not to bar or restrict use of equipment from Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. in its 5G networks. The U.S. and the other members — Britain, Australia and New Zealand — previously banned Huawei.

"We are announcing our intention to prohibit the inclusion of Huawei and ZTE products and services in Canada's telecommunications systems," Industry Minister François-Philippe Cham-

pagne said.

Canada's ban also includes ZTE Corp., one of China's biggest tech companies and one that is state-owned.

Champagne added that "providers who already have this equipment installed will be required to cease its use and remove it." He said Canada's wireless companies won't be offered compensation.

Canada's major wireless companies already had started working with other providers.

"There are many hostile actors who are ready to exploit vulnerabilities in our defenses," Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said.



**AFRICAN SCIENTISTS BAFFLED BY MONKEYPOX CASES IN EUROPE, US**

MARIA CHENG, LONDON

SCIENTISTS who have monitored numerous outbreaks of monkeypox in Africa say they are baffled by the disease's recent spread in Europe and North America.

Cases of the smallpox-related disease have previously been seen only among people with links to central and West Africa. But in the past week, Britain, Spain, Portugal, Italy, U.S., Sweden and Canada all reported infections, mostly in young men who hadn't previously traveled to Africa.

There are about 80 confirmed cases worldwide and 50 more suspected ones, the World Health Organization said. France, Germany, Belgium and Australia reported their first cases Friday.

"I'm stunned by this. Every day I wake up and there are more countries infected," said Oyewale Tomori, a virologist who formerly headed the Nigerian Academy of Science and who sits on several WHO advisory boards.

"This is not the kind of spread we've seen in West Africa, so there may be something new happening in the West," he said.

To date, no one has died in the outbreak. Monkeypox typically causes fever, chills, rash and lesions on the face or genitals. WHO estimates the disease is fatal for up to

one in 10 people, but smallpox vaccines are protective and some antiviral drugs are being developed.

British health officials are exploring whether the disease is being sexually transmitted. Health officials have asked doctors and nurses to be on alert for potential cases, but said the risk to the general population is low. The European Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommended all suspected cases be isolated and that high-risk contacts be offered smallpox vaccine.

Nigeria reports about 3,000 monkeypox cases a year, WHO said. Outbreaks are usually in rural areas, when people have close contact with infected rats and squirrels, Tomori said. He said many cases are likely missed.

Dr. Ifedayo Adetifa, head of the country's Center for Disease Control, said none of the Nigerian contacts of the British patients have developed symptoms and that investigations were ongoing.

WHO's Europe director, Dr. Hans Kluge, described the outbreak as "atypical," saying the disease's appearance in so many countries across the continent suggested that "transmission has been ongoing for some time." He said most of the European cases are mild.

On Friday, Britain's Health Security Agency reported

11 new monkeypox cases, saying "a notable proportion" of the infections in the U.K. and Europe have been in young men with no history of travel to Africa and who were gay, bisexual or had sex with men.

Authorities in Spain and Portugal also said their cases were in young men who mostly had sex with other men and said those cases were picked up when the men turned up with lesions at sexual health clinics.

Experts have stressed they do not know if the disease is being spread through sex or other close contact related to sex.

Nigeria hasn't seen sexual transmission, Tomori said, but he noted that viruses that hadn't initially been known to transmit via sex, like Ebola, were later proven to do so after bigger epidemics showed different patterns of spread.

The same could be true of monkeypox, Tomori said.

In Germany, Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said the government was confident the outbreak could be contained. He said the virus was being sequenced to see if there were any genetic changes that might have made it more infectious.

Scientists said that while it's possible the outbreak's first patient caught the disease while in Africa, what's happening now is exceptional. MDT/AP

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers yesterday began enforcing an order requiring all female TV news anchors in the country to cover their faces while on-air. The move is part of a hard-line shift drawing condemnation from rights activists. After the order was announced, only a handful of news outlets complied. But yesterday, most female anchors were seen with their faces covered after the Taliban's Vice and Virtue Ministry began enforcing the decree.



Israel An Israeli court yesterday sentenced six Palestinian inmates to five years in prison for tunneling out of their cell last year and escaping from a high-security facility in the biggest prison break of its kind in decades. The jailbreak sparked a massive manhunt in the country's north and the occupied West Bank in search for the men, who were members of Palestinian militant groups. They were recaptured days later.

Russia halted gas exports to neighboring Finland on Saturday, a highly symbolic move that came just days after the Nordic country announced it wanted to join NATO and marked a likely end to Finland's nearly 50 years of importing natural gas from Russia. The measure taken by the Russian energy giant Gazprom was in line with an earlier announcement following Helsinki's refusal to pay for the gas in rubles as Russian President Vladimir Putin has demanded.



Germany A tornado swept through the western German city of Paderborn last week, injuring dozens of people as it blew away roofs, toppled trees and sent debris flying for miles, authorities said. Meteorologists had warned that heavy rainfall and hail were expected in western and central Germany on Friday, with storms producing wind gusts up to 130 kph.