

Chui vows to listen to public on fate of dog races

Davis Ip

Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On said yesterday the government would listen to residents' views on whether it should terminate greyhound racing.

Chui made the remarks before the Institute for Tourism Studies' (IFT) graduation ceremony at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion.

The Macau Yat Yuen Canidrome's concession will expire at the end of this year.

The company operates the only commercial greyhound racetrack in the Far East. Last Friday, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong Vai Tac said the government had asked a local academic institution to conduct a study on whether greyhound racing should continue in Macau.

"Should greyhound racing be terminated in Macau? Should we keep it? There're many residents who care about this [issue]. We'll publish the findings of our consultation," Chui said. Asked by a reporter which academic institution will conduct the study, Chui said he had to ask Leong.

Chui said greyhound racing was part of the city's "diversified gaming industry", admitting that it did not contribute a large share of Macau's gaming revenue. "The most important thing is listening to residents' views," Chui said.

Animal rights activists have been urging the government to put an end to "cruel" dog races in Macau. Local animal protection group ANIMA says that it has collected 300,000 signatures in Macau and elsewhere call-



Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On talks to reporters before the Institute for Tourism Studies' (IFT) graduation ceremony at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion yesterday.

Photo: Davis Ip

ing for the axing of greyhound races in Macau. ANIMA plans to hold a vigil outside Government Headquarters on September 30.

According to the website of the Gaming Inspection and Co-ordination Bureau (DICJ), greyhound racing started in Macau in 1932.

According to DICJ statistics, the Yat Yuen Canidrome recorded a gross revenue of 145 million patacas last year, down 18.5 percent year-on-year. The racetrack's betting turnover fell 19.3 percent year-on-year to 690 million patacas last year. Back in 2010, the racetrack recorded a gross revenue of 340 million patacas and a betting turnover of 1.6 billion patacas.

Last year, greyhound races generated just 0.4 percent of the gaming industry's total gross revenue. ■

Fed leaves key interest rate unchanged

WASHINGTON – The Federal Reserve is keeping US interest rates at record lows in the face of threats from a weak global economy, persistently low inflation and unstable financial markets.

Ending a highly anticipated meeting, Fed officials said yesterday that while the US job market is solid, global pressures may "restrain economic activity" and further drag down already low inflation.

Signs of a slowdown in China have intensified fear among investors about the US and global economy. And low oil prices and a high-priced dollar have kept inflation undesirably low.

Before year's end, many analysts still expect the Fed to raise its key short-term rate, which it's kept near zero since 2008. A higher Fed rate would eventually send rates up on many consumer and business loans.

Financial markets had been zigzagging with anxiety as inves-

tors tried to divine whether the Fed would start phasing out the period of extraordinarily low borrowing rates it launched at a time of crisis.

The Fed's action yesterday was approved on a 9-1 vote, with Jeffrey Lacker casting the first dissenting vote this year. Lacker, president of the Fed's Atlanta regional bank, had pushed for the Fed to begin raising rates by moving the federal funds rate up by a quarter-point.

Instead, the Fed retained language it has been using that it will be appropriate to raise interest rates when it sees "some further improvement in the labor market" and is "reasonably confident" that inflation will move back to the Fed's optimal inflation target of 2 percent.

The Fed's preferred measure of inflation was up just 1.2 percent in the latest reading and has been below 2 percent for more than three years. — AP

Police nab Romanian using bogus credit cards

Davis Ip

The Judiciary Police (PJ) announced yesterday the arrest of a Romanian man on suspicion of using forged credit cards.

A PJ spokesperson revealed details of the case at a regular press conference.

According to the spokesperson, the 35-year-old suspect, surnamed Ciuculan, entered the city last Friday on a flight from Thailand.

The spokesperson said the suspect had attempted to use at least 18 counterfeit credit cards but had only managed to withdraw about 13,000 patacas from ATMs around Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro. The suspect had changed the patacas withdrawn from the ATMs into euros and US dollars.

The spokesperson said a local bank reported the case to the police on Tuesday after the bank had found a forged credit card retained in one of its ATMs. The spokesperson said CCTV footage showed that the suspect had insert-



The Romanian suspect poses in the pressroom at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters in Zape before yesterday's press briefing about his case, with evidence seized by the police on display.

Photo: long Tai Choi

ed the bogus card into the ATM on Sunday.

According to the spokesperson, PJ officers arrested the suspect in his room in a hostel in the city centre on Tuesday. The spokesperson said the officers had

not found any forged credit cards in the room, adding that credit card reading software was installed on the suspect's laptop computer.

The suspect denied that he used any forged credit cards, according to the spokesperson. ■

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Xi expects 'profound exchange of views' with Obama

President Xi Jinping said yesterday that he looks forward to a "profound exchange of views" with his US counterpart Barack Obama when the two meet for a summit in Washington next week.

Full story on p. 7

Muslim teen arrested for clock gets White House invite

A Muslim teenager arrested after a Texas teacher mistook his homemade clock for a bomb won invitations to the White House, Google and Facebook on Wednesday in a surge of public support.

Full story on p. 10

Bissau's ruling party proposes new PM

Guinea-Bissau's ruling party has nominated its veteran deputy leader Carlos Correia as the new prime minister as the country struggles with a political deadlock that has plunged it into crisis.

Full story on p. 11