

Yat Yuen pays 3 million patacas for greyhound care since July: IACM

Staff Reporter

Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) President Jose Tavares told reporters yesterday that Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Co. Ltd. has paid about 3 million patacas to the bureau as the cost of taking care of its hundreds of greyhounds that the company left behind in their kennels when the dog racetrack closed down for good in July.

According to Tavares, the 3 million patacas payment Yat Yuen settled on Tuesday was for the cost

of taking care of the greyhounds at the now defunct racetrack from July to October 6, and that the company would continue to pay for the greyhounds' expenses.

As of Monday, there were still 463 greyhounds in the kennels at the ex-Canidrome in Fai Chi Kei.

Local animal protection group Anima has started sending greyhounds overseas to rescue centres for adoption. A number of greyhounds have also been handed to local and Hong Kong adopters.

Tavares pointed out that with the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB), the greyhounds could be transported to Hong Kong's airport on the land route, which could speed up the adoption process.

Concerning Yat Yuen's possible penalty for abandoning the then roughly 500 greyhounds at the old racetrack in July, Tavares said the government was still assessing the situation, adding he hoped to be able to announce the

outcome of the evaluation by the end of this month.

The government over two years ago said that it would close down the Canidrome on July 20 this year and when Yat Yuen moved out that day, the company chaired by gaming executive-cum-legislator Angela Leong On Kei left about 500 greyhounds in their kennels.

IACM officials took over the Canidrome in July and have been looking after the greyhounds there with the help of Anima and former

Yat Yuen staff, all the while giving Yat Yuen until October 6 to find a suitable place to house the greyhounds, which never happened.

Yat Yuen had suggested three alternative places for the greyhounds to be re-housed, including next to a senior citizens home in Coloane. All places were deemed unsuitable by the government, which is why the canines are still in the kennels at the defunct race track until they are ready to be sent overseas or adopted locally. ■

Macau's forex reserves reach US\$19.6 billion

Macau's foreign exchange reserves reached 158.4 billion patacas at the end of last month, according to preliminary estimates released by the Macau Monetary Authority (AMCM) yesterday.

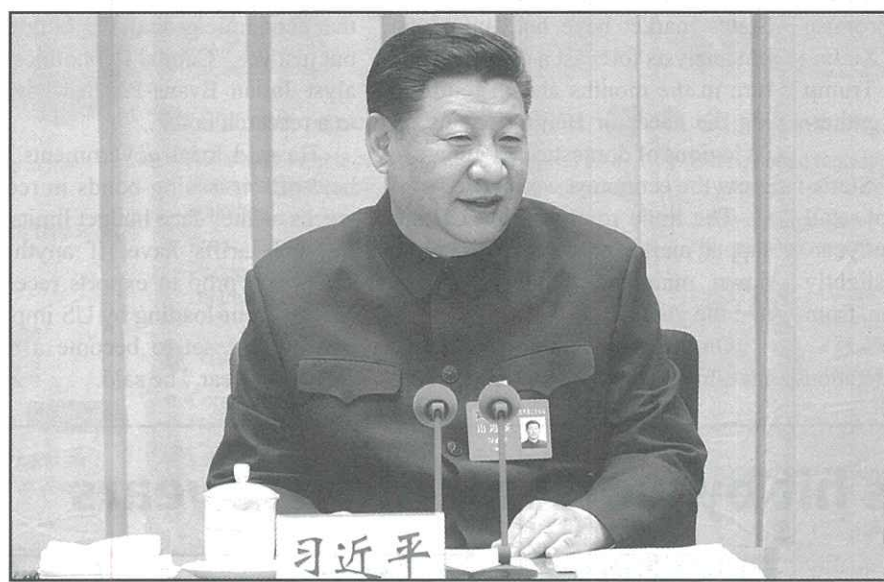
The reserves increased by 2.3 percent from the revised amount of 154.8 billion patacas for the previous month. It also represented 10 times the local currency in circulation, or 81.6 percent of pataca M2 at the end of September.

M2 is a calculation of the money supply that includes all elements of

M1 as well as "near money." M1 includes cash and checking deposits, while near money refers to savings deposits, money market securities, mutual funds and other time deposits.

The trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca rose 1.02 points month-to-month and 1.94 points year-on-year to 106.5 in October, implying that, generally speaking, the patacas exchange rate grew against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners.

— Xinhua, MPD



President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) and head of a CMC leading group for deepening reform on national defense and the armed forces, attends and addresses a CMC meeting on the reform of policies and institutions in Beijing this week. The meeting was held on Tuesday and yesterday.

— Xinhua

Veteran HK politician SY Chung dies aged 101

HONG KONG — Veteran political leader Chung Sze-yuen, aka as SY Chung, who played a major role in setting the course for Hong Kong's future after the end of British rule in 1997, died yesterday, aged 101.

Known as the godfather of Hong Kong politics, Chung was a senior member of the Executive Council and Legislative Council during the 1970s and 1980s — the most experienced Hong Kong Chinese politician at the time. He was knighted in 1978.

In the early 1980s, Chung played a key role in talks that decided the future course of Hong Kong, flying to Britain to meet political parties there and discuss the matter with them.

Before the signing of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, he flew to Beijing with Hong Kong politicians Lydia Dunn and Lee Qu-wei to meet Deng Xiaoping, when it was declared that Hong Kong people would rule the city after the 1997 handover.

After his retirement from active politics in 1988, Chung continued to be a Beijing-appointed handover advisor.

He later became the first non-official convenor of the Executive Council of the Hong Kong government after the handover, serving in that position for two years.

Chung was seen in public a year ago at his 100th birthday party, the last time the veteran politician

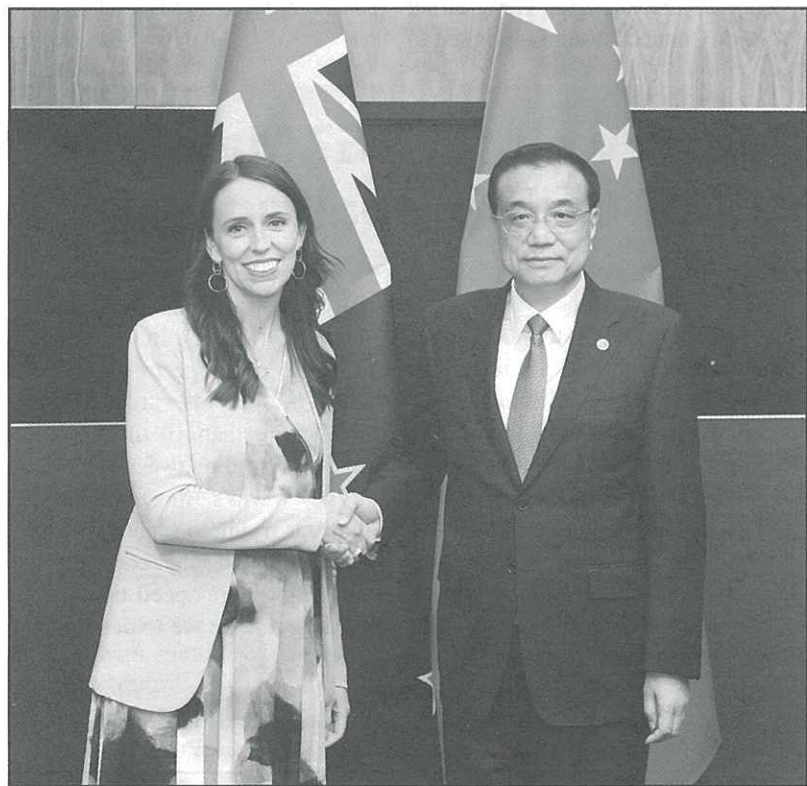
appeared publicly. He was born on November 3, 1917.

Democratic Party founding chairman Martin Lee Chu-ming said even though they had their differences when it came to politics, Chung had no enemies and was a fair and humorous person.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor and her predecessor, Leung Chun-ying had met Chung on his birthday earlier this month. Lam hosted the birthday party at Government House.

Lam expressed her condolences to his family, saying she had learned a lot from his fair analysis, tolerant political stance and guidance to the younger generation.

— RTHK, MPD



Premier Li Keqiang (right) shakes hands with his New Zealand counterpart Jacinda Ardern in Singapore yesterday.

— Xinhua

STOCK MARKETS

HK stocks slip as energy firms take hit

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stocks ended sharply lower yesterday, with energy firms taking another beating as investors were spooked by plunging oil prices.

The Hang Seng Index finished down 0.54 percent, or 138.44 points, at 25,654.43.

The mainland's benchmark Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.85 percent, or 22.64 points, to end at 2,632.24, while the Shenzhen Composite Index slid 0.40 percent, or 5.56 points, to 1,378.36.

— AFP

Beijing rejects Macron's 'China threat to Europe' claim

BEIJING — The central government said yesterday that China had never posed a threat to Europe as it responded to a proposal by French President Emmanuel Macron for a "European army" to defend the bloc against China, Russia, and even the US.

"We have never posed any threat to Europe," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said, when asked about the issue at a daily press briefing in Beijing.

Hua noted that while "Europe has the right to decide its own

foreign and defence policies", European leaders have in fact expressed a desire for closer cooperation with China.

Macron touched off a controversy last week with his proposal, which is a touchy issue among European countries keen to handle their own defence, and in light of US President Donald Trump's calls for Europe to foot more of the bill for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) defence alliance.

Trump called Macron's idea "very insulting", tweeting that

Europe should "first pay its fair share of NATO, which the US subsidises greatly".

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, however, seconded Macron's proposal.

During a European parliament session, she emphasised the need for Europe to bolster its self-defence capabilities, and said that a European army could run parallel to NATO.

"Europe must take our fate into our own hands if we want to protect our community," she said. — AFP