

# 'Mission impossible' – accomplished!

## All 12 boys and coach rescued from cave

MAE SAI – The final five members of a young football team were rescued from a flooded Thai cave yesterday after spending 18 harrowing days trapped deep inside, completing an astonishing against-the-odds rescue mission that captivated the world.

Elite foreign divers and Thai Navy SEALs extracted the final batch of four boys, plus the 25-year-old coach, yesterday afternoon via a treacherous escape route that required them to squeeze through narrow, water-filled tunnels in darkness.

"All 12 'Wild Boars' and coach have been extracted from the cave," the SEALs said in a Facebook post, referring to the boys by the name of their football team.

"All are safe," they added, then signed off with what has become their trademark "Hooyah" that they used to celebrate

the successful extractions of the other eight boys over the previous two days.

The last four Thai navy divers, including a doctor, who had been with the boys emerged safe from the cave late yesterday, rescue chief Narongsak Osotanakorn said.

The children, aged from 11 to 16, and their coach, ventured into the Tham Luang cave in mountainous northern Thailand on June 23 after football practice and got trapped when heavy rain caused flooding that forced them to take shelter on a muddy ledge.

They spent nine days in darkness until two British divers found them, looking gaunt but offering smiles to the divers and appearing to be in remarkably good spirits.

The initial euphoria at finding them dissipated as authorities struggled to devise a safe plan to get them out,

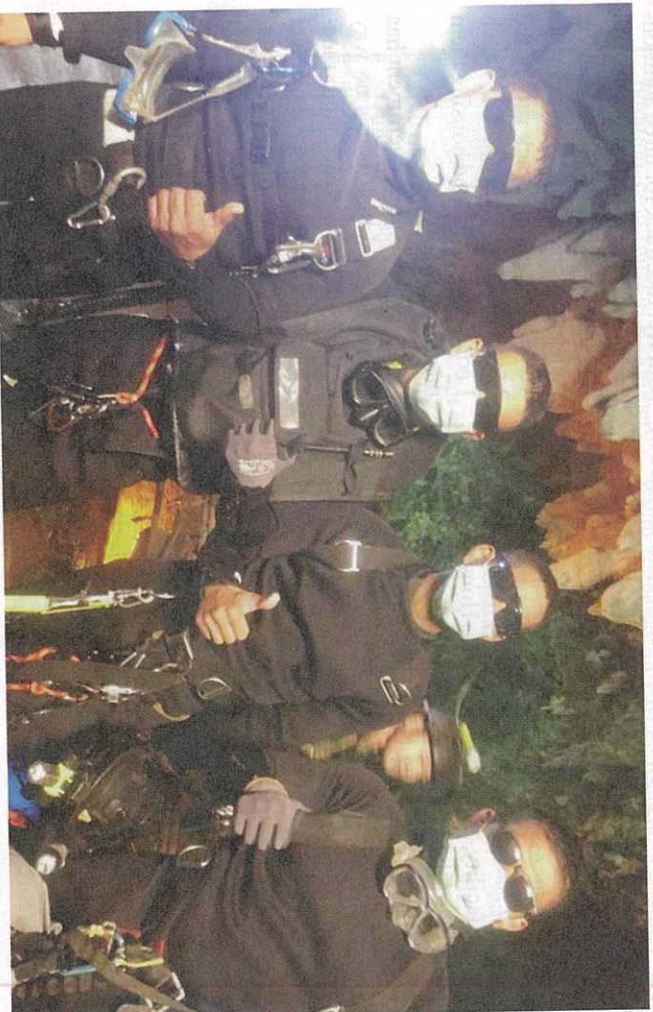
with the shelf more than four kilometres inside the cave and the labyrinth of tunnels leading to them filled with water.

### Mission Impossible

Authorities mulled ideas such as drilling holes into the mountain or waiting months until monsoon rains ended and they could walk out, with the rescue chief at one point dubbing the efforts to save them "Mission Impossible".

With oxygen levels in their chamber falling to dangerous levels and monsoon rains threatening to flood the cave above the ledge where the boys were sheltering, rescuers decided on the least-worst option of having divers escort them out through the tunnels.

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This handout photo released by the Royal Thai Navy yesterday shows the last four Thai Navy SEALs coming out safely after completing the rescue mission inside a cave where the 12 boys and their soccer coach were trapped since June 23, in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai province.



Thai media celebrate as divers evacuate the final four of the boys and their coach trapped at Tham Luang cave yesterday.

## Trump says NATO allies should 'reimburse' US for defence costs

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE – US is low), but are also delinquent for many years in payments that have not been made," he said, tweeting from the air en route to a key NATO summit in Brussels. "Will they reimburse the U.S.?"

In recent months Trump has repeatedly launched invective at America's partners in the Atlantic alliance, a cornerstone of European

security since World War II, accusing them of free-loading on the US for defence.

The 29 allies are due to restate a commitment to try to spend two percent of gross domestic product (GDP) on defence by 2024, according to excerpts of their final summit declaration seen by AFP.

The US is by far NATO's biggest spender

in terms of GDP as well as raw expenditure, shelling out some 3.57 percent of GDP on defense in 2017, according to NATO figures.

According to NATO figures, the US accounted for just under 72 percent of defence spending in NATO in 2017 – US\$686 billion of a total US\$957 billion spent by all 29 members that year. (Earlier story on p. 10) – AFP

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### Macao, HK reach deal to facilitate greyhound adoptions

Macao's municipal authority said yesterday that it has reached a deal with Hong Kong for HK people to go through easier quarantine procedures than normal for the adoption of greyhounds from the Macau.

*Full story on p. 2*

### Brazil's green presidential candidate aims to restore 'credibility'

Amidst corruption scandals, economic problems and the political instability surrounding the imprisonment of former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, environmentalist presidential candidate Marina Silva is vowing to restore credibility in Brazil.

*Full story on p. 11*

### Ronaldo ends 9-year Madrid reign, joins Juventus

Real Madrid yesterday announced the transfer of modern great Cristiano Ronaldo to Italian champions Juventus, with the Portuguese superstar saying the time had come "for a new stage" in his life.

*Full story on p. 13*



# Macau, HK reach deal to facilitate greyhound adoptions

## Racetrack operator submits its 3<sup>rd</sup> dog relocation plan

### Staff Reporter

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) announced in a statement yesterday that it has reached an agreement with Hong Kong's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for Hong Kong people to go through easier quarantine procedures than normal for the adoption of greyhounds from the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Co. Ltd.

Under the special arrangement for the greyhounds, the racing canines with Macau-issued export health certificates that have been

taken to Hong Kong will not need to undergo Hong Kong's statutory 120-day quarantine at its quarantine facility. Instead, the greyhounds will only need to undergo a 30-day home quarantine, according to the IACM statement.

The AFCD announced its agreement with the Macau government for the greyhounds on Monday night. The special arrangement aims to enable Hong Kong residents wishing to adopt greyhounds from the Macau racetrack to complete the procedures of importing the dogs into Hong Kong in due course,

considering that there is only a short time left before the official closure of the greyhound racetrack on July 21, the AFCD said.

Meanwhile, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) told local media outlets last night that the greyhound racetrack operator finally submitted its new relocation plan for the dogs yesterday – the deadline required by the bureau. The bureau did not reveal details about the new relocation plan – already the third one submitted by the company, merely saying that according to the plan the company has requested permission from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) to implement its dog relocation plan.

By late last night there was still no announcement from the racetrack company detailing the new relocation plan.

The IACM statement noted that to export dogs from Macau to Hong Kong, applicants must normally apply for a special permit from the AFCD. An applicant is only allowed to import a dog into Hong Kong upon successful completion of all official requirements.

The IACM statement went on to note that dogs imported from Macau into Hong Kong must undergo quarantine for at least 120 days at the official quarantine facility. The statement said that “due to the strong demand”, the waiting time for the official quarantine facility for canines in Hong Kong stands currently at around four to five months.

The bureau said in its statement that the two governments have reached the agreement with the specific aim of accelerating the importation of Macau greyhounds into Hong Kong after AFCD officials conducted a risk assessment on the importation of Macau's retired

greyhounds and paid an inspection visit to the greyhound racetrack and examined Macau government quarantine procedures for exporting canines.

According to the agreement, greyhounds to be imported into Hong Kong must be vaccinated against canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis and canine parvovirus (also known as canine hemorrhagic enteritis), the IACM statement said.

The statement also said that the dogs must undergo blood tests for the rabies antibody level – at least 30 days after their vaccination for rabies – by the bureau for submission to an AFCD approved laboratory for testing.

The dogs must also undergo blood tests on the rabies antibody level conducted by the competent authorities in Macau for submission to an AFCD approved laboratory for testing, the IACM statement said.

If the antibody level meets the AFCD's requirement, applicants will then need to arrange for the dogs to stay in Macau for at least 90 days after the blood test, the IACM statement said.

According to the statement, applicants will need to apply for a permit from the AFCD valid for six months by August 31 for importing greyhounds into Hong Kong. Before the greyhounds are exported to Hong Kong, applicants must obtain export health certificates issued by the bureau.

According to the IACM statement, after the dogs arrive in Hong Kong they will need to undergo home quarantine for at least 30 days.

The racetrack operator initially submitted its greyhound relocation plan on May 31 – the deadline – as required by the government. The proposal included the possibility of adoptions and moving the

greyhounds to “foreign” countries. However, the company said in its proposal that it would need a year to complete the relocation. The government swiftly rejected the request.

In response, the bureau told the company to submit another proposal by June 8. That proposal – the second one that was submitted by the company on the last day of the deadline given by the government – included adoptions and also relocating greyhounds to somewhere outside Macau “in collaboration with organisations on the mainland”.

In July 2016, the government told the racetrack operator to vacate the property in Fai Chi Kei, a public land concession, within two years. The company's concession to run greyhound racing will expire on July 20. The company is headed by gaming executive-cum-lawmaker Angela Leong On Kei, the number-four wife of retired nonagenarian gaming mogul Stanley Ho Hung Sun.

According to the proposal submitted on June 8, the company asked to be allowed to use the Fai Chi Kei racetrack for three additional months, to give it more time to relocate the dogs, including moving some of them to the stables at the Taipa horse-racing track run by the Macau Jockey Club (MJC), which Leong also heads, and housing them there temporarily.

In response, the government has repeatedly said that there's no way of allowing the greyhound racetrack operator to use the Fai Chi Kei property for an additional period of time to house the greyhounds that have not been adopted. The government has also said that the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau has not received an application from the operator for permission to move some of the greyhounds to the Taipa horse racing venue. ■

## Win tickets to ART IS PLAY exhibition at MGM

MGM MACAU is presenting its 24<sup>th</sup> art exhibition at MGM Art Space – ART IS PLAY, the most fun and colourful art exhibition this summer, from June 27 to September 9.

ART IS PLAY invites guests of all ages to embark on a journey of awakening, self-discovery and social interaction through play. It features colourful art installations by five international artists: Cindy Ng from Macau, Ayumi Adachi from Japan, tomon from Hong Kong, Camille Walala from the United Kingdom, and Janice Wong from Singapore, who together aim to inspire the fun and playful side of every visitor.

Tickets are on sale now at the ticket counters at Grande Praga at MGM MACAU & MGM Theater at MGM COTAI, as well as on [tickets.mgm.mo](http://tickets.mgm.mo).

**The Macau Post Daily**, courtesy of MGM, is giving away FIVE sets of tickets to ART IS PLAY (each set containing two tickets worth 120 patacas each). For a chance to win, all you have to do is e-mail us the correct answers to the following questions:

- What is the name of the exhibition at MGM?
- Where is the exhibition being held?
- What are the names of the exhibition artists?

Please e-mail your answers to [info@macaupostdaily.com](mailto:info@macaupostdaily.com) with your name and contact information. The competition is open from now until July 13. **The Macau Post Daily** team will randomly pick FIVE entries with the correct answers. Winners will be announced on July 16.



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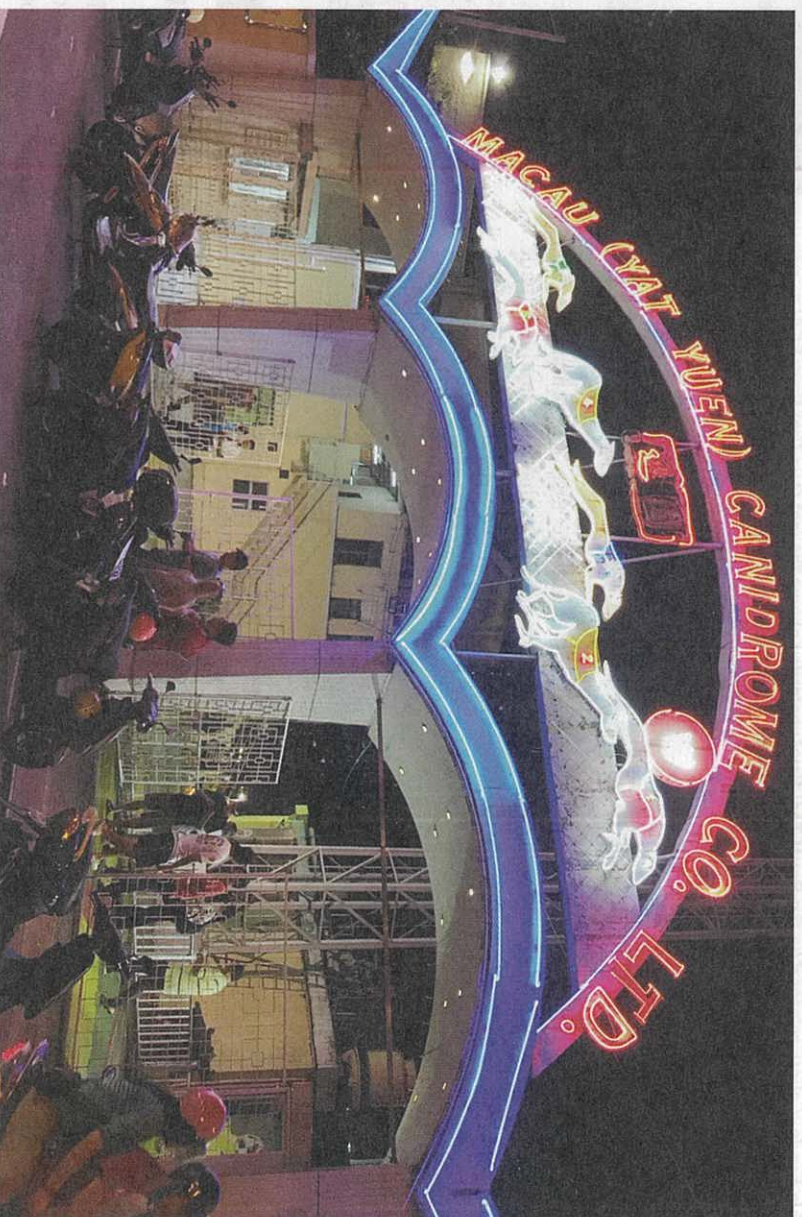
Macau POST

### Macau Weather

VERY HOT.  
MAINLY FINE.  
HAZE IN THE MORNING.  
LIGHT WINDS, BECOMING  
FORCE 3 TO 4 SOUTHERLY  
WINDS.  
RELATIVE HUMIDITY WILL  
RANGE BETWEEN  
55% AND 90%.

27°C~35°C

Source: SMG



Punters flock to the greyhound racetrack in Fai Chi Kei on June 30 when the operator held its last racing day.

Photo: Maria Cheang Ut Meng