

Senior Macau officials under bribery cloud

Two senior officials with Macau's Marine and Water Bureau are under investigation on suspicion of accepting bribes to commit illegal acts, the city's Commission Against Corruption said last night. Both officials, who were not named, have been taken off public duties.

Department rapped over air traffic system

The Civil Aviation Department was criticised by the Legislative Council Public Accounts Committee over its handling of the acquisition and tender of a new air traffic control system, which did not go into use until 3½ years after it was purchased.

Four arrested after drugs, weapons found

Two men and two women, aged 25 to 34 and believed to be triad members, were arrested in Mong Kok on suspicion of drug trafficking and possession of offensive weapons after police found 10g of the drug Ice, drug tools, two nunchakus and eight knives in a flat on Bedford Road.

MTR will be pressed for more discounts

Transport Secretary Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung said the government would ask the MTR Corporation to offer more discounts on fares and rebates. He was commenting on the rail operator's decision to raise fares by 4.3 per cent in June, despite profits of HK\$15.6 billion last year.



t is the second biggest fare rise in six years. Photo: Sam Tsang

There were no winners of the first or second prizes in last night's draw. The numbers were 6, 11, 16, 29, 30, 37, and the extra number was 34. The third prize of HK\$82,790 was won by 46.5 tickets.

Ex-ATV owner 'planned personal donation to staff'

Deacon Chiu Te-ken's son tells father's funeral that industry veteran felt for unpaid workers

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Former ATV owner Deacon Chiu Te-ken considered making a personal donation to staff of the beleaguered broadcaster who went without pay at Christmas, the late tycoon's son said at his funeral yesterday.

Chiu, who died on March 17 at the age of 90, chose not to make the donation because of legal and publicity concerns, his son David told reporters.

"But this is what my father was like, always very generous and passionate about Hong Kong's affairs and his former colleagues," David said.



Memories of Deacon Chiu Te-ken at the funeral. Photo: Dickson Lee

Chiu, an entertainment industry veteran who founded the Far East Group, died at Yan Chai Hospital in Tsuen Wan after being found unconscious at his villa in Ting Kau.

Tycoons, artists and political heavyweights gathered at a North Point funeral parlour to say farewell to a man hailed as a "Hong Kong legend". They included former chief executives Tung Chee-

HONG KONG

EPIC RIDE ON THE SEAT OF THEIR PANTS

Familiar faces greet Brits at end of nine-month cycling odyssey from London to HK that raised HK\$173,000 for prostate cancer research

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Two young British cyclists capped off an epic nine-month, 17,000km journey from London to Hong Kong – via scorching deserts, freezing mountains and unforgiving terrains – with a triumphant final ascent up The Peak yesterday, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for prostate cancer research.

Family and friends from all corners of the globe cheered as Nick Codrington, 24 and Laurence Gribble, 23, rode up Peak Road to finish their marathon effort that began from Buckingham Palace in July.

"Just look at that beard," one friend called out. Others shared teary hugs with the pair, whom many had not seen since they embarked on the endeavour that had raised almost £15,000 (HK\$173,000) for charity Prostate Cancer UK by the journey's end.

The pair had aimed to reach The Peak at noon; they arrived just before 1pm. "Sorry, we made you wait," were the first words out of Codrington's mouth as he hopped off his bicycle and friends rushed to embrace him.

For Gribble, it was an emotional reunion with his girlfriend Insun Jung, 28, who had flown in from Seoul just hours before to surprise him at the finish line.

Richard Codrington, Nick's father, was "massively proud" of his son's efforts, while Corinne Alexander, Laurence's mother, called it an amazing effort.



**In Afghanistan,
[wearing
a beard]
was like an
icebreaker**

NICK CODRINGTON, BRITISH CYCLIST

"When they first told me, I thought they were stark raving barmy," she said. "I didn't expect them to come back alive."

The journey started as a pipe dream during a trip to Vietnam, but the pair soon decided to turn it into reality, determined to cover every kilometre on land by bike. Opting to support prostate cancer was an easy choice.

"So many people are affected by cancer," but people, especially men, were reluctant to talk about the disease, said Gribble, who once lived in Hong Kong.

For Codrington, the route was about “the places in between”.

Memorable moments included a treacherous trip through the Pamir Mountains that took in Tajikistan – where the duo had

just four showers in one month – and Afghanistan, where they survived on instant noodles and Snickers bars while battling wild wolves, icy paths, the odd bout of food poisoning and a mixed response to their beards.

"In Afghanistan, it was like an icebreaker, but it was different in Uzbekistan," where it was illegal for citizens to have beards, Cordrington said. "But it is ok for foreigners," Gribble added.

In the final leg, they cycled across the Taklamakan Desert in Xinjiang (新疆) before passing through Qinghai (青海) and Sichuan (四川) provinces. The Lunar New Year was marked in Chongqing (重慶), after which they headed south through Guizhou (貴州), then east to Guangzhou and finally Hong Kong.

Asked if they never wanted see a bike again, Codrington replied: "It's a love-hate relationship ... but I'll be glad not to have to wear lycra."



Britons Nick Codrington, 24, and Laurence Gribble, 23, make it to The Peak yesterday. Photo: David Wong

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