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Mexico quake toll passes 220



Rescue team members remove a body from the rubble of a collapsed building after an earthquake hit Mexico City

Television network Televisa broadcast the nailbiting rescue attempt live after crews at the school in the south of the city reported finding the girl, seeing her move her hand and threading a hose through debris to get her water 24 hours after the quake. It was part of a search for dozens of victims feared buried beneath the Enrique Rebsamen school, where local officials reported 21 children and 4 adults dead after Tuesday's quake. The school was one of hundreds of buildings destroyed by the country's deadliest earthquake in a generation. The magnitude 7.1 quake, which killed at least 93 people in the capital alone, struck 32 years to the day after a 1985 earthquake that killed thousands. Mexico is also still reeling from a

powerful tremor that killed nearly 100 people in the south of the country less than two weeks ago. As rescue efforts continued at the school, a facility for children aged 3 to 14, emergency crews, volunteers and bystanders toiled elsewhere using dogs, cameras and heat-seeking equipment to detect survivors. Reinforcements also began to arrive from countries including Panama, Israel and Chile, local media reported. Hundreds of neighbors and emergency workers pulled rubble from the ruins of the school with their bare hands under the glare of floodlights a full day after the shock. Three survivors were found at around midnight as volunteer rescue teams known as "moles" crawled deep under the rubble.

Puerto Rico Loses Power



Debris lies on a flooded seafront after the passage of Hurricane Maria

Hurricane Maria rampaged across Puerto Rico on Wednesday as the strongest storm to hit the U.S. territory in nearly 90 years, causing major flooding, damaging homes and knocking out power to the whole island after killing at least nine people in the Caribbean. Maria, the second major hurricane to roar through the Caribbean this month, was carrying winds of up to 155 miles per hour (250 kph), when it made landfall near Yabucoa, on the southeast of the island of 3.4 million people. It ripped the roofs off buildings and turned low-lying streets into rushing rivers of debris knocked down by winds. Houston: On Thursday, September 21, Jan

telecommunications throughout the island have "collapsed," Abner Gomez Cortes, executive director of Puerto Rico's office of emergency management and disaster administration, told ABC News. Cortes described Maria as an unprecedented storm, adding that the island had not seen a storm of that strength since 1928. A hurricane task force for the U.S. Department of State is monitoring Maria's path in the Caribbean and will coordinate evacuations for U.S. citizens and provide aid on the ground, a State Department official told ABC News. Puerto Rico is still experiencing tropical storm force winds, so emergency services are waiting for winds to die down before heading out to assess the damage, Cortes said.

Security Officers and Janitors in Round Table Discussion on Suspected Wage Theft by City Contractors

On Thursday, September 21, janitors and security officers, joined by State Senator Sylvia Garcia and Council Member Robert Gallegos and Council Member Robert Gallegos Jerry Davis, will hold a round table to discuss an in-depth report on alleged wage theft by City contractors in City facilities. Workers hope the report will encourage the Mayor and Councilmembers to resolve multiple wage theft complaints and create stronger mechanisms to prevent wage theft at City of Houston facilities.

Since April, people who clean and protect many City facilities have uncovered more than 35 cases of suspected wage theft committed by City janitorial and security contractors and subcontractors and filed these complaints with Houston's Inspector General office. Months later, none of the 35 cases has been resolved. The City of Houston employs private companies to provide vital security and janitorial services at our municipal buildings--including our airports, City Hall and court houses. The report, "Protecting Our Paychecks", provides

an in-depth look at wage theft allegations at these companies and the varying ways it takes place. It also profiles the people who are fighting to protect their rights under the law, illustrates how wage theft negatively impacts their lives and communities, and finally, proposes ways to prevent companies from committing wage theft. **Who:** Security Officers and janitors who have filed wage theft complaints against Houston publicly-funded contractors, Texas State Senator Sylvia Garcia, Houston Council Member

Robert Gallegos and Houston Council Member Jerry Davis, SEIU Texas President Elsa Caballero, Texas Organizing Project Campaign Director Laura Perez-Boston, Workers Defense Project Business Liaison Sasha Legette and supporters.

Summary: In-depth Wage Theft Report release and roundtable discussion on who is committing wage theft in our city, the workers and communities affected by wage theft, and ways to prevent wage theft from occurring at City of Houston facilities.

Location: SEIU Texas office at 4299 San Felipe Street, #200, Houston, Texas

Time / Date: Thursday, September 21st at Noon

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Company Is Crippled By Competition And Debt
Toys ‘R’ Us Seeks Bankruptcy To Survive Retail Upheaval

(Reuters) - Toys ‘R’ Us Inc <IPO-TOYS.N>, one of the world’s largest toy store chains, got court permission on Tuesday to borrow more than \$2 billion to start paying suppliers so it can stock up on items like Lego building blocks and Barbie dolls for the holiday season, a day after it filed for bankruptcy.

The Chapter 11 filing by the biggest U.S. toy store chain, to restructure \$5 billion of long-term debt, is among the largest ever by a specialty retailer and casts doubt over the future of the company’s 64,000 employees and nearly 1,600 stores, which remain open.

But the financial plight of Toys “R” Us was exacerbated by a heavy debt load that has weighed on the company for years. The private equity firms Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Bain Capital, as well as the real estate firm Vornado Realty Trust, purchased the company in a leveraged buyout for about \$6 billion in 2005.

The company faced \$400 million in debt payment coming due in 2018 and was burning through its cash. It hired advisers, including the law firm Kirkland & Ellis, to help come up with a plan.

The collapse came swiftly.

News reports this month that the company hired a law firm that specializes in corporate restructuring and was seeking a bankruptcy loan set off “a dangerous game of dominoes,” David Brandon, the company’s chief executive and chairman, said in a court filing.

Ten days later, nearly all the company’s vendors refused to ship products without cash in advance, forcing Toys ‘R’ Us to scramble to raise \$1 billion for its suppliers, according to court filings.

The timing could not be worse.

Toys ‘R’ Us is building inventory for the holiday season and fourth quarter, which accounts for 40 percent of net sales.



The company said it received a commitment for up to \$3.1 billion in debtor-in-possession financing from lenders including a bank syndicate led by JPMorgan Chase & Co <JPM.N> and certain existing lenders.

The Wayne, New Jersey-based company, which also operates the Babies ‘R’ Us chain, can return to court to seek approval to borrow the en-

tire loan commitment.

Brandon said in the court filings that he hoped Chapter 11 would enable the company to address the financial constraints that “have held us back” in a “lasting and effective way.”

The chain could have avoided bankruptcy for another two years but “it would have delayed the inevitable,” according to Tuesday court testimony by David Kurtz of Lazard, an investment bank advising Toys ‘R’ Us. He said the company’s board realized it should file now, raise significant cash and reverse years of underinvestment.

Toys ‘R’ Us, which like other traditional bricks-and-mortar retailers has struggled as more and more consumers shop online, is taking steps to try and entice customers to its stores.

By 2022, the company plans to spend around \$1 billion to transform its big box stores by adding event space, increasing staff and wages for in-store product demonstrations and combining its flagship stores with Babies ‘R’ Us stores.

Brandon said Toys ‘R’ Us was not going to engage in an “unrelenting race to the bottom” by trying to slash prices to compete with Amazon.com Inc <AMZN.O>, the only company that sells more toys.

“It’s the only showroom available. This company offers something no one else can,” Joshua Sussberg, an attorney with the company’s law firm, Kirkland & Ellis, told the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Richmond, Virginia.



Toys “R” Us said it would continue to operate its stores “as usual” during bankruptcy proceedings.
CreditAdam Hunger/Reuters

But Matthew Hudak, a senior toys and games analyst at Euromonitor International, said the company would struggle to cash in on trends in toy sales. Sales of video game and robotic products have moved online, hobby board games tend to be sold in local specialty stores, and collectible action figures are found in Target Corp <TGT.N> and Wal-Mart Stores Inc <WMT.N> and convenience stores.

Share prices of toy makers rose on Tuesday after sliding in recent days when investors grew

worried whether Toys ‘R’ Us could pay for holiday merchandise.

Mattel Inc <MAT.O> closed up 1.2 percent and Hasbro Inc <HAS.O> added 1.9 percent.

Isaac Larian, chief executive officer of MGA Entertainment Inc, the country’s biggest privately owned toy company, said he had shipped holiday goods to Toys ‘R’ Us, and would continue to do so.

“I’ve always said that if there’s no Toys ‘R’ Us, there is no toy business. I really believe that,” said Larian.

Toys ‘R’ Us is saddled with debt from a \$6.6-billion buyout in 2005, led by KKR & Co LP <KKR.N> and Bain Capital LP, together with real estate investment trust Vornado Realty Trust <VNO.N>.

The company said its Canadian unit intends to seek protection in parallel proceedings under the Companies’ Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

Operations outside of the United States and Canada, including about 255 licensed stores and joint venture partnerships in Asia, which are separate entities, are not part of the bankruptcy proceedings, Toys ‘R’ Us said.

Related
Toys R Us Says Its Bankruptcy Won’t Interrupt The Holiday Shopping Season

The retailer said it will keep operating as usual and continue getting toys from suppliers as the crucial holiday shopping season nears, helped by \$3 billion in bankruptcy financing. Indeed, the company’s cavernous stores showed no sign Tuesday that the merchant was in trouble.

With its spacious, high-ceiling stores that hold thousands of items, Toys R Us pioneered the big-box format for toy sales and became the go-to destination for playthings and baby products — elbowing many smaller toy stores out of business.

But Toys R Us isn’t a simple example of another conventional retailer being steamrolled by consumers’ radical shift to online shopping. Its survival won’t be simple, either.

“It really makes me sad,” said Julian Gonzalez, a United Food & Commercial Workers union representative, outside a Toys R Us in Culver City on Tuesday. “This is where I get most of the toys” for family and friends.

Toys R Us operates 1,695 stores, including its Babies R Us stores; 113 are in California, its largest U.S. market. All told, the Wayne, N.J.,

company does business in 38 countries.

The company, which employs 65,000, did not announce any store closures and said it planned its normal practice of hiring thousands of additional seasonal workers for the holidays.

But even if Toys R Us gets through the holidays, “they need to do both a financial restructuring as well as an operational restructuring” because Toys R Us “needs to modernize with the times,” said Jeffrey Gleit, a bankruptcy partner with the law firm Sullivan & Worcester.



Toys R Us followed several other retail chains that have sought bankruptcy protection in large part because of the shift to Internet shopping, including shoe chain Payless ShoeSource Inc., children’s clothing seller Gymboree Corp., jeans retailer True Religion Apparel Inc. and electronics seller RadioShack.

Even before the surge of e-commerce, Toys R Us was under pressure from the likes of discount mass merchants Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Target Corp. that carried a wide selection of toys, often at lower prices.

As online shopping exploded in the last few years, led by e-commerce giant Amazon.com, those mass merchants also bolstered their websites and made shipping faster and less costly.

Toys R Us also has a website but it has failed to be as competitive, retail experts said.

Toys R Us further was handcuffed with \$5 billion in debt, much of it stemming from 2005 when a trio of investment firms bought the company and took it private. That constrained Toys R Us’ ability to invest further in its stores or website.

With its filing under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, Toys R Us remains open but is protected from creditors’ claims while it works out a court-supervised reorganization plan.

As part of its reorganization, Toys R Us said its lenders agreed to provide the \$3 billion in financing needed to reassure suppliers and keep the business running. Toys R Us Chief Execu-

tive David Brandon said in a statement that “we expect that the financial constraints that have held us back will be addressed in a lasting and effective way.”

But analysts said the company’s survival will depend on much more than cash.



Toys R Us struggles to not become a retail dinosaur in the toy industry.

Toys R Us needs a multi-pronged strategy for improving its store experience, its website and its service while also matching rivals’ prices if it hopes to compete with Amazon and others, said Eric Schiffer, chief executive of the Patriarch Organization, a private equity firm.

Having giant stores with few employees who offer little help “doesn’t cut it anymore,” Schiffer said, adding that “you need to hire people who are oriented about toys, are passionate and well-educated about the products.”

He and others pointed to Best Buy Co. as an example of a big-box retailer that’s managed to stay competitive by matching prices at Amazon and elsewhere online, speeding up shipping times and by bolstering its floor staff with knowledgeable employees.

In a statement on Monday night, Toys “R” Us said the filing would help the company invest in long-term growth and “fuel its aspirations to bring play to kids everywhere and be a best friend to parents.”

Toys “R” Us joins a wave of retail bankruptcies this year, including the children’s clothing retailer Gymboree, Payless ShoeSource and rue21, which sells clothing for teenagers. Other retailers have closed thousands of stores and laid off tens of thousands of workers as they try to cut costs and compete with e-commerce.

The company said its roughly 1,600 Toys “R” Us and Babies “R” Us stores around the world, including in Australia, Asia and North America, would continue to operate “as usual.”

JPMorgan Chase and a group of other lenders have agreed to provide the company \$3 billion in financing to help Toys “R” Us continue paying suppliers and employees.

“Today marks the dawn of a new era at Toys “R” Us, where we expect that the financial constraints that have held us back will be addressed in a lasting and effective way,” Dave Brandon, the company’s chairman and chief executive, said in a statement. (Courtesy latimes.com)

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Dr. Hwang is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He earned his undergraduate and medical degree from the National Taiwan University College of Medicine in Taipei. He completed residency programs at National Taiwan University Hospital and St. Luke’s Hospital, Bethlehem, Penn. In addition, he earned a postgraduate degree of Master of Public Health in maternal and child health from the prestigious Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore, Md. He is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Texas Medical Association and Harris County Medical Society.

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A Snapshot Of The World



Soldiers, rescuers and people work at a collapsed building after an earthquake in Mexico City, Mexico



Relatives mourn on top of the coffin of police officer and earthquake victim Jimenez during his burial in Juchitan



Soldiers and rescue workers search in the rubble of a collapsed building after an earthquake in Mexico City



Damages are seen after an earthquake hit in Mexico City, Mexico September 19, 2017.



U.S. President Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Abe attend a luncheon hosted by the Secretary General of the United Nations



A small boy walks with his mother in front of French artist JR's image of an inquisitive baby looking into the United States over the U.S.- Mexico border wall towards Tecate, California



Rady Children's Hospital unveils remote control cars that will transport young patients to the operating room in San Diego



A woman takes photographs of a light show on the ceiling of Grand Central Terminal which organizers said was honoring the work of female scientists and engineers in Manhattan, New York, U.S.

NYC Macy's Reportedly Fired Asian American Employees
For NOT Racially Profiling Chinese Customers
‘Don't Sell To Chinese’: Macy's
Accused Of Profiling Asian Customers



NYC Macy's has been accused of racially profiling Asian shoppers, based on a lawsuit filed by a high-profile law firm in New York. The complaint, filed by law firm Wigdor LLP, alleges that managers at Macy's flagship Herald Square department store in Manhattan in New York City gave instructions to store attendants to racially profile Asian customers with the aim to limit their buying. Managers were reportedly concerned that these customers might be re-selling the goods on popular internet platforms like WeChat and Taobao in a practice known as "daigou" in Chinese, reported Quartz. In recent years, entrepreneurial Chinese who travel to different parts of the world have been found to be setting up businesses selling items they bought abroad on local social media platforms such as WeChat or Taobao. The industry built around the practice, which is now estimated to be worth \$6.5 billion, might have affected the general perceptions of Asian shoppers. According to a Macy's employee who is one of the plaintiffs in the case, her manager once instructed her, "Don't sell to Chinese [customers]." In her statement found in the filed complaint, she was reportedly told to only sell one unit per product if the customer is Asian, while non-Asian customers are allowed to buy up to six items. Another employee claimed that her manager gave her instructions to sell "fewer than six" units of an item to Asian customers while non-Asian ones are allowed to purchase eight units at a time. Yet another one was allegedly told by her manager that she could not sell to the same Asian customer within 90 days of his or her last purchase. It was revealed that a manager's approval is required for every purchase that involves more than six units of one product. According to the complaint, Macy's loss-prevention department employees would also "regularly make Asian customers uncomfortable by conspicuously

staring at them through the completion of their transactions." The lawsuit, filed by high-profile law firm Wigdor LLP, further accused managers of harassing sales people for helping Asian customers and then firing them for complaining. "Don't sell to Chinese," one manager told employees, according to the complaint. "Why are you selling to these people?" The four plaintiffs, three of whom are Asian-American, said they were fired last year. "This racial profiling of customers of Asian descent is based on the discriminatory stereotype that all Asian customers are resellers - that is, Asian customers buy goods in markets like the U.S. and resell them on the grey market at a markup in Asia," read the lawsuit.



A perfume department inside a Macy's store.

Another former employee claimed her manager allegedly told her to not sell to the same Asian customer within 90 days of their last purchase. However, Macy's denied the allegations in a statement. "Macy's has longstanding policies and practices that embrace and promote diversity and inclusion and prohibit discriminatory conduct against its customers, employees, vendors and business partners," the statement said. "We are confident that the allegations in this matter will ultimately be found to be without merit." In 2014, Macy's agreed to pay \$650,000 to settle a racial profiling probe with the New York attorney general's office following complaints that it unlawfully detained black customers shopping in the Herald Square store. After settling allegations that it unlawfully detained black customers, Macy's is now picking on Asians, according to a lawsuit filed by four former employees of the company's flagship store in Herald Square. Managers in the cosmetics and fragrance department of Macy's flagship store "repeatedly directed ... sales associates to racially profile customers of Asian descent" out of fear that

they were secretly black marketers, according to a Manhattan federal lawsuit. Managers harassed sales people for helping Asian customers - and then fired for complaining, the lawsuit said.



"This racial profiling of customers of Asian descent is based on the discriminatory stereotype that all Asian customers are resellers - that is, Asian customers buy goods in markets like the U.S. and resell them on the grey market at a markup in Asia," according to the lawsuit filed by Douglas Wigdor. "We are confident that the allegations in this matter will ultimately be found to be without merit," and Macy's spokesperson said in an emailed statement. In 2014, Macy's agreed to pay \$650,000 to settle a racial profiling probe with the New York attorney general's office following complaints that it unlawfully detained black customers shopping in the Herald Square store. The Herald Square flagship department store made Asian customers uncomfortable by staring at them the complaint added. Macy's denied the allegations in a statement to the media. "Macy's has longstanding policies and practices that embrace and promote diversity and inclusion and prohibit discriminatory conduct against its customers, employees, vendors and business partners," the statement said. "We are confident that the allegations in this matter will ultimately be found to be without merit." (Courtesy <http://www.weareresonate.com/2017/http://nypost.com/2017/http://www.carbonated.tv/news/nyc> and nextshark.com)



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門診地址: 9889 Bellaire Blvd Suite A119 Houston, TX 77036
預約電話: 713-271-0118

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Ming-He Huang MD, PhD
主治: 冠心病 高血壓 高膽固醇 心慌 氣短 胸痛 心前區不適 各種心血管疾病的治療與預防
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Immigration Information

Temporary Protected Status
for Sudan to Terminate in
November 2018

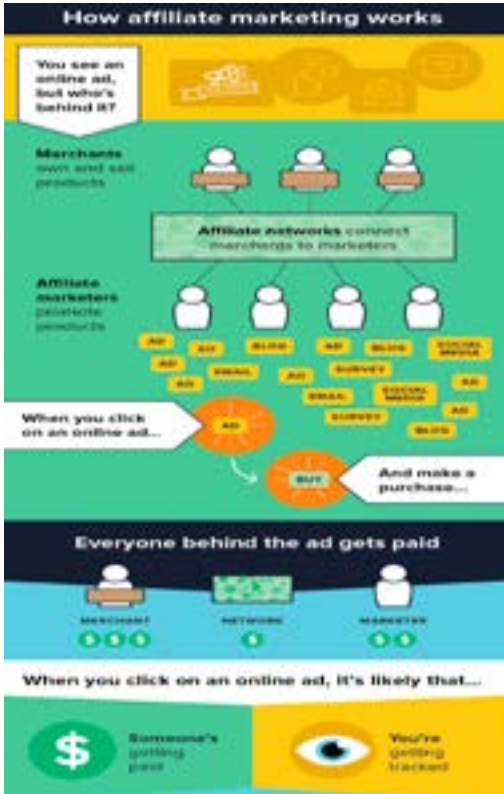
WASHINGTON—Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke has determined that conditions in Sudan no longer support its designation for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) after reviewing country conditions, and after Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials' consultations with the appropriate U.S. government agencies. Acting Secretary Duke is extending benefits for beneficiaries of Sudan TPS for 12 months to allow for an orderly transition before the designation terminates on Nov. 2, 2018. Current beneficiaries of Sudan's TPS designation seeking to extend their TPS status must re-register. The deadline will be published in the Federal Register and on www.uscis.gov/tps later this week. Those who re-register and request a new employment authorization document (EAD) may receive an automatic extension of their expiring EAD for up to 180 days from the date their current EAD expires. If a beneficiary's EAD request is approved, they will receive a new EAD with an expiration date of Nov. 2, 2018. TPS beneficiaries are strongly encouraged to re-register and file their EAD applications as early as possible to avoid lapses in documentation of employment authorization. Although TPS benefits will no longer be in effect starting Nov. 2, 2018, TPS beneficiaries will continue to hold any other immigration status that they have maintained or acquired while registered for TPS. The Department of Homeland Security urges individuals who do not have another immigration status to use the time before the termination becomes effective in November to prepare for and arrange their departure from the United States or to apply for other immigration benefits for which they may be eligible. Additional information about TPS is available at uscis.gov/tps. A Federal Register notice containing further details will be published soon. For more information about USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), Instagram (@uscis), and Facebook (/uscis).

What's affiliate marketing? Should I care?



By Rosario Méndez

Many of the ads you see online are created by marketers who are paid each time you click on their ad. And if that click takes you to a website where you sign up to try a product or you make a purchase, the marketer may get paid even more. These are affiliate marketers. They are hired by the owner of the product to promote it on social media, on websites, and through email. Sometimes networks of affiliate marketers negotiate the rate marketers will get paid per click, per sign-up to try the product, and per purchase. Everyone from the merchant to the affiliate marketers gets a cut. And all these people may be tracking you, too, just from that one first click. Affiliate marketing is a good way to promote a product or service as long as the ad is truthful. The problem is that some dishonest affiliate marketers put out ads with exaggerated claims or misleading information to get people to click. They may say anything to get



you to click on their ad because they have an incentive – getting paid. Check out the infographic we

created to explain this. Sometimes deceptive ads could be bait for a scam. Take, for example, a low-cost trial scam that the FTC stopped recently. People who clicked on ads placed by affiliate marketers for a “free” trial ended up on a website that offered the product trial for \$1.03. That amount is not much, but it's not free. In fact, people who bought the trial for \$1.03 ended up being charged almost \$200 monthly for a second product they didn't even want. We explained what happened in this infographic. So, the next time you see an online ad, pause before clicking. Ask yourself: •How do I know who's truly behind the ad? •Do I know if they're being truthful? Is someone being paid to get me to click? •Who is tracking me when I click on the ad? And who is getting that information about me? And if the ad says one price, but when you click on it you land on a website that says something else, you may have landed on a scam. No matter what, check your bills to be sure you're not being scammed.

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