

CITY

Firm sorry for selling 'fake' World Cup tickets

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A Hong Kong travel agency has apologised for a batch of "fake" World Cup tickets it sold, after stadium officials denied four people entry to a semi-final game in Brazil.

The agency, Swire Travel, yesterday said it was working on making amends to the four tourists for the rest of their eight-day trip, which ends on Sunday.

The four were barred from the semi-final soccer match between Argentina and the Netherlands at the Itaquerao Stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Wednesday because of "problematic barcodes" on their tickets.

They were among a group of 17 financial planners who were awarded the trip to watch the World Cup in Brazil by their employer Convoy Financial Services after they achieved their business targets of HK\$60 million.

The publicly listed company in North Point bought the eight-day tour package, from July 6 to 13, for HK\$110,000 a person from Swire Travel.

Convoy chairman Quincy Wong Lee-man, who was part of the tour group, told the *South China Morning Post* from Brazil that their excitement turned to shock when the four were told their tickets were "fake".



Watching the World Cup games ... was the main purpose of our trip

QUINCY WONG, CONVOY CHAIRMAN

The group of 17 and their guide had arrived at the stadium about an hour before the game, and the four tourists' tickets were found to be "problematic" after a scan, Wong said.

Upon further examination, stadium staff said the tickets were

Trunk line



Tree surgeon Jon Picker prunes a Banyan tree growing from a 120-year-old stone wall on Forbes Street in Kennedy Town. The MTR Corporation has taken over the task of preserving the centuries-old trees growing from walls in the area where it is building the West Island Line extension, which will link Sheung

Wan and Kennedy Town via the University of Hong Kong. The company has saved three trees since it agreed in 2006 to relocate the Kennedy Town station. Train services on the new line are due to begin at the end of this year, with 93 per cent of the works already completed. Photo: Edward Wong

EDUCATION

CRIME

FATAL FALL FROM U.S. CONSULAR STAFF FLAT

Police investigate how consulate employee's girlfriend fell from balcony of his Mid-Levels home in unexplained early morning death

Clifford Lo and Lana Lam

Detectives are investigating the mysterious death early yesterday of a young woman who fell from the 18th-floor balcony at the Mid-Levels home of her boyfriend, a US consulate employee.

The boyfriend, identified only as Raymond, 23, called police shortly before 3am to report that his girlfriend, Tiffany Leung Wai-yu, 27, had fallen from his apartment at Estoril Court in Garden Road.

When officers arrived, Leung was lying unconscious outside the building.

She was later declared dead at the scene, police said.

It was not clear last night what had caused her to fall.

A police source said officers had been told the couple were chatting on the balcony of the luxury apartment when the woman went over the edge.

"Our officers were told that the man had turned around to smoke and she had fallen down when he turned back," the source said. He said police launched an investigation after the man failed to explain clearly how Leung had fallen.

Another police source said an initial investigation found that the woman had not reported suicidal tendencies.

"We have to look into everything," the source said. "We will investigate whether there were any signs of a fight or a struggle and we will wait for the ... post-

with the Hong Kong Police Force as it investigates. Since the investigation is ongoing, we have no further comment."

The woman, who lived in Happy Valley, was an employee of a non-government organisation, sources said.

The pair reportedly met in the Lan Kwai Fong bar and entertainment district in Central several months ago.

A police spokeswoman said an autopsy would be carried out and no one had been arrested. Police are treating the case as a



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POLICE SOURCE

fall, without specifying whether they believe it was an accident or not, she said.

Officers from the Central district crime squad are looking into the woman's death.

The luxury apartment was bought by New Estate Company Limited for HK\$108 million in 1984, according to official Land Registry records.

The company's directors