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Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Sex-trafficking victim, who killed a man as a teen, set free in case championed

Inside C2

Thursday, August 8, 2019 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

Trump visits shooting victims in Dayton as protesters shout, 'Do something!'

DAYTON, Ohio (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump met in Ohio on Wednesday with victims and first responders from one of last weekend's two deadly mass shootings, while protesters chanting "Do Something!" and "You are why" accused him of inflaming tensions with anti-immigrant and racially charged rhetoric.

Trump visited Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, where the wounded were treated after nine people and the suspect were killed in a rampage early on Sunday, one of two mass shootings 13 hours apart that shocked the country.

Crowds of protesters outside the hospital and in downtown Dayton held signs reading, "Hate not welcome here," and "Stop this terror."

White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said on Twitter that Trump stopped by hospital rooms and met with patients while thanking the medical staff for their work.

Factbox: Mass shootings in U.S. ignite new calls for gun legislation

"You had God watching. I want you to know we're with you all the way," she quoted Trump as saying at the hospital.

Later in the day, Trump will visit the Texas city of El Paso, on the border with Mexico, where 22 people were killed at a Walmart store on Saturday by a 21-year-old man who had posted an anti-immigrant manifesto online.

The back-to-back massacres have reopened the national debate over gun safety.

As he left the White House, Trump said he wanted to strengthen background checks for gun purchases and make sure mentally ill people did not carry guns. He predicted congressional support for those two measures but not for banning assault rifles.

U.S. President Donald Trump arrives to board Air Force One at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base after visiting the site of a mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio, U.S., August 7, 2019. REUTERS/Leah Millis

U.S. government contractors get first look at Huawei ban

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. agency responsible for government contracts on Wednesday released an interim rule for a ban on federal purchases of telecommunications equipment from five Chinese companies, including Huawei.

The ban is part of a broad U.S. push against Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, the world's largest telecommunications network gear maker, which Washington accuses of espionage and stealing intellectual property.

Huawei has repeatedly denied it is controlled by the Chinese government, military or intelligence services. It has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government over the restrictions in the defense policy bill.

The ban was included in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed last year, and restricted the use of federal money to purchase telecommunications equipment and services and video surveillance equipment from "covered" telecommunications companies, citing national security concerns.

Huawei said in a statement that it "continues to challenge the constitutionality of the ban in federal court."

A spokesman for Hikvision (002415.SZ), another of the five banned companies, said it is committed to complying with laws and regulations in countries where it operates. Hikvision "has made efforts to ensure the security of our products adhere to what is mandated by the U.S. government," the spokesman said.

Huawei and two of the other companies - ZTE Corp (000063.SZ) and Hytera (002583.SZ) - did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday. The fifth company, Dahua (002236.SZ), could not immediately be reached for comment.

Government contractors have said they were confused about the scope of the ban and what it will mean for their businesses.

The first rule bit.ly/33iTbiT implementing the ban was posted on a website for contractors called Acquisition.gov run by the General Services Administration, the government agency responsible for contracting. The interim rule is slated to take effect on Aug. 13.

A Huawei company logo is pictured at the Shenzhen International Airport in Shenzhen

FILE PHOTO: A Huawei device is pictured in the Manhattan borough of New York

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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

WORLD NEWS

Sex-trafficking victim, who killed a man as a teen, set free in case championed by Kardashian, Rihanna

(Reuters) - A sex-trafficking victim, who was sentenced as a teenager to life in prison for murder, was released from a Tennessee prison on Wednesday after serving 15 years for killing a man who paid to have sex with her, according to prison officials.

Cyntoia Brown, 31, whose murder conviction at 16 years of age galvanized A-list celebrities to campaign for criminal justice reform, was freed from prison after Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam granted her clemency here earlier this year.

Celebrities like Kim Kardashian and singer Rihanna had taken up Brown's cause here and said she was a victim who did not deserve such a lengthy sentence.

As a condition of her release, Brown will undergo counseling and must maintain a job. She will be under parole supervision for ten years, according to a statement by the Tennessee Department of Correction.

Prior to the clemency, she would not have been eligible for parole until 2055 at the age of 67.

At the time of the murder, Brown, who was 16 and had run away from home, was living in a motel with a trafficker who peddled her for sex.

Under U.S. federal law, involving anyone under the age of 18 in commercial sex is considered sex trafficking.
Police say Brown shot and killed 43-year-old Nashville real estate agent Johnny Allen, who had paid the pimp to have sex with her. She was tried as an adult and convicted of first-degree murder.

"Survivors of human trafficking like Brown should be treated as victims in need of services. Instead, many trafficking survivors across this country are regularly arrested rather than helped. They all deserve true justice and mercy," Andrea Powell, executive director of Karana Rising, a nonprofit dedicated to helping victims of sex trafficking.

FILE PHOTO - A combination photo of Cyntoia Brown shown in these 2006 and 2013 handout photos in Nashville, Tennessee, provided January 7, 2019. Tennessee Department of Corrections/ Handout via REUTERS

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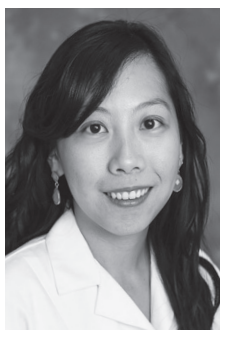

Jennifer Lai, M.D.
Pediatrics
Mandarin
Spring Medical and Diagnostic Center

"I am a strong advocate of promoting health and wellness to my patients, especially in the pediatric population. I want to make a difference and have a strong, healthy impact on my patients' lives."

~Jennifer Lai, M.D.

Dr. Lai is a board-certified pediatrician who earned her medical degree from The University of Texas School of Medicine in San Antonio and completed her pediatric internship and residency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Her special clinical interests include General Pediatrics, caring for newborns, and managing autism, and childhood obesity. She cares for young patients at Kelsey-Seybold's Spring Medical and Diagnostic Center.

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Editor's Choice

Supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump scream at counter-protesters near the scene of Sunday morning's mass shooting in Dayton

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to reporters as he departs on travel to Dayton, Ohio and El Paso, Texas following back-to-back mass shootings in the cities, on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, U.S., August 7, 2019. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

A member of Yemen's southern separatist holds his weapon with a picture of Muneer al-Yafee during a funeral of Brigadier General Muneer al-Yafee and his comrades killed in a Houthi missile attack, in Aden

People walk in front of a building with broken windows at the site of a car bomb blast in Kabul

Spectators watch as British lightship Gannet, which was built in 1954 and operated as a lighthouse off South Rock in the Irish Sea until the end of 2009, is lifted out of the Rhine River in Basel, Switzerland August 6, 2019. REUTERS/Arnd Wiegmann TPX IMAGES OF

A woman waits for public transport near Paulista avenue in Sao Paulo, Brazil August 6, 2019. REUTERS/Jorge Silva TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY

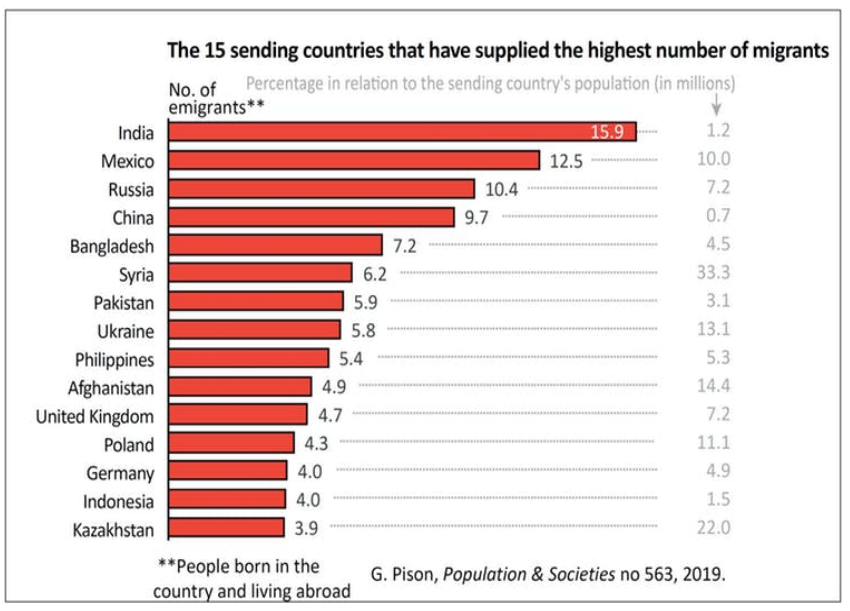
A family prays near the ruins of a headless Buddha statue, which has resurfaced in a dried-up dam due to drought, in Lopburi, Thailand

Representative Ocasio-Cortez speaks lights a candle as people gather for a vigil to remember victims of the mass shootings at Dayton and El Paso, at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, New York

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

COMMUNITY

The Countries With The Highest Immigrant Populations



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The heated immigration debate could a critical factor in helping countries to retain a sufficient number of young workers in the economies of the affected countries to support their aging populations.

The control of borders is a serious political problem, but experts are eyeing legal immigration as one solution to a future demographics challenge. As nations age, many will be short of workers to support social programs relied on by the older population.

Robust immigration has buoyed the populations of the U.S., U.K. and other developed nations, keeping them from shrinking for now. But a number of aging countries don't have enough immigration to replace their population as their fertility rates continue to plummet.

"Young and working-age immigrants do this directly as they integrate in a country's society and economy, and they also contribute to population growth when they have children."

— Irene Bloemraad, sociology professor and director of the University of California Berkeley's Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative

The U.S. is unlikely to see any population decline over at least the next couple of decades because of immigration. Sustaining the population is crucial for maintaining strong economic growth and supporting baby boomers' social and health care needs.

"Immigration is no "silver bullet" by itself: it can slow an aging population, but it would be impossible to reverse it with current or even slightly higher immigration numbers in most countries," Bloemraad says.

•If the expected number of children per woman of childbearing age drops in the U.S. from 1.76 to 1.5 or 1 — well below the replacement rate of 2.1 — no amount of immigration can compensate, Richard Jackson, president of the Global Aging Institute, tells Axios.

Demographers report a link between falling fertility rates and the incidence of populism, which in many countries has coincided with strong anti-migrant resistance.

A closer look by country:

•**The U.S.**: The proportion of immigrants recently reached a more-than-100-year high. The Trump administration, however, has made it harder for high-skilled workers to get visas and proposed stricter penalties for student visa overstays, in addition to the hardline measures it has taken against undocumented immigrants.

•**Japan:** Immigrants make up only 2% of the population, with fertility rates declining and immigration highly unpopular. Its foreign-born population has grown by 40% just since 2013, according to the Migration Policy Institute. But that's still far from the 10% share of the population needed to halt shrinkage.

•**Germany** has a similar fertility rate to the U.S. The country has seen a surge of Syrian immigrants, but anti-migrant politics have followed, threatening Chancellor Angela Merkel's hold on power.

•**In China**, population growth and fertility rates have fallen significantly since the 1980s — in large part due to its birth limits, which has left the country with an aging population, a shortage of working-age citizens, and millions more men than women. China is now considering ending its birth limits and seeking to attract some high-talent immigrants, the New York Times reported.

Looking Ahead: Mass immigration to developed nations with aging populations would have global economic, social and political impact. The effects would be felt by countries immigrants are leaving in the form of lost human capital, and by those in which they're arriving, with both economic benefits and possible social discord.

Related

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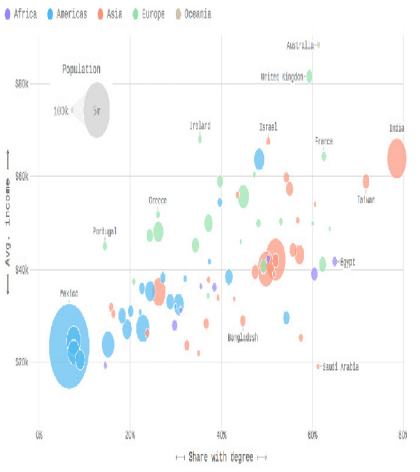
Income And Education Among U.S. Foreign-Born

Average Income And Share With A College Degree, 2017



How to read the chart (above), via Axios visual journalist Chris Canipe: The circles represent each country's population in the United States. Those on the lower left tend to have smaller average annual incomes and are less likely to have college degrees. Those in the upper right have the highest average incomes and are more likely to have degrees.

•**The lighter circles** (center and right)— representing Asian countries — are spread wider across the chart than circles of other colors, indicating higher inequality.

Asians tend to be among the best-educated immigrants to the U.S., and also land in some of the most lucrative careers. But, according to U.S. Census data, the image of privilege is true for only some Asians.

The bottom line: Data shows that income inequality is greater among Asian immigrants than for those arriving from anywhere else.

•**Indians** on average earn $64,000 a year, and 78.6% have college degrees.

•**But ..**. Compare that to Afghans ($22,000), Nepalis ($25,000) and Laotians ($32,000). (Courtesy axios.com)

Trump Demands To Be Paid Back For Immigrants' Use Of Public Benefits

President Trump issued a memo last Thursday evening that could require citizens or legal residents in the U.S. who sponsor immigrants — oftentimes family members — to pay back the government for any public benefits used by the immigrants they've sponsored.

Why it matters: For more than two decades, anyone who files for a green card for a family member or other immigrant must pledge financial responsibility if that immigrant uses public benefit programs such as food stamps or Medicaid. Many immigration lawyers have assured people that the law is rarely, if ever, enforced, according to former DOJ immigration lawyer Leon Fresco. That could change.

•Trump has ordered government agencies to establish rules over the next 90 days that would force immigrant sponsors to reimburse the government for immigrants' use of means-tested federal benefit programs.

•In 180 days, Trump asked the State Department and Department of Homeland Security to determine whether Americans who are "delinquent on the sponsor's reimbursement obligation" are able to sponsor future immigrants.

Between the lines: Not all green card holders are even eligible for these benefit programs. Many programs require immigrants to have had a green card for more than 5 years. It is unclear how many people the new enforcement rules would impact. (Courtesy axios.com)

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Conventional-Gas Station	**SBA Loan-Motel**
Loan Amount: $1,880,000 Term: 20 Years Straight payout Purpose: Purchasing	Loan Amount: $2,500,000 Term: 12 Month Interest Only / 25 Years Straight payout Purpose: Construction/ Term Start Up
Conventional: Retail Condominiums	**Conventional: Gas Stations**
Loan Amount: $4,350,000 Term: 8 Month Interest Only / 25 Years Straight payout Purpose: Tenant Improvement/ Term CRE Investor Program	Loan Amount: $3,450,000 (Total 2 Loans) Term: 20 Years straight payout Purpose: Refinance & Extra Equity for Gas Stations purchasing
Conventional: Gas Stations	**Conventional: Builder line of credit**
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BUSINESS

Facebook Removes Over 3 Billion Fake Accounts In 6 Months

File photo above dated July 16, 2013, shows a sign at Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif. Facebook stated in a last Thursday, May 23, 2019, report, that it removed more than 3 billion fake accounts from the service in the October-March period, although it doesn't say how many it may have overlooked. The report comes as Facebook grapples with challenges ranging from fake news to its role in elections interference, hate speech and incitement to violence in the U.S., Myanmar, India and elsewhere. (Photo/AP)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Facebook removed more than 3 billion fake accounts from October to March, twice as many as the previous six months, the company reported last Thursday.

Nearly all of the removals were identified and deleted before they had a chance to become "active" users of the social network.

In a new report, Facebook said it saw a "steep increase" in the creation of abusive, fake accounts. While most of these fake accounts were blocked "within minutes" of their creation, the use of computers to generate millions of accounts at a time meant not only that Facebook caught more of the fake accounts, but that more of them slipped through.

As a result, the company estimates that 5% of its 2.4 billion monthly active users are fake accounts, or about 119 million. This is up from an estimated 3% to 4% in the previous six-month report.

The increase shows the challenges Facebook faces in removing accounts created by computers to spread spam, fake news and other objectionable material. Even as Facebook's detection tools get better, so do the efforts by the creators of these fake accounts.

The new numbers come as the company grapples with challenge after challenge, ranging from fake news to Facebook's role in elections interference, hate speech and incitement to violence in the U.S., Myanmar, India and elsewhere.

Facebook also said Thursday that it removed 7.3 million posts, photos and other material because it violated its rules against hate speech. That's up from 5.4 million in the prior six months.

The company said it found more than 65 percent of hate speech on its own, before people reported it, during the first three months of 2019. That's an improvement from 52 percent in the third quarter of 2018.

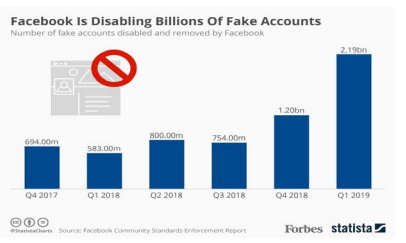
Facebook is under growing pressure to combat hate on its platform, as material continues to slip through even with recent bans of popular extremist figures such as Alex Jones and Louis Farrakhan.

Facebook employs thousands of people to review posts, photos, comments and videos for violations. Some things are also detected without humans, using artificial intelligence. Both humans and AI make mistakes and Facebook has been accused of political bias as well as ham-fisted removals of posts discussing — rather than promoting — racism.

A thorny issue for Facebook is its lack of procedures for authenticating the identities of those setting up accounts. Only in instances where a user has been booted off the service and won an appeal to be reinstated does it ask to see ID documents.

While some have argued for stricter authentication on social media services, the issue is thorny. People including U.N. free expression rapporteur David Kaye say it's important to allow pseudonymous speech online for human rights activists and others whose lives could otherwise be endangered.

Dipayan Ghosh, a former Facebook employee and White House tech policy adviser who is currently a Harvard fellow, said absent greater transparency from Facebook there is no way of knowing whether its improved automated detection is doing a better job of containing the disinformation problem.



"We lack public transparency into the scale of disinformation operations on Facebook in the first place," he said.

And even if just 5 million accounts escaped through the cracks, Ghosh added, how much hate speech and disinformation are they spreading through bots "that subvert the democratic process by injecting chaos into our political discourse?"

"The only way to address this problem in the long term is for government to intervene and compel transparency into these platform operations and privacy for the end consumer," he said.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has called for government regulation to decide what should be considered harmful content and on other issues. But at least in the U.S., government regulation of speech could run into First Amendment hurdles.

And what regulation might look like — and whether the companies, lawmakers, privacy and free speech advocates and others will agree on what it should look like — is not clear.

Of the 3.4 billion accounts removed in the six-month period, 1.2 billion came during the fourth quarter of 2018 and 2.2 billion during the first quarter of this year. More than 99 percent of these were disabled before someone reported them to the company. In the April-September period last year, Facebook blocked 1.5 billion accounts.

Facebook attributed the spike in the removed accounts to "automated attacks by bad actors who attempt to create large volumes of accounts at one time." The company declined to say where these attacks originated, only that they were from different parts of the world.

Starting with this report, Facebook is disclosing how it deals with the sale of "regulated goods" — that is, drugs and firearms. Facebook prohibits the purchase, sale or gifting of firearms, as well as drugs including marijuana, which is legal in some states and countries. The company said it "took action" on 1.5 million cases involving drugs and 1.4 million involving firearms. This generally means removing the material from Facebook but can also involve suspending users or adding warning screens to videos showing objectionable content. (Courtesy apnews.com)

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国会现职业移民取消国别配额提案

2019年新一届国会议员上任后递交的国会新提案中，包括一个“高技能移民公平方案”(Fairness for High-skilled Immigrants Act of 2019)，即HR1044提案。该提案提议取消职业移民绿卡的国别限制，从而可能消灭目前排期过长的问题。华裔社区获悉，引发争议，众说纷纭。

有律师背景的社区人士呼吁，全美华人应该团结起来，抵制HR1044。

持反对意见的南加律师郭先生认为，一旦HR1044通过立法程序生效，三年缓冲期过后，近百万绿卡申请排队靠前的印度裔申请人将会挤占绝大多数绿卡名额，将会造成华人和其它国籍绿卡申请人等待的排期时间变得更长。

根据美国的《移民与国籍法》，职业移民全球的年度限额为14万，依次优先顺序从EB1至EB5五种类别。每个国家的申请人获得绿卡的数量不超过7%，每个地区的申请人获得绿卡的数量不超过2%。郭律师解释，如果其它国家的绿卡申请人数没有达到国别配额(出生国，非国籍)，则可以将多余的配额给超标国申请人使用。

申请人数多于国别配额是造成排期的原因。

移民律师刘莉莎表示，HR1044提案如果能够通过，对于中国籍和印度籍的绿卡申请人非常好。她认可短期工作签证H1-B申请者中，确实印度人主导占据多数，也或是未来的绿卡申请人。但是，她认为这两年移民局H1-B审案比较严格，主要的任务是打假，并非很容易过关，已经有所限制。她的律所接手的案例，近几年中国籍H1-B申请人很多，所以她本人更倾向支持HR1044提案，不认为三年后印度籍垄断绿卡申请。

从全盘来看，她认为，也应该不会影响其它国家的绿卡申请人，因为原本申请者就很少，而且在特朗普政府执政的大背景下，比较符合特朗普的移民政策，应该可以通过。

橙县商会会长，陈启耕律师希望公众了解HR1044目前只是一个提案，并非法律。美国国会通过法律有它既定的流程，现在断定为时尚早，而且HR1044提案有关移民绿卡签证申请，与H1-B短期工作签证本身没有直接关系，适用于现在已经递交绿卡申请，或等待绿卡的申请人。他解释，根据提案内容，如果通过，前三年过渡期会有保护配额，如第一年，在所有的职业移民五种类别(EB1-EB5)中，保留15%的配额给其它族裔的申请人，85%归申请人数最多的印度籍或中国籍申请人；第二年，保护性的绿卡配额降为10%，从2022年10月开始，2023年度的配额取消国别，就不再有保护性配额比例。

没有配额保护之后，绿卡签证额度会不会都被某个族裔用光？陈启耕分析，HR1044提案之前，新一届国会两党共同发起，已有类似的提案HR392，并获得国会超过300多位两党议员的支持。看得出，很多议员倾向尽快解决掉排期问题，包括印度籍及中国籍移民申请人都有很长的排期问题，尤其印度籍H-B申请人为甚，排期优先日尚在2009，中国籍申请者优先日在2015年。也因此，印度籍申请人应该已向政府积极争取。

在美国的法律制度下，有诉求需要自身积极争取，越主动向政府要求，提出诉求，才越有机会得到想要的。

相反，华人文化内敛含蓄，不太会主动争取，这也表现在政治上的参与。如果以人口比例算，华人参与公共事务很少，不成比例。陈律师建议，利益受损的华人群体应主动向所属地区的国会代表解释，如果HR1044通过，对其他国家申请人可能带来的伤害。

过渡期后，从2022年10月起，很有可能变成印度人占用几乎全部绿卡份额的情形，因为原本印度籍已有过多申请积压太久，但即便这样，仍然有大量的人数继续在申请。

陈律师认为，HR1044提案如果通过，对于EB-5投资移民申请或能加速，尤其EB-5申请占90%以上的中国籍申请人。但是，取消国家配额不符合美国主流多元化的理念。原本实行国家配额的用意，是不希望某个国家的移民人数过高，适当控制，以限制绿卡名额被某个种族统统占有，否则，其它族裔更没有机会。

陈律师认为，比较好的方案是至少有一个10%的保护配额。另外，他认为从长远看，这个提案也存在不明智的隐患。是否可以附加一些要求，以满足某些特定要求为前提？

陈律师提醒，不管未来法律怎样变化，都不要尝试违法操作的方式，否则更麻烦。

澳大利亚新签证计划划重点 新移民不得离开指定区域

近日，澳大利亚联邦政府推出一项新计划，旨在让边远地区签证的申请得到更快处理，但该计划要求，迁入边远地区的技术移民，必须留在指定区域，否则，他们的签证将被取消，并有被驱逐出境的危险。同时，澳大利亚审计署的一项最新调查发现，澳大利亚公民申请并没有得到及时处理，等待的时间是以往的10倍。

新移民不得离开指定区域

据报道，澳联邦政府近日宣布了一项新移民计划，旨在解决澳大利亚交通拥堵，该计划将优先为愿意在边远地区定居的移民发放签证。然而，如果他们在获得永久居留权之前离开这些地区，他们的签证将被取消。

联邦移民部长科尔曼(音译，David Coleman)表示，签证适用于在边远地区的工作。所以，新移民不能去别的地方工作，否则将得到惩罚。“如果他们离开指定区域，将不得不寻求另一种签证，但他们不会有那种签证。坦率地说，如果他们这样做了，他们将不太可能再获得永久居留权。”他说：“我们知道，在悉尼、墨尔本和昆州东南部，交通拥堵问题是非常现实的。这些都是真实的。我们也知道，在澳大利亚的很多地方，地方和州政府都迫切需要更多的人。因此，这种分布可以更好地协调起来。”

公民申请并未得到有效处理

与此同时，澳大利亚审计署最新的一项统计表明，联邦内政部并未及时处理澳大利亚公民申请，有8.3万份申请被积压。

据悉，在2017至2018年的80天内，成功办理澳公民申请的人数，仅占总数的15%。然而，内政部此前的目标，是在80天内处理80%的申请。从2017年3月到2018年9月，尽管公民申请的复杂性有所下降，但申请时间显著增加。审计报告还发现，尽管内政部已制定了一系列旨在提高工作效率的措施，但在实施方面进展缓慢。

对此，内政部表示，不同意这种看法，并称，在过去3年内，内政部在保护国家和社区方面安全采取的措施，正在产生效果，申请派发缓慢是出于安全考虑。

政府应确保新移民拿到签证

据悉，澳联邦政府正考虑，在处理边远地区签证方面投入更多资源。科尔曼称，随着对移民在边远地区定居的关注不断增强，主要城市的移民数量将会下降，澳联邦政府正与多个需要更多劳动力的边远地区，讨论指定地区移民协议(DAMA)。

对此，工党移民部长诺依曼(Shayne Neumann)表示，当前，澳大利亚政府面临的问题是，如何确保新移民进入边远地区的社区，并顺利地拿到签证。“我们有19.7万人持有过桥签证，在过去12个月中，增加了3.8万人。如果我们处理好这些签证，你可以想象，会有更多的人生活在边远地区的社区。”

日本4月起新增两种签证 留学生毕业可在餐馆就职

为了缓解人口老化和出生率下降造成的劳动力短缺，日本政府制定了扩大接纳更多外国劳动者的政策，在今年4月新增两种签证——“特定技能1号”和“特定技能2号”。此类签证不仅进一步开放了引进国外劳动力的大门，同时还惠及了众多想在日本工作的留学生。

长期以来，外国人留学生毕业后若打算在日本工作，一般需要把签证从“留学”改为“技术·人文知识·国际业务”，但工作内容必须与留学所学知识相关，签发标准较为严格，毕业后能留在日本工作的人非常有限。例如，在大学是经营专业，那毕业以后只能找与专业相对应的海外业务、翻译等工作。

新设立的“特定技能1号”适用范围扩大至14种行业，包括介护、楼宇保洁、金属材料加工、工业设备制造、电子电机设备产业、建设、造船和船舶工业、汽车维修、航空(机场地勤、运输等)、农业、渔业、食品饮料加工、餐饮、住宿。

申请资格主要包括两项：一是基础日语水平，日语要求不高(基本会话程度)，相当于日本语能力试验的“N4”。二是通过相关行业职业考试，负责监管特定行业的各省厅部门将负责设立考试以确认申请人是否具有一定水平的知识或技能。

14种行业根据主管部门，由厚生劳动省、农林水産省、经济産业省、国土交通省等部门各自设立考试办法。

3月13日，国土交通省公布了所辖行业的“特定技能1号”考试办法。2019年度除了日本外，还将在越南、菲律宾、中国、蒙古4个海外国家实施。对象是该省管辖的建筑、住宿、汽车维修、造船和船舶工业、航空5个领域。

按计划，建筑考试在越南与菲律宾，住宿与汽车维修考试在越南，造船和船舶工业考试在中国，航空考试在菲律宾和蒙古举行。

住宿领域考虑到有不少在日留学生参加考试，在日本国内7个城市设有考场，计划首场考试在4月14日举行。今后还将基于接纳企业和考生的意向，探讨扩大考试实施国家。

累计最长五年。原则上，持该签证的外国人不得办理亲属来在日本生活。

此外，目前在日本持“技能实习”签证的外国实习生可以在实习完成后将签证变更为“特定技能1号”。

据悉，有以下情节者不能参加“特定技能1号”考试：退学开除的留学生、失踪的技能实习生、在留资格“特定活动(难民认定申请)”在留者、尚在“技能实习”期间的实习者。

据了解，“特定技能2号”与“特定技能1号”相比，“特定技能2号”必须具备更高水平、更专业的技能及专门知识。“特定技能2号”在日本的在留期间无上限。这点是与“特定技能1号”签证最大的差异。与持“技术·人文知识·国际业务”、“经营管理”、“技能”签证在日本工作的外国人类似，以“特定技能2号”签证在日本居住的外国人可以一直更新居留期间，也可以携家人一起在日本居住，从实质上为他们提供一种无限期在日本生活的形式。

此前有消息称，政府考虑对建设、造船业、汽车维修业、航空业、住宿五种行业提供“特定技能2号”签证，但具体办法并未公布。只有日本国土交通省称，2021年度将在建筑、造船和船舶工业领域、启动需要更高技能水平的“特定技能2号”考试。要获得2号考试资格，除了考试合格外，建筑领域需要1至3年以上作为班长的工作经验，造船行业需要2年以上作为监督者的工作经验。

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无锡“灵谷洞”——旖旎多姿的天壁之岩

在这漫长的旅程之中，我游历过大大小小全国各地的溶洞，比起在外界山水花鸟，仿佛溶洞是有一种特殊的力量和神秘感，让人忍不住前去探索和冒险。也许是溶洞天生的地理条件造就这样的模式和感受，让许多喜爱探索和冒险的人在黑漆漆的山洞中完成了对于这种爱好的满足，而且对于一般的景点来说，溶洞有着得天独厚的游览条件和游历感受，而且再加上溶洞随着水文的不断变换和更迭，会营造出不同的钟乳石景观，在不同的年代里看到的溶洞景观是完全不一样的，非常具有趣味和观赏的价值。我曾经参观过非常著名的桂林芦笛岩，也在云南省大理市参观过其他的小型岩洞，都给我留下了 很深刻的印象，我对于溶洞的理解也更加深刻，记忆也更加美好。今天我们要去寻访的是江苏省无锡市的灵谷洞，探究一下江南地区的溶洞的独特风貌，感受来自山洞内部的魅力和神秘莫测。

灵谷洞位于无锡市下辖的县级市宜兴市城区西南方向三十多公里处的石牛山南麓地带，是一个占地面积达到了八万三千平方米的天然形成的大型石灰岩岩洞。而且灵谷洞距离著名的张公洞只有六公里左右，所以喜爱石灰岩岩洞景观的旅游爱好者可以将这两个溶洞安排在一起参观，非常便捷，旅途上也有一贯性和连续性。灵谷洞的开发历史细算起来已经非常悠久了，相传这里是由唐代诗人陆龟蒙在探茶的时候偶然寻得的，而且他曾经雇佣人力将这里进行更深的挖掘和探索，但是由于工程浩大，在那个生产力薄弱的年代而不得不放弃，宋朝之后还不断有人进洞探索，在石洞的墙壁上还留下了许多元明清时期的石刻和诗词，成为一个非常珍贵且具有研究价值的人文历史的古迹。直到解放后，当地政府才开始对于灵谷洞的正式开发和修葺，直到八十年代才正式向外界开放。这次来到灵谷洞是由于自身对于溶洞景观的喜爱和好奇，虽是游览过不少地方的溶洞，一旦听到有未曾踏足的溶洞景观，心里不免还是有一种期待和渴望。于是这次来到无锡的宜兴市，自然不能错过灵谷洞的景色。

无锡其他的两个溶洞我都去探访和游览过，与我个人而言善卷洞是一种别有洞天的感受，溶洞内大厅连着小厅，宽阔的可以容纳小舟通行；而距离灵谷洞只有六公之遥的张公洞是非常壮阔的感受，洞内的一线天让人感叹这里的造化钟神秀，惊叹于大自然的鬼斧神工。而这次去往的灵谷洞就是比较秀气和绚丽多姿的了，即使是一个地方的溶洞都会以不同的景观见长，更不用说每一个溶洞都在漫长岁月的流逝中随着水文变化而不断更迭的钟乳石景观了，所以每到一处用眼睛这个精密的摄影机去记录下独一无二的溶洞景观是非常具有意义和乐趣的。来到石牛山的那一刻，不出我的想象还是江南地区山脉的典型风貌，海拔不高但是景色旖旎，植被茂盛，有种青山见我多妩媚的风情和韵味。相比较与青山而言，更吸引人的是青山之内的石灰岩溶洞，这种汇集了地质、水文等一系列因素缺一不可的天然地貌，带给每一个来此探索之人的惊喜和艳羡。

走进灵谷洞的时候，心里不免有些忐忑和兴奋，因为在这种黑漆漆的山洞内穿行总有一种奇怪而又兴奋的感受，心中看到过的各种惊悚片和探险片此刻都在脑中走马灯似的闪现片段，让本来平淡的旅程变得惊险刺激。然而山洞内没有恐怖的景象更没有奇怪的生物，没走一会儿就已经有灵谷洞景区内专门安置的照明灯了，脚下的路也变得清晰可辨，踏在嶙峋的山体上，薄一点的鞋底都有些硌脚。但是很快眼前的景色就将注意力完全吸引了过去，山岩壁上有着非常茂盛的石笋和石花，都在岩壁上肆意地生长着，仿佛具有生命力一般的生机勃勃。这还是通道里的景观，再往里走真正进入灵谷洞的时候，我完全被眼前的景观所折服了，灵谷洞内部非常的广阔高大，如同仙人所居的大厅一般，厅内的顶上有一个巨大的石幕倒悬而下，如同一泓磅礴的瀑布，气势恢宏。而石幕底下有一泉清澈的溪水蜿蜒流淌，景色旖旎多姿，得名“天府灵泉”。

灵谷洞内的石厅大大小小有六个，每个都有暗道相互连通，而且这七条石道都有五条溪流相互贯通，既可以步行穿梭，也可以乘坐小舟游览，非常具有趣味性。第二个石厅给我的印象最为深刻，因为这里是钟乳石景观最为丰富的地方，不仅有大大小小生长在石壁上的“灵芝”，还有许多貌似波涛和飞云的石笋，一个巨大的白色钟乳石就如同雪山一般横亘在那里，成为所有小型的钟乳石景观的背景。来到第四石厅，深谷之处有一条飞流直下三千尺的巨型飞瀑，就连水花都被白色的小型钟乳石描绘的非常真实。第五个石厅是整个灵谷洞最具有灵气的地方，这里就如同一个水晶宫，每一个晶莹的装饰都在你的眼中被想象的插上了翅膀，而且在千佛山上：弥勒佛、太上老君和观音菩萨的神像都栩栩如生，让人感叹大自然的鬼斧神工。这六个石厅大小相连，各有各的特色和风貌，让人流连忘返。

走出灵谷洞的溶洞便能看到隐于茂盛竹林深处的一泓清泉，这股泉水从一个大石壶的壶嘴中汩汩冒出来，大家纷纷拿着水杯在这里接山泉水饮用。我也有点心动，接了一捧清泉水尝了尝，果然是无污染的山泉水，入口清冽甘甜，让疲累的绿化才能瞬间变得轻松了许多。这次的灵谷洞之行，在密竹深处寻得入山的洞口，在旖旎多姿的溶洞中感受自然的鬼斧神工，在山洞的外面尝得甘甜山泉，真的是不虚此行。

乾陵黄土民俗村 关中民俗的第一村

不知大家是不是了解陕西的关中民俗，关中从古至今都是一个重要的地区，举世闻名的“关中八大怪”是陕西独一无二的特色，每一“怪”都有自己的历史文化，涵盖了衣、食、住、行等生活的各个方面。其中我最喜欢的吃食是面条和锅盔，秦腔和皮影戏也是一绝，在世界上都是举世无双的。今天我要去的乾陵黄土民俗村就是中韩联合建造的，占地面积非常巨大，就在乾陵西兰公路旁不远处，带着我对关中民俗文化的向往出发吧。

从乾陵乘车出发，一路上欣赏着沿途的风景，欣赏着陕西独有的文化气息，没过一会就来到了黄土民俗村。据说这个村子在唐朝时曾是修葺乾陵的能工巧匠居住的地方，后来武则天无意间来到这里便被深深吸引了，命人改善成了皇亲国戚避暑的绝佳胜地，再后来经过慢慢演变就成了现如今的旅游胜地。一下车就看见了红色的城门，仿佛城门一关这个村子就会与世隔变成人间仙境。说是城门其实也是一个四柱三门式的牌坊，只是正中央的大门是可以开关的。因为年代久远柱子上的红色漆斑开始掉落，出现白白的凹坑，使整座牌坊看起来饱经沧桑很有故事。在牌坊顶层的正中间有一块白色的牌匾，上面刻着“乾陵第一村”，旁边还有精美的雕刻装饰着。牌坊的屋檐是青灰色的瓦片搭建而成，看起来就像真的屋顶一样，具有关中的民俗文化特色。许多游客都在此门前拍照留念，许是这样的城门现在不多见了吧。

黄土民俗村蜿蜒曲折约有千米长，街道两旁陈列着关中地区炎黄子孙千百年来所用过的生活用品或者一些节日活动的著名雕塑，让我们一起走进村子了解了解关中的风土民情吧。一路上最多的就是具有黄土特色的关中土筑房，现在这个社会土筑房已经很少见了，大都是砖房。这里的房子也许是因为黄土质地柔软细腻，所以才会屹立百年不倒，尽管有时会有细细的沙粒落下来，但这丝毫不影响土筑房的质量。走过土筑房前面还有重量级的石磨，上面有人放着红辣椒然后让牛一圈一圈的拉着石磨碾碎辣椒，当然时不时的也会有人上去动一动。可以看得出石磨也很有年代感了，它为村子里的人提供了很大的便利，奉献了全部。除此之外村子里还有修建的窑洞，这也是关中的一大特色，更是陕西人民群众的象征。以前只听说过窑洞冬暖夏凉非常舒服，今日终有机会见识一番了。窑洞一般分为三种，分别有靠崖式、下沉式、独立式等，而这里窑洞应该是独立式的，也不乏有靠山的。窑洞顶部一般都是圆拱形的，代表着天圆地方；还有设计的高窗，不仅可以透风还可以照射阳光。在陕西这一带，窑洞就是百姓最大的追求了，一个男人是否能够成家立业就在于是否有了窑洞有妻子，男人种地女人在窑洞里操持家务相夫教子，就非常幸福了。想到这样的生活我不禁也有些向往了，住在窑洞里也不失为一种幸福。进入窑洞没有难闻的潮湿和泥土的气息，反之而来的是浓浓的生活气息，非常惬意。

在黄土民俗村的偏处还有几间穴居式房屋，都是土著的，上面盖着茅草作为屋顶。当然也有实实在在的茅草房，整个房子都是茅草。在家庭小院中还有串起来的辣椒和玉米，挂在墙上红红火火，也是一道靓丽的风景线，几乎每家每院都有那么几串，可能是当地的民俗民风吧。除了这些建筑物在山林深处还有几座雕塑，有小动物、人物、假山等等被雕刻的栩栩如生。在山石之间有一只小猴子双手上举仿佛要把大石头扔出去，在树杈上夹着一只大黑熊，旁边的窑洞顶部卧着两只大狮子，整个一幅场景就好像野生动物园一样自由自在。黄土民俗村的皮影也是一绝，活灵活现的小人被手艺人一操控就变成了一场精彩的戏剧。小时候我就一直觉得会皮影戏的人都很厉害，在白幕上随意的操控着小人，就好像变戏法似的，十分佩服。

黄土民俗村所在的八百里秦川是不可多得的风水宝地，数十位帝王将相的陵墓都建在这里，在群峰中形成了一道靓丽的风景线。从这里望去乾陵所在三座挺拔陡峭的山峰也就是梁山就好像一位翩翩起舞的少女在天边随风而动，北边的山峰像头而南边的则像脚，少女披着长发在蓝天白云下仰躺着，看起来很会享受生活。梁山的地理位置极佳，是古代兵家必争之地，秦始皇曾经在这里修建城墙抵御外来侵略者，张骞出使西域也曾经过这里，它还是“丝绸之路”的必经之地。梁山不仅地理位置优越，风水也非常好，著名的乾陵就在此地。乾陵是中国乃至世界唯一一座两朝帝王和一对皇帝夫妻合葬陵，这对皇帝夫妻想必大家都很熟悉，就是中国历史上唯一一位女皇帝武则天和她的夫君唐高宗。据说当时武则天曾命人看过此地，认为梁山形似少女，若作为陵墓便会大有利于女主人，所以武则天便把此地作为了自己与夫君百年之后的“万寿城”，不得不说武则天很有远见，能找到这么好的地方。

乾陵黄土民俗村是陕北民俗的集中体现，是关中最重要的地方。黄土民俗村就像它的名字一样到处都是黄土，这也是它独有的特色，村子里的墙也都是用黄土堆砌而成的，屹立百年也不会倒塌。除了土墙之外还有很多窑洞，大多村民都居住的是窑洞，窑洞冬暖夏凉非常舒适。黄土民俗村还有许多未知的惊喜等你来发现呢，赶快行动吧！

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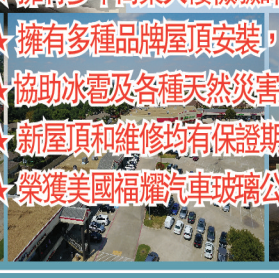

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7月27日的素食會非常成功，城中過百人參加，座無虛席，觀音堂所有的椅子都給佛友們用上了，義工全程站立。下次活動，我們要外借椅子啦！這次活動請來了很多新面孔，佛友們都愛我們素食，節目也很精彩，除了有觀世音菩薩成道日的特別動畫片，師父的開示，圖騰還特別增加了師父講的笑話，全場氣氛活躍，法喜充滿！給大家帶來一個不一樣的方式賀迎觀世音菩薩的成道日。還要感恩佛友們帶來供菩薩的花供果和素食！感恩的心！

德州观音堂观世音菩萨成道日法会暨素食大会

本报记者秦鸿钧报导

【8/10】美国大学升学公益讲座休斯顿专场（Sugar Land/糖城）

7月27日，美金榜教育集团在休斯顿东南部的明湖举行了大学升学公益讲座，很多家长从休斯顿的中、西部远道而来。由于时间较短，很多大家关心的问题没能展开讨论，应广大休斯顿地区华人同胞的強烈要求，我们计划今年夏天在华人聚集的糖城地区再次举办公益讲座。时长为两小时，讲座后我们为家长免费答疑。主讲人为美金榜大学部主管、创始人何颋老师。她将就去年大学招生情况、明年的招生趋势、大学申请程序和要求，以及德州各大学的录取政策和奖学金发放政策变化，为大家详细分享美金榜的经验和信息，全中文。讲座内容包括：

2019年大学申请的变化和总结
2020年大学申请趋势
申请大学的时间规划/Timeline
申请美国顶尖大学需要做的准备？
德州主要大学的申请和录取情况变化
如何申请美国大学奖学金和财政援助？

美金榜教育集团介绍

美国美金榜教育集团，英文名To The Top Education Group，是美国南部最大的留学升学教育咨询机构，TACAC/德州大学招生委员会成员，NACAC/全美大学招生委员会成员。总部设在美国第四大都市休斯顿市(Houston)，分部设在加州圣地亚哥市(San Diego)、德州达拉斯 (Dallas) 市和圣安东尼奥市 (San Antonio)，业务代理遍布中国大陆各地及欧洲。美金榜主要帮助大陆学生及美国本土华人子弟申请美国高中、大学和研究生以及提供相应的学术提前规划和小留学生监护服务。在过去的几年中，我们已经成功帮助了众多学生进入他们理想的院校；代替无数远在大陆的家庭监护在美低龄子女的学习和生活。作为授权监护人实时与学校及寄宿家庭沟通，为孩子们成功渡过留学适应期，有效利用美国教育资源，并最终进入理想大学保驾护航。

美国大学升学公益讲座（Sugar Land/糖城）
时间：2019年8月10日星期六下午2–4点
地点：糖城 Keller Williams Realty 会议厅，1650 Hwy 6, Suite 350, Sugar Land, TX 77478
主办单位：美金榜教育集团
主讲人：美金榜大学部主管何颋老师

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