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Ethiopia to issue first Boeing investigation report

ADDIS ABABA/SEATTLE/PARIS (Reuters) - Investigators will release a keenly awaited report on the deadly crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jet on Thursday, Ethiopia's transport ministry said, giving the first official clues to the second crash of a new Boeing 737 MAX in five months.

Some 35 nationalities were among the 157 passengers and crew who died when the nearly full plane crashed six minutes after take-off from the capital Addis Ababa in clear conditions.

The March 10 disaster prompted the worldwide grounding of Boeing's best-selling plane and scrutiny of its certification process.

"The 10:30 a.m. (0730 GMT) press conference is to present the preliminary report," Ethiopian transport ministry spokesman Musie Yehyies said.

The report may shed light on how a piece of cockpit software came back to life after pilots initially switched it off as they tried to save the doomed jet, people familiar with the matter said, placing both technology and crew in the spotlight.

The Ethiopian-led investigation has begun piecing together details of flight 302, starting with faulty sensor data on take-off from Addis Ababa, questions over the Boeing 737 MAX's high speed and a nosedive coinciding with the software re-activation.

The aircraft's high speed and initial climb suggests the engines were running at a higher than usual thrust, experts say.

The so-called MCAS anti-stall software is at the center of accident probes in both the Ethiopian crash and October's Lion Air accident in Indonesia that have together killed 346 people.

MCAS was designed to help prevent an aerodynamic stall by issuing commands to push the plane's nose lower. However, in both cases it is suspected of firing up in response to faulty airflow data from a single sensor designed to measure the 'angle of attack,' a parameter needed to avoid stalling or losing lift.

Echoing the fate of the Lion Air jet, initial evidence suggests the Ethiopian Airlines jet experienced sensor problems shortly after take-off, causing the MCAS software to begin lowering the nose to grab air under the wings. Unlike the Lion Air crew, who were flying at a time when pilots had been told little about the MCAS software, the Ethiopian crew used switches to turn the automatic system off but it later re-engaged, people familiar with the matter said.

Although aircraft experts say MCAS cannot turn back on by itself, the report is expected to shed light on whether and why the crew chose to restore electrical power to the system at the risk of setting off more automated nose-down movements.

Aerospace analyst Bjorn Fehrm said in a blog post for Leeham News that pilots may have deliberately re-activated the system in order to make it easier to trim or control the aircraft only to be overwhelmed by rapid counter-moves from MCAS.

Investigators will also look at whether the crew carried out all necessary procedures, including a recommendation to stabilize the plane using the trim system before turning the crucial software off.

The pilots maneuvered the plane upwards at least two times before hitting the stabilizer cut-out switches to disable the system, one person familiar with the matter said.

However, initial flight data indicates the aircraft was flying nose-heavy and not in a "neutral" attitude when pilots hit the cut-out switches, the person added, making the situation harder to manage.

Cockpit procedures call for pilots to leave the MCAS system off for the rest of the flight once it has been disengaged.

Safety experts stress the investigation is far from complete and most aviation disasters are caused by a unique combination of human and technical factors.

In a statement, Boeing said: "We urge caution against speculating and drawing conclusions on the findings prior to the release of the flight data and the preliminary report."



FILE PHOTO: Airplane engine parts are seen at the scene of the Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET 302 plane crash, near the town of Bishoftu



FILE PHOTO: An Air Canada Boeing 787 airplane is pictured at Vancouver's international airport in Richmond,

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Nonstop flights from Houston for summer travel

With summer just around the corner, now's the time to make travel plans.

Since traveling without layovers in between destinations is the ideal form of getting around, we've compiled a roundup of some great direct flights that leave from both Hobby Airport and George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

Among the most exciting travel developments in Houston: there are now flights from Houston to Honolulu that depart from Hobby Airport. Southwest Airlines announced the new route in March, but said they would not offer nonstop flights.

Houston Chronicle: Botanic Garden, coming in 2020, will celebrate Houston's biodiversity

Southwest Airlines earlier this year made another big announcement. In January the airline said it would suspend flights from Houston to Mexico City in March. The last Houston-Mexico City trip was March 30. According to the Houston Chronicle's Andrea Leinfelder, the decision was made because leisure trips outperformed business flights, and Mexico City was deemed a work-travel destination.

Nonstop flights from Houston to Mexico City are still available from George Bush Intercontinental Airport.



Travelers walk toward the baggage claim at William P. Hobby Airport, Monday, Jan. 29, 2018, in Houston. (Mark Mulligan / Houston Chronicle)

DA to dismiss murder charge against deputy in strangulation case

Citing a lack of evidence, Harris County prosecutors on Wednesday said they plan to dismiss a murder charge against a former Harris County sheriff's deputy after a man was strangled outside a Denny's restaurant in 2017.

Prosecutors said that after reviewing the evidence, they could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that former deputy Chauna Thompson had committed a crime in the death of John Hernandez outside the restaurant in Crosby.

Thompson's husband, Terry Thompson, was also charged with murder and was convicted last year. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

"Our action today is based on the lack of evidence to convict somebody and our ethical obligation not to go forward," First Assistant

Tom Berg said in a news release from the district attorney's office. "To be clear, Ms. Thompson's former employment as a deputy sheriff played no role in our decision to dismiss, just as it played no role in our original decision to present the case to a grand jury."

Authorities met with Hernandez's widow and parents before they decided to request the dismissal, the office said in the news release. They also reviewed evidence from Terry Thompson's two murder trials, they said.

"We hope that sparing the Hernandez family the ordeal of a third trial will help them move on with their lives, though we know this does not bring back their loved one," Berg said.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office said in a written statement that it was aware of the decision of the district attorney's office.



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Soccer Football - Premier League - Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace -
Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, Britain - April 3, 2019 Fans before the
match REUTERS/Dylan Martinez .

Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden appears in a video in which he pledges to be "more mindful about respecting personal space in the future\



FILE PHOTO: An Illy Caffe can is seen in a coffee shop in Rome, Italy, May 3, 2016. To match Interview COFFEE-ILLY/ REUTERS/Alessandro Bianchi/File Photo



A woman looks at an electronic board showing the graph of the recent fluctuations of market indices on the floor of Brazil's B3 Stock Exchange in Sao Paulo



Weapons destroyed by soldiers after being delivered by citizens as part of a voluntary disar-
mament program, are pictured in Mexico City



A soldier destroys weapons delivered by citizens as part of a voluntary disarmament
program in Mexico City



Soccer Football - Coupe de France - Semi Final - Paris St Germain v FC Nantes - Parc des Princes, Paris, France - April 3, 2019 Paris St Germain's Dani Alves celebrates scoring their third goal REUTERS/
Gonzalo Fuentes



FILE PHOTO: Lyft supporters gather for the Lyft IPO as the company lists its shares
on the Nasdaq in the first-ever ride-hailing initial public offering, in Los Angeles

Alief Community Leader And Retired Lt. Col. Ervin Rees Has Passed Away

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



Retired Lt. Col. Ervin Rees

Alief community leader and retired Lt. Colonel Ervin Rees has passed away. Rees was a life-long resident of Alief and attended Alief High School in 1941. Rees spent his later years in service to others with his participation in many groups including the Alief AARP chapter, the Alief Community Association, the Boy Scouts and the Alief Community Church.

An article published in 2007 in the *Houston Chronicle* highlighting the life and service of Mr. Rees is reprinted below. Funeral arrangements include Viewing/Visitation at Forest Park Westheimer Funeral Home, Westheimer at Dairy Ashford, Wednesday, April 3, 2019, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

In Tribute To And Memory Of Retired Lt. Col. Ervin Rees, Southern Daily Republishes The Following Article

Ervin Rees Finds The Time To Help Out In Community

Funeral Services at Forest Park Westheimer Funeral Home, Westheimer at Dairy Ashford Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 10:00 am.

Burial at Houston National Cemetery at 2:00 pm following the funeral services Reception at Alief Community Church, 4137 G Street in Alief, 4:00 pm following return from burial service.

He also volunteers his time for veterans' causes and at Flem Rees Elementary School, 16305 Kensley Drive, named for his father who died in 1959 after working in a blacksmith shop with Frank Petrosky and serving on the Alief school district board from 1931-40. Rees still tends to his Alief home, and his cattle and oil and gas leases in Colorado

Resident Keeps Commitment To

Alief, Country

By BETTY L. MARTIN

Copyright 2007 Houston Chronicle

Published 6:30 am CST, Wednesday,

November 7, 2007

For many seniors decades beyond the half-century mark, theirs is a time to settle in a favorite chair or porch swing, enjoy restful pursuits with remaining friends, and remember friends and family who have departed the earth before them.

At 83 years old, Ervin Rees visits the Alief Cemetery at Dairy Ashford and Bellaire — not just to visit old Rees is a member of the parent group of the cemetery association, the Alief Community Association, and also heads Alief's AARP chapter.

He participated in Boy Scouts and the Alief Community Church in previous years, and was a substitute teacher at Alief Hastings and friends, but to pull weeds, spruce up the place and generally help the Alief Historical Cemetery Association, one of several organizations in which he serves.

Every third Sunday in May, he organizes the annual Alief Old Timers Reunion at Youens Elementary School, 12141 High Star Drive.



The Alief Cemetery at Dairy Ashford and Bellaire.

County on a 42-acre slice next door to the 42-acre plat owned by his sister and former Alief school district superintendent's wife, Virginia Glaze.

Both plats of farmland are about 12 miles south of Weimer, part of what was once Jim Bowie's vast estate.

After graduating from Alief High School, which has since been torn down, in 1941, he studied aircraft under the National Youth Administration, a New Deal agency that operated from 1935-43.

He worked as a mechanic in a Corpus Christi aircraft assembly plant, then entered the U.S. Air Force Army Air Corps and began training as a pilot. At the University of Houston, he joined the reserves and earned bachelor's degrees in math and mechanical engineering before his unit was called to Okinawa and the Korean War. "That was where they sent the bombers before they were on their way to bomb something," Rees said.

Recognized At Minute Maid Park

On September 26, 2013, Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Ervin Rees was recognized for his military service at the Astros/Yankees game in Houston's Minute Maid Park. During the 3rd. inning, Rees was on the giant screens of the stadium.

The Air Force lost a couple of airplanes in such hazardous duty. Rees was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal.

He spent the Cold War and much of the early 1950s at Kelly and Travis Air Force bases, supervising disaster preparations at loading stations that sent cargo to military overseas.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, Rees learned about ground electronics in Colorado and was stationed in Germany, then flew Jolly Green Giant HH-3E rescue helicopters, flying out of an Air Force base in Thailand into Vietnam to pick up downed pilots during the war.

A North Dakota base, another missile and bomber station and then England for two years finished Lt. Col. Rees's 26 1/2 years of active duty in 1975.



The Jolly Green Giant HH-3E rescue helicopter.

"I said that was enough," Rees said. "I shipped the kids and for 2 1/2 months, traveled around Europe."

Since his return to civilian life, he has faced personal tragedies, including the deaths of wife Estella three years ago, and his son Alan last year. But he has continued to participate in — and to try to better — his community, an involvement that has become a lifelong habit.

Rees said it seemed a natural fit when he and Betty Youngblood teamed up to coordinate the annual Alief pioneers' event.

It also seemed equally fitting, he said, that he would end up on the cemetery committee, as a former president of the Alief Historical Society and as a partner with Howard Hicks, who died at age 93, on the association's board when they started it in the 1980s.

"I know quite a few of the people buried there," Rees said. (Courtesy betty.martin@chron.com)

After his service, he returned to the Houston area, teaching meteorology at Ellington Air Force Base before his roughest flying assignments — piloting B-29 aircraft into tropical storms and hurricanes to gauge the pressure, or through toxic clouds to measure radiation.



The B-29 aircraft.

"They were going to put me in the nose as an observer, but they needed pilots worse. So they transferred me to the cockpit, flying two missions a day — one south of Guam on the Equator, one up to Okinawa and the Marianas and Iwo Jima, then back to Guam," Rees said. "We'd fly in at 10,000 feet, hit the southeast corner of the storm, flying between the spokes, then hit the wall cloud and into the eye."

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AUSTIN — While most educators begin the school year amid the heat of summer, Desirae Jackson taught her fifth grade math class for the first time during the chill of February after another teacher abruptly quit to change careers.

"They were sad that he left," said Jackson, 25, now in her second year teaching at Bellaire Elementary in Harlandale Independent School District in San Antonio. "It hurts my heart for them to leave after kids have fallen in love with them."

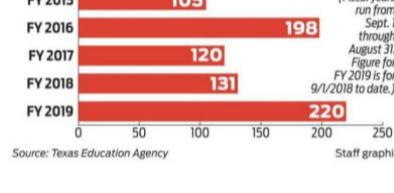
This school year, playing catch up in the classroom has become more common in Texas as state education officials have cited at least 220 teachers for leaving their jobs mid-school year and breaking their contracts, putting the teachers at risk of temporarily losing their licenses.



Poor school management and an emphasis on standardized testing are two major complaints that spur teachers to leave, said educators gathered at a recent Texas AFT union rally at the Texas Capitol. The Texas Education Agency opens a "contract abandonment" case every time a school district files a complaint about a teacher leaving his or her contract early. So far in the 2018-2019 school year, the state has opened more cases of teacher abandonment than in any year since 2014. What's unknown is the number of teachers who quit the classroom to take a promotion elsewhere in their schools or districts, or due to a medical condition, or to move for a spouse's new job or other reasons acceptable under Texas law.

Leaving in the middle

The Texas Education Agency has opened 220 cases against teachers accused of contract abandonment for leaving in the middle of the current school year. These figures do not include those who took promotions within their districts, or who left with the approval of their local school board.



The number of contract abandonment cases hints at a trend that teachers and education groups say they've noticed in recent years — that teacher turnover is continuing to creep up as more teachers call it quits.

'A tough job,' made even tougher

A look at more than a dozen cases shows educators left their positions for a mix of reasons. Some left for higher salaries or better jobs. Others cited reasons like mental health, or the declining health of a rel-

SPECIAL REPORT

'A Tough Job,' Getting Even Tougher

Texas Hits 5-Year High In Number Of Teachers Faulted For Leaving Mid-Year

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



Zoe Jane Rodriguez, 6, of Edinburg, Texas, joins teachers and support staff at a rally at the State Capitol in Austin, Texas, Monday, March 11, 2019. A large crowd gathered at the capitol to urge the Texas Legislature for public school funding. (Photo/houstonchronicle.com)

ative. In several cases, teachers resigned just before the beginning of the school year, although state law requires they give at least 45-days notice before the first day of school if they plan to leave.



One in 10 teachers quit teaching in Texas schools after their first year, according to state records. Five years after earning their teaching certificate, three in 10 teachers are either no longer in the profession or have left the state.

The vast majority of teachers stay on the job throughout the year. Texas is home to more than 358,000 teachers, with less than 1 percent of them accused of abandoning their contracts in any given year.

However, this year's spike of teachers

under investigation for breaking their contracts is a 68-percent increase over last year, when the state opened 131 cases of teacher abandonment. Texas opened 198 cases in the 2015-16 school year.

Most teachers who abandon their contracts do so at the beginning of the school year, said Paul Tapp, managing attorney for the Association of Texas Professional Educators who has represented teachers for more than 20 years. He said teachers deal with more negativity now than they did decades ago — from politicians, from the media, and even from some parents.



"Our public schools are failing," Teachers are failing. It's been repeated so many times, it's just gotten to be a truism," said Tapp. "We've seen a lot of long-time educators just basically say, 'I don't enjoy it anymore. It's a tough job, it's always a tough job. I don't get the satisfaction I used to get out of it anymore. I'm leaving the profession." State rules generally allow teachers to terminate their contracts at least 45 days before the beginning of a school year. Those who break their contract outside of that 45-day window without good cause or approval of the local school board could face a suspension of their teaching license for up to one year.

Lawmakers target low salaries

Rep. James Talarico, a Round Rock Democrat and former teacher, speculates the uptick may stem from increased expectations for student performance on end-of-year standardized tests and pay that lags behind the national average.

"Expecting more and giving less is difficult in any profession, especially a profession that is as difficult as teaching," said Talarico, who taught in middle school from 2011 to 2013.

The average salary for a Texas teacher is \$54,122, according to the Texas Education Agency. Nationally, teachers average \$60,483, according to a survey by the National Education Association. (Courtesy houstonchronicle.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，从而可能消次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，因为原本申请人就很少，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年，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，越主动向政府要挟，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，澳大利亚审计署最近的一项统计表明，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”，但作品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、农林水产省、经济产业省、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。

持此签证的外国劳工，签证期限

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5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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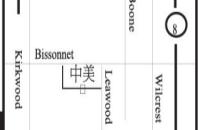
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三月的金川，春意盎然。
万亩梨花树，灼灼芳华。
细柳抽条燕归来，风卷花香十里飘。
金川河水，浩浩西来。
山也喜欢，花也相爱。
爱煞金川，却原来好光景都在这里。

金川县原名靖化县，位于川西北高原，阿坝藏族羌族自治州西南部，地处青藏高原东部边缘，大渡河上游，隶属四川省阿坝州。金川县境内河流大金川（大渡河上游）得名，而大金川因沿河诸山有金矿得名。

金川属大陆性高原季风气候，多晴朗天气，昼夜温差较大。金川县总人口7万人，有藏、羌、回、汉等14个民族，是一个多民族聚居，少数民族人口占75%。县境内有中药材200余种、野生食用菌70多种，雪梨、苹果树70万余株；金川白瓜子、金花梨、金川辣椒等绿色食品，还有无公害牛、羊、猪生产认证。

当雪域高原还在冬的被窝里沉睡，大金川两岸万亩梨花同时竞放，规模之大气势之恢宏是阿坝高原最亮丽的一道风景。

早上5点多起来去神仙包拍日出，怎奈多云没得日出也没得平流雾。虽是如此，可是在黎明到来前俯瞰金川却也觉得那些梯田好美。

绵延百余公里的大金川两岸粉装玉砌，像一条洁白的哈达，山川河流，每一寸土地都淋漓尽致地展现着大金川——雪域高原江南的壮阔与秀美。

金川“九大胜迹”之一的神仙包。《绥靖屯志》上有一段关于神仙包的传说。说上古时期，天地初开，一天，有一巨人，穿着马革制成的衣服，俯卧在山梁上蒙头睡觉，突然间，洪水泛流，他醒来时，脚下已是一片汪洋。侧身举目左顾东岸，山为之倾斜。他便委蜕而去，分山导水，不知所终。弃下的躯壳，则成了如今的神仙包。

踏上梨园，收获几枚漂亮的藏族mm，这位绿裙美女叫三兰，她可是2017年金川梨花仙子选拔大赛的亚军“梨花公主”哟。

每到梨花盛开的时候，人们相约梨林，欣赏梨花美景，青年男女在这洁白的梨花从中谈情说爱，暗定终身，他们坚信，自己的爱情就像这洁白无瑕的梨花永远纯洁忠心不二。朋友们当中有热恋情侣的话，赶快留个影，愿天下有情人的爱情像金川洁白的梨花永远纯洁，幸福美满！

人们把大金川梨花卓绝的风光归纳出三绝，走在花丛中，赏梨花冰清玉洁，闻花香沁人心脾，能不说这是人生一大快事。花中美女不胜数，话说：金川真是出美女的地界，这里的MM不全是高原红噢，一样有着雪凝白肌皮肤。我问美女为什么这么白，她笑着回答我说，因为金川出美女呀。

金川雪梨有一个动人的传说：相传远古时候，金川火山经常爆发，土地十分贫瘠。生活在这里的人们勤劳勇敢，战天斗地，辛勤开发大金川两岸的河谷地带，战胜了穷山恶水。由于过度劳累，金川人患上了多种疾病，面临死亡，金川人的事儿，感动了大雪山神，山神把金川人吃苦耐劳建设家园而身患疾病的事告诉玉皇大帝，玉皇恩赐

“雪梨种”，从此大金川两岸漫山遍野都长满了雪梨树。雪梨色鲜皮薄，果香浓郁，味美醇甜，治好了人们的疾病。人们欢呼雀跃，感谢玉皇的恩赐，从此精心栽种。还有一种传说，相传唐贞观年间，文成公主进藏与松赞干布联姻，路过金川，在此吃了从长安带来的梨，人们把文成公主留下的梨种子精心培

育而形成味道独特，自成一品的金川雪梨。为了纪念文成公主，人们把公主留下的雪梨称为“公主梨”。今天我们从传说中还能感受到千百年来民族团结的巨大感召力。

居住在这里的嘉绒人把传说中的巨人奉为神仙，每年梨花盛开时节都要在这里举办“神仙会”。男女老少穿着节日盛装，携美酒佳肴，在神仙包上转经烧香，点起一排排酥油灯祭祀神灵。

这一天，人们连臂牵手，在草坪上引亢高歌，欢跳锅庄，非常热闹。这一习俗一直沿袭至今。文人墨客也为之挥毫泼墨，清代诗李心衡有一首《仙坪跳月》：神仙包石势嵯峨，

阜部上方坪地不颇；连臂跳歌

纷壤绵，一年胜会上无多。如今，一年一度的“梨花会”便是由此演化而来。

古树梨花节开幕式会场设在山间，眺望大地，满目梨花满山遍野的盛开，在这千树万树梨花开的山间舞台，为庆祝2018四川花卉（果类）生态旅游节暨金川第五届古树梨花节的到来，一场充满了家乡情缘与民族风情的歌舞演出拉开了梨花节的帷幕。

山间梨花飘香，歌舞飞扬。很多优秀的歌手现场助兴，高原红组合、卞留念老师、容中甲尔等，当然现场最火爆的就是金川小王子“蒲巴甲”，真人确实很帅气哈。

一场以“探寻世外梨园的浪漫诗画，遇见东女古国的最美面孔”的“梨花仙子”选拔大赛让为金川的梨花增辉添彩。获得“梨花仙子”第一名、第二名、第三名的选手将作为金川县旅游形象大使，决赛现场颁发“金川县旅游形象大使”聘书。

为了欢度梨花节，让更多的百姓都能欣赏到众星的文艺演出，傍晚又在金川县城大渡河畔举行了一场古树梨花节惠民演出，四面八方的乡亲纷纷赶来，让这场春天的节日充满了梨花的浪漫和温情。

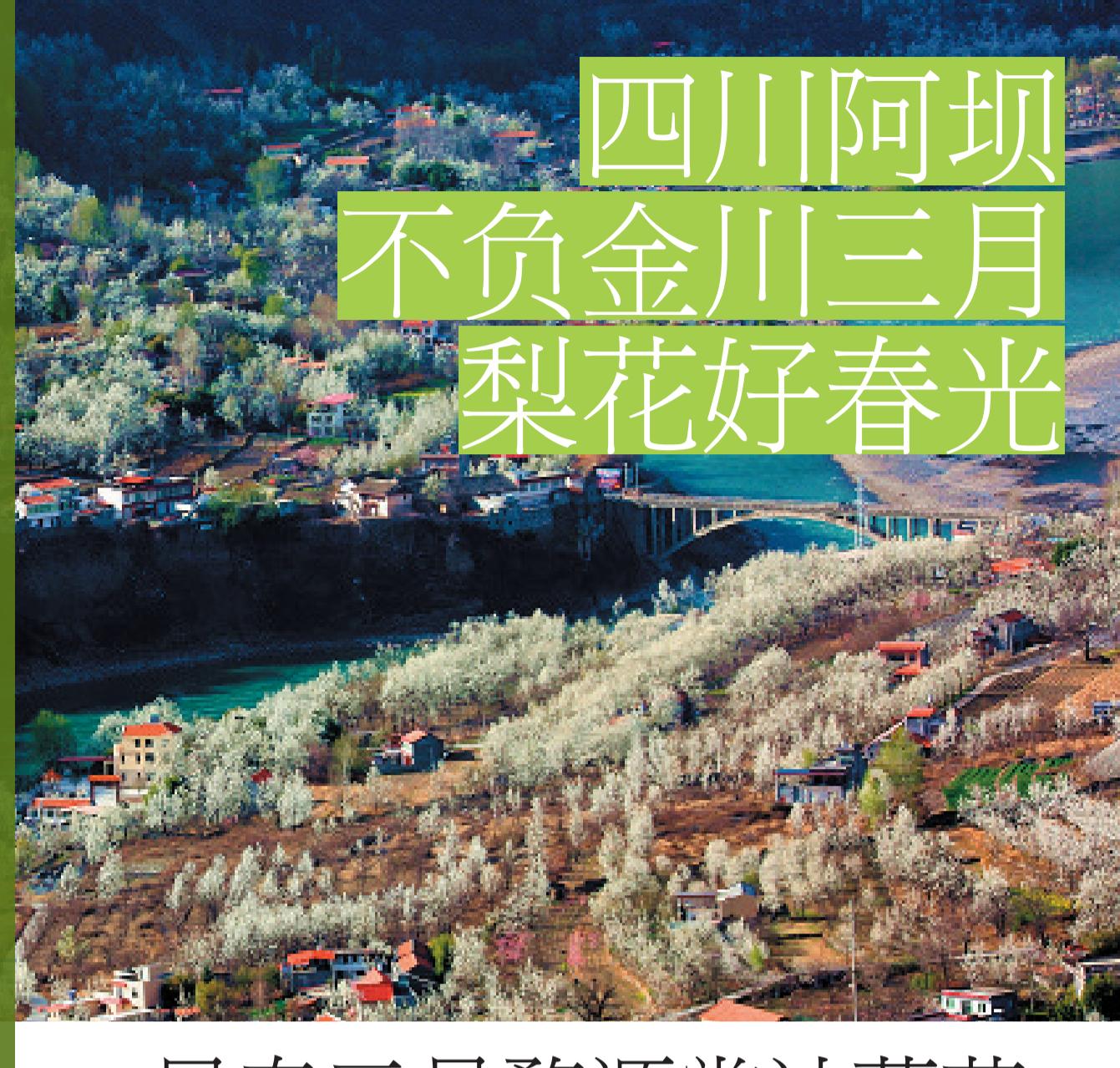
哈尔滨原名噶丹寺，是原大金川司沙罗奔的官寨所在地，200多年前，清乾隆皇帝两次用兵金川，这里是最重要的古战场之一，乾隆皇帝打金川是乾隆当政末期，称夸其武功，用御碑铭总结为“十大武功”中的两次征战（1747年—1749年第一次大金川；1771年—1776年第二次打金川），“乾隆打金川”这一历史事件，在民间被演化为口头故事广为流传。两次征战金川耗银一亿两，调全国二十五个省的兵力历时29年之久。

乾隆御碑就在安宁村，一座古香古色木质结构穿逗式梁架亭阁罩着的乾隆平定金川雪域高原至今保持唯一完好“御制平定金川勒铭噶喇依之碑”。亭阁为重檐歇山式顶，铺盖着琉璃瓦，喜欢那亭檐的四角龙头高跷，而梨树花绕其间，雕龙凤的看上去也很美。

阳春三月，踏青金川，梨花，桃花，油菜花遍布村周围。随处可见周边走进一个村子，壤壤热情好客的喊我进家里坐坐吃干果，喜欢他们的自然淳朴。

中国碉王，马尔邦关碉，屹立在金川的这片土地上，楼高达49.8米，基宽6.5×5米，顶宽3米，保存完好的中国碉王至今已有近300多年历史，是原大金川土司沙罗奔的小官寨碉。碉楼历经数千年的传承发展至今，是民族文化活化石，它们是不可再生的文化载体。

大金川河两岸梨花竟放河水欢腾的流着，梨花热闹的开着。错落有致的农舍掩映在层层叠叠的梨花丛中。梨乡的三月像雪域绝色美人，而我此时来到金川，春光无限好，时刻沉醉在梨花园中。



四川阿坝

不负金川三月 梨花好春光

早春三月婺源赏油菜花



江西婺源，早春三月，正是油菜花烂漫盛开的季节，而婺源的鲜花小镇篁岭，却是油菜花景观集大成之地。

对于篁岭，我并不陌生，从去年秋季开始，我已经四次前往，晒秋人家的古村落，留给我极其深刻的印象。然而对于篁岭的油菜花，虽慕名已久，却始终未曾一见其真面目，直到这个早春三月。

都说三月是下扬州之时，但我却选择在这个时候，再度去了一趟篁岭，只为了那漫山遍野的油菜花。也许，这便是我的初春赏花情结。在去婺源之前，景区的工作人员告诉我，因为暖冬，今年的油菜花比往年提前了近二十天开放，油菜花在二月底，已经进入了观赏期。

带着期盼，我驱车前往篁岭。从杭瑞高速的江湾出口下，汽车才驶入通往篁岭的205省道，就见路的两边，星星点点开着的油菜花，金黄色的花蕾在春风中摇曳，非常醒目。因为提前预定了篁岭晒秋人家美宿，我的车可以直接开上500米高的篁岭山顶停车场。要是平时来篁岭的话，可以从景区大门坐缆车上山，据说在缆车上，可以全程欣赏到篁岭山间的油菜花。

篁岭，是一个有着600多年历史的古村，它地处婺源石耳山脉之间，整个古村就坐落在海拔不到五百米的山坡上。古村上几乎所有的民居都是建在朝南的山坡上，从半山腰鳞次栉比向山顶拓展。而半山腰之下，便是村民们祖祖辈辈修建起的山间梯田。

篁岭的村民喜欢形容自己居住的地方，叫“地无三尺平”，大概的意思就是在这些江南的丘陵地带，要是能找到一块平地，那实在是太不容易了。因而村民想要生存，就必须在山坡上见缝插针，除了建造房子外，山间的梯田，大概就是村民谋生的依赖。

虽说山地，但篁岭古村所在的石耳山，却是跟其他山地不同。据说是这里全是松软的堆积土层，往往从山坡上挖下去十来米，才能见到坚硬的岩石。这给村民修筑梯田带来很大的困难。有时隔天才在山坡上平整起一洼平地，第二天醒来，因为土层的柔软，梯田就已经垮塌了。就是这样，在经过了数代村民的努力之下，现在的篁岭，才能见到山间近万亩错落有致的梯田。

江西，是我国种植油菜的大省，在婺源地区，先民们就有种植油菜的习俗。每年的冬季播种，隔年的初夏就能收获油菜籽，榨出来的菜油，除了家用，剩余的还能去市场交易。然而，油菜花作为观赏，也是近十年才发展起来的旅游项目。人们选择去篁岭，赏油菜花、逛古村、住美宿，便是这个春天逃离纷繁都市的归宿。

在篁岭赏油菜花，与在平原地带赏花截然不同，因为篁岭有着山间梯田，当油菜花开满梯田的时候，其壮观的景象，是无法比拟的。为了方便游人赏花，篁岭特意在山上修建了三处观景平台，以及两座高空铁索桥。游人能随意出入这些地方，拍照留念。

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休士顿人在台湾(二)

本报记者秦鸿钧摄影

记者秦鸿钧与台湾摄影学会硕学会士陈
绮红(图右)合影于「台北101」前。



(左起)梅一枝、赵真夫夫妇、秦鸿钧影于宜兰梅花湖。



由谷澄先生(右)带领的宜兰之旅，
与赵真夫博士(左)合影于宜兰林区小火车内。



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记者摄于国父纪念馆前。



梅一枝(左)、秦鸿钧(右)合影于宜兰小火车内。



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本报记者秦鸿钧(前排左一)。



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大休斯顿合作委员会与中国石油和化学工业联合会合作备忘录签署仪式集锦回顾



大休斯顿合作委员会(GHP)与中国石油和化学工业联合会(CPCIF)合作备忘录签字仪式成功。签约仪式由大休斯顿合作委员会主任沈健生主持，中国驻休斯顿总领馆副总领事刘红梅，大休斯顿合作委员会(GHP)总裁兼首席执行官Bobby Harvey，中国石油和化学工业联合会(CPCIF)副会长傅向升，副秘书长庞广廉，中国石油和化学工业联合会(CPCIF)代表随行企业家代表，GHP高层

以及本地企业代表等出席了签约仪式。近来中国的大型能源集团也都纷纷考虑在美进行投资，本次来访的二十多个企业已有不少已拥有在美进行长期投资意向的行动。来宾们皆认为大休斯顿合作委员会与中国石油和化工联合会合作备忘录的签署，将是中美能源企业深入合作的良好开端。并且为中美在能源领域最有影响力的投资合作交流，开启了崭新的良好开端。

