

Passage 001-奥兰多枪击案

A gunman has killed 50 people and wounded another 53 at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. It was the worst mass shooting in US history.

President Barack Obama, in an address to the nation Sunday, called the attack “an act of terror and an act of hate.” He said the American people are united in grief and outrage (愤怒). Obama praised the police and others who worked to rescue the hostages (人质) and end the attack.

The president also called the attack a “further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon.” Obama’s comments mark his fifteenth address linked to a mass shooting during his presidency.

Many families still do not know the fate of their loved ones who were at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

Police have identified the shooter as Omar Saddiqui Mateen. He worked as a security guard since 2007. He was killed at the scene in a gunfight with police. Mateen is a US citizen born in New York. His parents are from Afghanistan.

Passage 002-英国对留学生的吸引力有所降低

Foreign students are going off English universities. Britain’s private schools are one of its most successful exports. The children of the well-heeled (富有的) flock to them, whether from China, Nigeria or Russia: the number of foreign pupils rose by 1.4% in the last year alone.

Yet foreign students, whether educated in British private schools or elsewhere, are decreasingly likely to go to English universities.

In contrast to the visa regime for private schools, which is extremely lax, student visas have been tightened. Foreign students used to be allowed to work for up to two years after graduating. They now have only four months to find a job paying upwards of 20,600 pounds if they want to stay in Britain.

This change was intended to deal with sham (冒牌的) colleges that were in effect offering two-year work visas. But it seems to have put off serious students too. Nick Hillman of the Higher Education Policy Institute says the government has sent unclear messages about the sort of immigration it wants to restrict. An emphasis on holding down net immigration deters young Indians and Pakistanis in particular. Australia and America, which have more relaxed entry criteria for students, are becoming more favoured destinations.

Passage 003-里约奥运会面临诸多挑战

First up, every city that’s hosted the Olympic Games in recent years has faced considerable challenges. Rio de Janeiro (里约热内卢), Brazil, is no exception.

The cost of hosting the games, which is in the billions, keeping residents (居民) and visitors safe, just making sure they can all get around from place to place, and building many of the venues (场馆) where athletes will compete. These are common obstacles. But there are a number of unique challenges to Rio and Brazil as a whole that officials worldwide are concerned about.

Despite Rio’s beauty, the city and Brazil as a whole are facing some pretty daunting (可怕的) challenges. A whole series of unexpected setbacks (阻碍) leading some to wonder, are Rio’s Olympics somehow cursed?

Just days ago, a warning from more than 100 international doctors, calling for the games to be postponed or moved, because the mosquito-borne Zika (寨卡) virus could threaten an expected half a million foreign visitors.

And then there’s the political and economic crisis. Turmoil (混乱) after Congress suspended Brazil’s elected president in an impeachment (弹劾) process last month, and high-level corruption scandals, during the worst economic recession (衰退) in generations, which has left more than 10 million Brazilians unemployed, the economic hardship aggravating (使恶化) Rio’s endemic (地方性的) problems with violent crime.

Olympic sailors also worried about Rio's notoriously polluted bay (海湾), a dumping ground for much of the city's raw sewage (污物).

"We don't want to swim in it."

Rio's mayor warns this isn't a first world city. "Don't come here expecting that everything will be, you know, perfect. We live in a country that has economic crisis, a country with lots of inequality. With all the problems that we have seen concerning corruption, bribes. But the city will be much better than it was when we got the games."

Passage 004-拳王阿里去世

"The Greatest" boxer in history, Muhammad Ali, was laid to rest in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky on Friday.

Friends and family transferred a red casket (匣子) carrying Ali from a funeral home to a special limousine (长轿车), or hearse (灵车).

Among those carrying Ali's body were former boxers Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis and Hollywood star Will Smith. Also taking part were all of Ali's nine children, along with his wife, two ex-wives and other family members.

Ali, 74, died one week ago in an Arizona hospital after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.

The hearse carried Ali's body on a long and winding path through the streets of Louisville. The procession (列队) of limousines at one point drove along the street named for the champ, Muhammad Ali Boulevard.

The journey followed parts of the city that were important in Ali's life. These included the small pink house where he grew up and the large museum and cultural center named after him.

Crowds gathered along the entire path to offer their final goodbyes. Some waved to the car, while others held up signs with personal messages for the boxing champion.

Passage 005-年轻人的创意

An oyster habitat (牡蛎的栖息地), abandoned houses converted to gardens, a cart (马车) that turns into a homeless shelter, a multi-layered rainwater filtering system—these are some of the products that debuted at the recent "Digital Fabrication Challenge". The inventors are students, from 10 to 17 years old.

Sixth grader Sydney Lane-Ryer says her team focused on the dramatically decreasing oyster population in the nearby Chesapeake Bay.

"Our solution was creating an oyster habitat that will sit on the bottom of the ocean, or I guess the harbor in our case. That will be connected to a floating wetland. That has a bunch of different plants. That will also give nutrients (营养物质) with their roots to the oysters to help them thrive, and it will also help filter out toxins (毒素) and dirt and other things in the water."

This high school team wants to tackle a different problem in Baltimore: more than 16,000 abandoned homes.

"We wanted to convert abandoned row houses into greenhouses, that would serve as community gardens and also would produce food for homeless shelters and soup kitchens in the area."

The Digital Harbor Foundation, which sponsors youth technology programs, host the event.

"The purpose of FabSlam is to give kids a chance to experiment with creative problem-solving. So we present a challenge to them that's very open, very vague, and we give them an opportunity to come up with their own solution to their own problem that they identify within that sort of constraint."

Passage 006-非洲人仍钟爱电台

The rapid spread of new technology in Africa is changing the way people receive news and entertainment. Traditionally, vast numbers of Africans relied on radio to keep informed. So how is this medium (媒体) coping in the face of fast growing competition from mobile, Internet and television?

If you want to get a sense of what Africa is listening to, get into a car in Kenya's capital Nairobi (内罗毕). "I listen to Capital FM."

Over the past 20 years, the number of radio stations in Kenya has rapidly grown from 10 to more than 130. It's a trend that's been mirrored across Africa. Economic growth paired with a new generation that's more connected to the outside world and more diverse (多样化). Stations have become incredibly local producing programs in dozens of indigenous (当地的) languages and increasingly global playing western music. Africa's passion for radio remains insatiable (未被满足) despite the growth of television.

"How many of them can afford a TV? How many of them can have connectivity throughout the day every day? So this rise apparently in TV sales or TV numbers will never compare to radio at least for the next maybe decade or two at least."

Commercial radio stations are what most people listen to. In Nairobi, I'm seeing a lot of parents with their children.

"Yeah, I love to listen to news. I like to hear what's happening in people's lives."

"I'm 16. I like listening to one radio station 91.15."

"You have a phone. You can watch YouTube. How does radio fit into all that, into all those options that you have?"

"It's the last option you'd go for."

I just come to my first primary school. I left it 34 years ago and very little has changed. The buildings are still the same. The desks in the classrooms are literally the same desks that I left here 34 years ago.

"Now, why am I here? How many of you listen to radio? Clap your hands if you listen to radio."

I've traveled 350 miles west of Kenya's capital where I lived as a child.

"And who hates radio? Clap your hands. Why do you prefer radio over TV?"

"Radio, it is cheap. And you can get it easily. You can choose many stations you like."

"This tell(s) us the news of what had happened all over the world."

The technology company Ericson predicts that Internet use of mobile phones in sub-Saharan Africa will increase 20-fold in the next five years. That's doubled the rate in the rest of the world.

Passage 007-科学家欲捕捉黑洞边界图像

Astronomers (天文学家) say they are on course to take the first ever image of the edge of a black hole known as the "event horizon" early next year. The team will focus on a super massive black hole called Sagittarius A star at the heart of the Milky Way (银河系). More details from Jonathan Web.

"The event horizon is the spherical (天体的) boundary of the black hole from which nothing including light can escape. But its clouds of gas and dust are sucked and squeezed into a blaze with energy. It's this swirling halo (光晕) that would allow the Event Horizon Telescope to capture the silhouette (轮廓) of the black hole itself for the very first time. Based on many simulations of this unexplored frontier, the team behind the telescope has chosen to use very short radio waves which should penetrate the surrounding turmoil (混沌) and reveal the black hole shadow."

Passage 008-全球肥胖人数飙升

A new report says there are now more obese people in the world than there are underweight people.

Researchers from Imperial (皇家) College London wrote the report. Their findings were published in the British medical journal *The Lancet* (《柳叶刀》).

The researchers examined health records from about 20 million people for what they called the "world's biggest obesity study."

Obesity is a condition in which the body stores large, unhealthy amounts of fat. Obese individuals are considered overweight.

For the study, the researchers compared the body measurements of almost 20 million adults. They found that from 1975

to 2014, global obesity rates for men increased from 3.2 percent of the population to 10.8 percent. For women, it rose from 6.4 percent to 14.9 percent. They estimate that in 2014 there were 266 million obese men and 375 million obese women worldwide. That represents about 9 percent of the more than 7 billion people alive today.

The study found that more than 2.3 percent of men and 5 percent of women are considered severely obese. A severely obese individual has a body mass index (or BMI) of over 35 kilograms per square meter. BMI is a way to measure a person's height compared to their weight.

The study also found that about 1 percent of men and 2 percent of women are considered "morbidly (病态地) obese." Such people have difficulty with simple activities because they are overweight.

Passage 009-美国能源开采技术取得突破

North Dakota's economy is on fire, thanks to developments in technology that allow oil extraction from shale (页岩) formations deep below the surface.

The process to extract that oil, known as hydraulic fracturing (液压破碎法), or "fracking," is the source of the economic boom for states on top of these deposits (储量). Now, that prosperity is trickling down (向下滴流) to the rest of the country.

"Fracking is the miracle that has brought down gasoline prices..." Phil Flynn, a senior market analyst with the PRICE Futures Group, says the rise in the number of wells (矿井), and developing and expanding the system to refine (提炼) and transport shale oil, are a game changer for US energy independence.

"The quality of the oil produces more gasoline than your traditional barrel of oil, and refiners in the US are rising to the occasion to take advantage of this."

Austan Goolsbee, a Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, says while production of oil and natural gas is dramatically higher in the United States, there is a downside.

"There is one issue—the cost of production in North America tends to be higher than in the cheapest places to produce like Saudi Arabia."

Passage 010-人性的阴暗面与社会密切相关

How far are our personalities shaped by society? And could the current global economic system be bringing out the worst on us? Those are questions tackled in a new book titled *What About Me*. And it's by a professor of psychology at Ghent University in Belgium (比利时). He looks at what makes someone successful at work in western societies. And he believes that it's not just character traits (特征), like confidence, flexibility and competitiveness, but also aggression, bullying (欺侮) and impulsiveness (冲动). And he feels that these are deeply damaging for individuals and for society as a whole.

"We are social animals. We need the group to feel good, to feel well, to survive. We need to pronounce our individuality, as well. But basically we are social animals. If you look at the first punishment for a child, anywhere in the world, it's the same thing. It is putting in a corner. This is socially isolated (疏远). We don't belong any longer to the group. You can only come back if you behave. If you are behaving yourself, then we'll accept. You are back. You are competing. You have to compete with your colleague. You have to compete with another broadcasting system. You have your marks. You have your goals that are set for you. And if you don't make it, well, get out. And this is happening on a mass scale today. And this is not a good idea."

"It's the same in other cultures? What about in Asian culture?"

"It's totally different. Because the group over there is totally different from the group over here. There is much stronger hierarchy (等级). That is totally different from the west. So I think the things I'm talking about can only be seen over here."

Passage 011-沃尔沃召集志愿者体验无人驾驶

It used to be a far-flung (普遍的) idea more at home in the world of science fiction, but the Swedish car maker Volvo

is bringing driverless cars a step closer by recruiting a hundred people to travel to work next year in computer-controlled vehicles. That's not all. The trial requires the volunteers to read a book, sent texts and e-mails or even watch TV while sitting behind the wheel. The company says the cars will be designed to deal with any emergency so the human won't have to. Richard Wesker has been giving the technology a try.

"To start with, Volvo's volunteers will only use selected commuter routes (通勤路线). They've been picked because they don't allow cyclists, pedestrians (行人). And bear in mind, it's Sweden, because they are regularly cleared of snow, the computer needs to see white lines. As we drove along amongst the lorries (卡车) and buses, the man behind the technology pushed the button, let go of the wheel and started telling me about how it will work."

"I mean, no one wants to say it out loud but computers can crash as well as humans, can't they?"

"Oh yeah, computers can crash. So when we designed the system, we designed it with backup computers, with double breaking (刹车) systems, double steering (驾驶) systems."

"So the cars are gonna do this."

"The Driver may be sitting relaxed, reading. We can't count on him or her, so the car has to do it."

"Will anyone actually want to do it? Will they want to commute in the morning with their hands off the steering wheel? Do you think it's gonna be popular here, the idea of self-driving cars?"

"No, not for us. I don't think people trust them."

"I think that it would be more safe if all the cars were driverless cars because then you take out the human factor."

"Would you volunteer to try out the driverless car?"

"Yeah, why not?"

"I think they will be a bit scary to not be like able to, yeah, you don't know where it's gonna turn."

It could still take a decade or two, but eventually children will marvel at (对...感到惊讶) the idea that people actually used to drive their own cars.

Passage 012-乞丐及残障人士也可自食其力

These men are waiting for food from a local charity (慈善机构). It may be their only meal today. Disabled, most rely on street begging to sustain them. Unlike the others queuing here, 18-year-old Aliyu Yakubu is learning to fix tricycles (三轮车) and do other metal work to earn a living. Yakubu remembers the moment he decided to quit begging.

"My former class prefect (级长) saw me begging on the street and didn't recognize me. He gave me some money. When I stretched my hand out to collect it, then he saw my face. I felt ashamed, and since then, I decided not to beg again."

Instructor Isiaka Maaji, himself physically disabled, helps people like Yakubu get off the streets and learn a trade. He got his own skills from a state-run vocational rehabilitation (再就业) training program and has been training others since 2002.

Five years ago, he began encouraging physically challenged people to abandon begging.

"We encourage people like us to learn skills they can use to become self-reliant to support themselves and their families, because being in the streets as beggars is a disgrace to all of us."

So far he has helped and trained 30 people. Some of whom now have their own metal workshop.

Passage 013-巧克力的功效

New studies say that eating chocolate may be good for your heart. Research shows that eating chocolate may reduce the chance of developing heart disease by helping blood vessels remain clear and open.

Chocolate is produced from beans that contain large amounts of natural substances called flavonoids (黄酮类).

Flavonoids have been shown to protect the heart and the blood vessels from damage. Recent studies have linked foods that contain flavonoids with a reduced chance of developing heart disease. These foods include tea, red wine, apples, peanuts and chocolate.

Research has shown that forty grams of milk chocolate contain about 400 milligrams of flavonoids. That is about the same amount in a glass of red wine. The same amount of dark chocolate contains more than 800 milligrams of flavonoids. That is about the same amount as a cup of black tea.

A study by researchers at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania found that the flavonoids in chocolate are more powerful than some vitamins in limiting the damage from fats in the blood.

A German study recently showed that the flavonoids in chocolate also could stop damage to blood vessel walls.

Passage 014-移民为克服口音重学英语

Some immigrants in the northeastern state of Maine (缅因州) are learning to lose their accents.

Some of the immigrants speak English fluently, but have a difficult time being understood because they have heavy accents, reported the Portland Press-Herald newspaper.

Assouma Nyirabahizi says she left her home and job in Rwanda two years ago, coming to America on a green card "in hopes of a brighter future." Nyirabahizi has a master's degree in computer science and speaks English fluently. She says all of her classes in Rwanda were taught in English, "but here I have to learn again because of my accent."

She attends a free class to reduce her accent with seven other students. The city of Portland conducts the class. Marta Greenlaw is the teacher. She is also a speech therapist (治疗师). She says immigrants who reduce their accent have better success at work. And they can communicate more easily with store workers, teachers, doctors and neighbors.

"It's a basic need to be understood," Greenlaw told the newspaper. "It affects every part of their lives." Greenlaw begins the class by telling students the 44 sounds of the English language. Those sounds include vowels (元音), consonants (辅音) and other sounds that give American English its unique sound.

Later, students speak about the food in their home countries. Sometimes, Greenlaw corrects their pronunciation. She tells them to pronounce the word "onion" as "unnnn-yunnnnn," and the word "potato" as "poe-TAY-toe." She tells the students "how the lips and jaw work to form the word."

Greenlaw tells the students that some American English pronunciation rules "don't make a lot of sense." But she says they are important to learn if immigrants are to be understood by Americans.

Losing one's accent is especially important for immigrants who live in Maine, which is one of the least diverse states in the country. More than 90 percent of the population of Maine is white. Many people who live in Maine have not heard foreign accents except in movies or on television.

Greenlaw says some Mainers are impatient with people who speak English with a heavy accent. Her students say some Mainers ignore them or are unfriendly toward them because of their accent. They say this makes them less likely to speak. "Imagine waking up every day knowing you are going to have that struggle," she says.

Passage 015-尼古拉·特斯拉

Nikola Tesla developed the alternating current power system that provides electricity in the United States. Many of his other discoveries led to electronic inventions for which other scientists were honored. Mister Tesla held more than 100 patents (专利) given by the United States government. A patent gives the inventor the right to make, use and sell his invention for a period of time.

Nikola Tesla was born in what is now Croatia (克罗地亚) in 1856. He began inventing when he was a child. He later studied to be an electrical engineer. He moved to the United States in 1884. He became an American citizen five years later. Nikola Tesla received a patent for his alternating electric power (交流电) system in 1888. He was working in his own laboratory in New York City. George Westinghouse bought the patent rights from Mr. Tesla. Then Mr. Westinghouse launched the campaign that established alternating current as the electric power system in the United States. What is alternating current? The electricity used in a light bulb, for example, comes from a power center that may be kilometers away.

The strength of the electric power would become weak if it traveled a long distance at the same level. Alternating the strength of the current keeps it strong. The current changes from negative to positive sixty times each second.

Experts say he was not recognized because of several reasons: He failed to market his inventions. He made enemies of powerful men. Many of his later ideas were considered to be very strange. But experts say the world has changed since then, and Nikola Tesla is now being recognized for his work.

Passage 016-女孩早婚现象

Russian law bans forced, underage and polygamous marriages (重婚). But in Russia's remote Caucasus region, tribal laws and traditions carry more weight than state law. And so on Saturday, 47-year old Nazhud Guchigov married a 17-year old bride.

Despite laws against child marriage, in developing countries one in every three girls is married before reaching age 18. One in nine is married under age 15. The problem was discussed at a symposium (研讨会) in Morocco this week.

Bangladesh (孟加拉国), India and Niger (尼日尔) are the most affected countries with three in every four girls getting married before age 18. The practice continues mostly due to persistent poverty and gender inequality and is often arranged by a girl's parents. "So it is at this level that we must first intervene (介入). And the second level is at the community level, for the community to start perceiving these dangers."

This fourteen-year-old girl in India was able to avoid the marriage her parents arranged by appealing to her school principal:

"Today was to be my wedding day, I'm not getting married, I want to study."

Experts say governments in the affected countries need to do more to keep girls in the educational system and protect them from abuse and violence.

Passage 017-欧洲的天气预报准于美国

Europeans do not just talk about the weather more than Americans do. They are better at forecasting it as well. It was far too small a victory to count as an equalizer (对等物). But cheers were still heard in American meteorological (气象的) circles after the storm that hit the country's east coast last month left the city of New York mostly unscathed (未受损害的).

For more than two decades the Global Forecast System (or GFS), the leading weather-prediction model produced in the United States, has been notably less accurate than its chief competitor, published by the European Centre for Medium-Range (中程) Weather Forecasts (or ECMWF).

Although this deficit went largely unnoticed for years, it was laid bare by Hurricane Sandy. A week before that storm's landfall (登陆) in 2012, the ECMWF predicted it would veer (改变方向) towards the coast while the GFS showed it remaining at sea.

In response to this failure, America's Congress authorised \$34 million of extra money to spend on forecasting.

A new version of the GFS went into operation on January 14th, and two weeks later it passed with flying colours.

On January 25th the ECMWF predicted that New York would, on the 27th, labour under 64cm (that's 25 inches) of snow brought by a storm. The GFS suggested 18cm. That turned out to be far closer to the truth. It is, however, too early for the Americans to celebrate. The GFS projection for the blizzard's (暴风雪) western edge differed from the ECMWF's by 200 km (that's 120 miles)—a weather-forecasting hairs'-breadth.

The only reason anyone noticed this discrepancy (差异) was that the gap happened to encompass (包含) the country's most populous city.

Passage 018-H5N8 型禽流感

A new strain of bird flu—known as H5N8—has been detected in Europe. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says it poses a serious threat to poultry (家禽) there. African countries have been put on alert for possible cases.

The FAO's Ian Douglas says researchers have been monitoring the spread of H5N8.

"We have been following this particular strain for quite some time. It's been detected in Asia—in China, Japan and South Korea. It's caused disease in poultry in those countries and has been detected in wild birds there. It's related to the influenza strain that spread across the world in the mid-2000s, but it is a different virus."

Douglas is head of the FAO's Crisis Management Center for Animal Health. He says, in Asia, the new bird flu strain led to the slaughter of poultry on farms where it was discovered, along with quarantines (检疫隔离) and some temporary restrictions on trade.

"There's much more work that's done in the lead-up to that and, in part, this is involving better detection, better surveillance (监控) and good laboratory diagnostic (实验室诊断) techniques."

Asked if H5N8 poses any threat to humans, the FAO official says: "There is no evidence with the limited experience of this virus that any humans have been infected. It's believed that the nature of the virus is not well adapted to invade human cells. However, we're conscious that other influenza viruses have made that cross and in some cases causing severe illness in humans. We very much take the advice of WHO on this point for the moment. Their statements are that they don't see a human impact."

Passage 019-紫色瀑布为哪般

The death of music superstar Prince shocked and saddened the world yesterday. In his honor, many famous monuments turned purple. The color was chosen in memory of his hit song "Purple Rain."

Yesterday, even Niagara Falls in Canada turned purple. People on social media were impressed that such huge waterfalls could turn purple in such short notice. But, the purple color was not, in fact, meant to honor Prince. The agency that manages Niagara Falls had been planning to make the falls purple on April 21 in honor of Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. Purple is the color of royalty. Canada is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The Canadian travel site Canoe.com wrote on Twitter: "Niagara Falls goes purple for the Queen's birthday. And, inadvertently (无意地), for Prince."

Another Canadian landmark, the Toronto Tower, also glowed purple Thursday night. That, too, was for the Queen's birthday. A Toronto politician tweeted the reason: The confusion has made "Niagara Falls" a trending topic on social media. And, even though it is now clear that officials planned to make the falls purple to honor the Queen's birthday, many people are choosing to believe it was also in memory of Prince.

Passage 020-美国的大陪审团制度

Deliberations (审议) on whether to try (审判) a white police officer for the controversial shooting of an unarmed black teenager are focusing attention on a unique aspect of America's criminal justice (司法的) system, the grand jury. We are the only nation that allows citizens—not the government—to screen criminal charges before they may go to trial. This dates to our nation's early history and is enshrined (收录) in our Constitution.

Eighteen-year old Michael Brown of Ferguson, Missouri, was shot six times and killed by Officer Darren Wilson during an arrest in August. Police said Brown attacked Wilson and tried to get his gun. Others said Brown was trying to surrender (自首). His death led to months of protests, some violent, and made Ferguson the focus of a national debate about race and police procedures.

That Michael Brown is dead is a fact, but the circumstances surrounding his death are murky (不够清楚的). That's where the grand jury comes in.

A panel (陪审团) of 12 local residents—five women and seven men—is reviewing the case. They'll hear evidence collected in the government's investigation, and based on that they'll decide if Wilson should be charged with a crime, such as murder or manslaughter (过失杀人). Unlike a trial, no judge is present, and grand jury members may ask questions and call for more evidence if they believe it exists. They want to answer two questions: is there probable cause to believe a crime was committed. And, is there evidence to show that Wilson was involved in that crime? If at least nine of the 12, voting in secret, decide that it's reasonable to believe Wilson could be found guilty of a crime, the case will go to trial. If they don't, no further action is taken unless additional evidence is found.

The system has its critics. Grand jurors often hear only the prosecutor's (原告) side of the case and are persuaded by them. But by requiring a burden of proof be presented before a person can be tried for a crime, the grand jury system provides an important check against arbitrary (武断的) government action.

Passage 021-印度街头儿童编撰报纸

From poverty to child labor, underage marriages, sexual abuse and drugs—there is no shortage of topics for *Balaknama*. “When reports arrive and the team sits down to select the story, lots of fights break out. They argue this story will have more impact than that story. So there's a lot of debates before the final selection goes to print.” The newspaper has 70 reporters in several states, 14 of them reporting regularly from the capital.

All of the writers, editors and managers are homeless children. “I used to beg, do drugs and sometimes go rag (破烂) picking. Then I learnt about *Balaknama* and began to work for it. First I was a junior reporter, then a reporter and now I'm all set to become the editor.”

Many of the children have jobless and illiterate (不识字的) parents. As budding (初获成功的) reporters they now earn money and many are enrolled in distance learning programs that may help advance their careers. “What I couldn't do, at least my daughter is doing. She's helping others and she's also helping us.” The monthly eight-page newspaper began in 2002 as a quarterly (季刊). It has changed the lives of the children who publish it and aims at improving the livelihood of thousands of others. It is supported by NGOs and charity groups.

Passage 022-在美国学习的国际学生

A new report from the Institute of International Education says that in the academic year 2013-2014, more than 886,000 foreign students enrolled in US higher education institutions, an increase of 8 percent over the year before. There are now twice as many international students in the US than only a decade ago. That trend is driven to a large extent by incoming undergraduate students from China.

“In the US they emphasize on class discussion, and emphasize on your opinion. You can actually debate with others, and with your professor or teacher, and it is another atmosphere I wanna experience.”

While the enrollment of Chinese students continues to grow, the past academic year saw a significant increase in students from Kuwait, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and even Iran. More than 4 percent of the students in US higher education institutions are foreigners. Educators say the presence of foreign students in American schools is beneficial, and that about 4,000 US colleges and universities can accommodate (容纳) more.

“We know that international students contribute significantly to US classrooms and campuses through their global perspectives and by providing international exposure to those American students who may never have the opportunity to study overseas.”

Enrollment of the students from abroad also adds to US economy.

“This year, \$27 billion was contributed to our economy at the local, state and national levels, through payments for tuition, housing and other costs.”

Passage 023-非洲饥荒

Somaliland is one of the poorest African regions. Its rural population is struggling to make a living in the best of times, but drought (干旱) makes it impossible.

"I am 80. In the 80 years of my life, I've never seen such severe drought. It has killed so many animals and caused so much famine (饥荒). Our lives are in danger." The situation is similar in the neighboring Punt land region and parts of Ethiopia. The United Nations last month called for urgent aid to save 1.7 million people in the affected parts of Somalia.

"Communities are losing their means for survival, and we need to stop this loss of lives and forced displacement (迁移) as people have no other option than to move in search of food, water and income."

But when there is no food and water for miles and miles around, moving may be futile (徒劳的). Some Ethiopian farmers have crossed the border to try to escape famine.

"The drought has been raging (严重) for three years in Ethiopia. We were told that there were pastures (草地) on the other side of the border. But when we got here, we found nothing."

Passage 024-美国与古巴实现电话直联

Cuba has re-established direct telephone links with the United States for the first time in 15 years. It's the first agreement signed between Cuban and American companies since the announcement last December that both states will renew diplomatic ties after more than 50 years of hostility (不友好). Will Grant reports from Havana.

"A key part of the decision by the Obama administration to restore diplomatic ties with Cuba was to help boost telecommunications on the island. In the long term it's hoped in Washington that that will mean greater Internet access. But for now it has at least brought a direct telephone connection between the two countries. Previously calls were routed via third (第三方) countries, driving up the cost of a call to the US from Cuba and making it prohibitively (过分地) expensive for ordinary Cubans."

Passage 025-主题星期日：为社区贡献力量

Students and parents are pitching in (做贡献) at Ramona Elementary School, removing dead vegetation and beautifying the building.

School Principal Guillermo George says a donation from "Big Sunday" organizers provided \$500 for supplies.

"So we are doing a little bit of gardening, putting in some new plants, and also a cleanup for the school. And we are also doing a little bit of painting."

For many in Los Angeles, and in cities around the country, "Big Sunday" has become an annual tradition of helping with community projects.

Each year on this weekend, people find new friends and help their neighborhood in ways that may continue through the year.

Ana Lopez is this school's volunteer coordinator.

"From here, parents who have never really interacted, interact today, and then from there, they just get to know each other."

While these volunteers are hard at work, others are at Big Sunday's headquarters, helping to organize projects at sites across Los Angeles and more than 100 other towns and cities around the United States. "They are all making a contribution," says "Big Sunday" founder David Levinson.

"Whether it's fixing up a school, whether it's cleaning the beach, whether it's taking a group of veterans (老兵) horseback riding, we find a way for everybody to find what they are really good at, and their way that can give back."

He says the volunteer effort is good for the community, and also for the people who get involved. He says that in a world that often defines us, it's a way to bring people in the communities together.

Passage 026-扎克·伯格清华秀中文

A very famous person is learning Mandarin (普通话). Listen to this. That's "Hello, everyone." "I'm very happy to be in Beijing." "My Chinese is lousy." The man is Mark Zuckerberg, the billionaire founder of Facebook speaking at a question and answer session.

"You know, I think it was a great attempt. I think it was a brave attempt. And in general, it's what most of us do in the beginning stages of learning. You know, it's a really nice good-will gesture to have conversation with someone who speaks, you know, different languages. In terms of doing business, I definitely wouldn't guess that he would be able to have a business conversation and conclude with a contract (合同) without the help of Chinese. And he would still ultimately have to have a translator, I believe."

"But I'm amazed that he, I mean, was very brave that he sustained it for 30 minutes coming out with a few set phrases saying 'Hello. I'm learning Chinese. My Chinese is not very good', but actually having conversations with people, understanding what they are saying. It's not a bad chat, is it?"

"Not at all. And you know, for a moment, I was really wondering whether some of that interview was rehearsed (排练). Because when he was able to reply to the one asking him questions, you know, that was really to me a test of the Chinese that he had, because it really shows that he has some listening comprehension skills which is one of the most difficult skills to gain."

Passage 027-“埃博拉病毒”被抢注为域名出售

One company saw a business opportunity in the name "ebola". It was a domain name speculator (域名投机商) which registers random web addresses in the expectation they may become a value in the future. In 2008, Blue String Ventures paid 13.5 thousand dollars to add Ebola.com to their portfolio (作品集), but why? Paul Henley spoke to Christopher Hood, the co-owner of the company.

"It's what we do. We buy and sell domain names. We look for Internet real estate basically."

"Now making money from misfortune and conflict is an age old business model of course. How do you feel about it in this context?"

"Well, really what has come down to for us is, you know, are we harming anyone? And you know, the answer to that is, you know, we are not obviously."

"If someone is gonna take a moral standpoint against this model, this business model, it would be that presumably (或许) you and your business partner are hoping that the situation gets worse in order to raise the value of the site and to make more money."

"Let's say, that's not the case."

"What do you make of some of the criticism?"

"We do get something like that. Somebody will contact us about wanting a domain name and will have a reasonable price for it."

"Who will buy Ebola.com for 150,000 dollars or something in that region?"

"We actually accepted an offer today just a few hours ago."

Christopher Hood from Blue String Ventures with Paul Henley.

Passage 028-女性的政界地位

The U.S. Congress, a place of power that is still dominated by men.

"Women only got the right to vote since 1920 and government moves very slow."

"Yet women are making gains," says freshman Congresswoman Mimi Walters, "though not enough." Walters was part

of a panel discussing why more women are not in Congress or public life.

“One reason is the negative perception of government,” says Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii. “There is a disconnect, especially from the millennial (千禧年) generation, from highly successful, highly talented people, great innovators, who are saying why should I get involved with this dysfunctional entity (实体) called government.”

Even if women are interested in running for office, they may not have the tools to win an election campaign.

“You can’t get your message out if you don’t have any money and I think part of the problem for women in raising money is a lot of times women will be in the workforce and do what I did, leave their job and stay home with their kids and then they lose that network of people.

And it’s those networks that fund a campaign. While some challenges women face do not have simple solutions, the panelists (专家) say there are things that can be done to get more qualified women to successfully run for office.

Passage 029-谷歌的新员工：一只骆驼

Google is often regarded as a very high-tech company. But one of its latest project relies on a very low-tech piece of equipment, a camel, to be exact. But the company wanted to map a section of the Arabian desert, so it mounted a street view camera on top of a camel’s hump (驼峰) to create panoramic (全景的) desert views for Internet users around the world. An interesting idea, but what would be gained from this? The BBC’s Caroline Queen put the question to Dr. Lawrence Scott, a cultural historian of the desert at King’s College London.

“And when we’ve imagined the desert, going back to the Bible, people have always thought the desert is waiting for a king to arrive to build a path through the desert. You see it in ‘The Lord of The Rings.’ And now we have sort of ‘King Google’. It doesn’t surprise me at all. The Google is taking on that role. It’s the path maker.”

“You say you’re not surprised, but what do you make of the use of a camel by one of the most high-tech companies in the world?”

“The funny thing about guides through the desert, the saying goes that it was always blind guides. And it’s easy to lose your way. So it’s interesting they’ve chosen inhumane or inhuman rather creature to guide us through. But nevertheless, on the camel’s back we have Google’s relentless (始终不停的) perfect vision following it along.”

“But will it take away some of the mystery then of the desert?”

“And this is a world, in many ways, thanks to Google. It’s harder and harder to be lost.”

Dr. Lawrence Scott of King’s College London speaking to Caroline Queen.

Passage 030-让儿童爱上古典音乐

BBC is launching an ambitious project to get Britain’s children interested in classical music. They selected 10 pieces, some very well-known and some not so. And the initiative (首次) will be launched on October 6th. There will be cinema screenings, workshops in schools, DVDs and so on. They’d also be 10-pieces-ambassadors. So what made her interested in classical music as a child?

“I just knew that I love the sound of it. And it’s just extraordinary to me.”

“Is it true that music isn’t widely taught in many British schools now?”

“I think it’s not. I mean, an increasing number of schools in Britain don’t have specialist music teachers any more. Music is not automatically part of the curriculum. And I think there is a bit of feeling among young people and indeed among some teachers that classical music is a bit dull and dry. So this project I think really does have the potential to excite people because it makes classical music seem incredibly exciting. The BBC has produced wonderful film, soundtrack provided by the BBC National Orchestra (管弦乐团) of Wales that can’t help but bring young children, primary school children, age between 5 and 11 into the exciting world of fine music.”

“And I think it is needed. Both of my young children play the trumpet (小号), clarinet (单簧管). But when you talk

to them about classical music and I discuss this with them, they do think it's dull and you know, just jazz they want to play."

"Or pop music. Yeah. And yet you know, we were talking on my program this morning about first time that people went to a concert hall and heard a live orchestra. And I was saying I wish I could have that experience again."

"I remember doing it when I was 7 or 8 and just being blown away by the sound of a full scale hundred-piece orchestra, exciting to watch as well as listen. So we can just get young people to get that experience, even if it's not first-hand. That's very exciting."

Passage 031-人工智能对人类的利与弊

From a personal assistant, to doing searches on the Internet, to the autopilot (自动驾驶) function, simple artificial intelligence, or AI, has been around for some time, but it's quickly getting more complex and more intelligent.

Computer science professor Stuart Russell says, many present jobs that are labor intensive, or require data analysis, such as in the financial industry, will be replaced by machines with artificial intelligence. "The future will require everybody to work with these learning reasoning machines. So I think the skill set for many of these jobs will end up being different in the future."

Russell envisions (预见) that AI will change the economy and the current way of life. Artificial intelligence is already transforming the health care industry. AI can process huge amounts of data and have the most up-to-date research to help doctors diagnose (诊断) and treat patients. IBM's Watson technology is already in the hospitals in North and South America, Europe and Asia.

But there is also a dangerous side of artificial intelligence—autonomous (自主性的) weapons out of drone technology. "The risk with autonomous weapons is that people will use them as a kind of poor man's weapon of mass destruction, a poor man's nuclear weapon."

Russell says the international community needs to create treaties (法规) to ban this type of weapon.

Passage 032-科特迪瓦女子突破社会传统组建乐队

The nine women of Bella Mondo win over yet another audience. The group is one of just a handful of all-women ensembles (乐团) in Ivory Coast. It all started in 2007. Prisca Allou was a music student. A music producer came to see her. He said he wanted to make an all-female orchestra (乐队) to fulfill a promise to his late (已故的) mother.

Allou got on board and was charged with recruiting all the members.

"It wasn't easy at first. Some parents were against it. You know, in Africa, the place of women is often seen as being either in an office, or at home. That was the stereotypical (带有成见的) image."

Allou spread the word and took out ads in local papers. Most of the girls she found were not professional players.

"I just played some tamtam (铜锣). I learned to play drums when I joined Bella Mondo."

The girls spent the next four years learning to play their instrument. Many gave up along the way, but eight of them soldiered on with Allou, and Bella Mondo was born. The band plays original songs and covers. Their music spans a wide range of styles: funk, reggae, pop music.

They released their first album in 2013, and have performed in Paris, Dakar, Cotonou (科托努) and, of course, here at home in Abidjan (阿比让). You can see them nearly every Thursday at this bar, the same venue that gave the band its start years ago.

"Oh yes, I was surprised at first. A woman singing—you see that everyday. But an entire band, playing all the instruments and everything? It was extraordinary. I was dumbstruck (惊呆)."

The women are now working on their second album (专辑).

Passage 033-毕加索博物馆重新开放

It's an important moment in the Paris art world with the reopening today of one of the city's most popular galleries (艺术画廊). The Picasso Museum housing thousands of works was closed in 2009. And now after five years' expensive and at times controversial renovation (重修), it's opening its doors once again. Our correspondent (记者) got a sneak preview accompanied by the artist's grandson Olivier Picasso.

"You know, I was a teenager when I first visited the place..."

I'm with Olivier Picasso going up the staircase (楼梯) of the Hotel Sale, the grand 17th century residence (住处) in the Marais district of Paris which has become the home of the most important Picasso collection in the world.

"So in 1985, the building was opened by the President of the Republic of that time Francois Mitterrand..."

Olivier is Picasso's grandson via his lover Marie-Thérèse Walter who was his muse (灵感女神) and model through the 1930s. She features in many of the museum's paintings and sculptures.

"From 1927 when Pablo met my grandmother in front of the Galeries Lafayette, she became the only model. And she was also the reason of the total transformation in his creation..."

It's five years since the Picasso Museum was last opened, five years in which millions of visitors to Paris have been deprived of this artistic treasure. While, what they get now is a museum that's been enlarged and opened up and given far more light and space to show off what in fact is just a fraction (小部分) of the thousands of items in the entire collection from the very early days in Spain and in Paris right up to Picasso's death in 1973. The museum's director is Laurent Le Bon.

"There's enough ideas if people would look at this stuff. The nice thing is in the world of globalization of art, the young African contemporary arts are influenced by Picasso. And it's sort of a round cuz Picasso was influenced by Africa. And it's so wonderful."

Passage 034-喀布尔的市郊绿洲

On Fridays, the traffic stretches (延伸) for kilometers. Groups of young men, couples and families make their way to the lake on cars and motorcycles as street vendors (摊贩) sell their wares (商品). "In the past, business was bad. Now it is picking up. I work here every Friday and go to school the rest of the week." This could be any popular place, anywhere. Except Qargha Lake is on the outskirts (郊区) of Kabul, a city that regularly faces deadly violence, and where men in uniform with guns are the most common sight. Out here, a policeman directs traffic, carrying a whistle (口哨), not an AK-47.

Three decades of war coupled with the strict rule of the Taliban destroyed almost all recreational (娱乐) facilities in Afghanistan. That is why people flock here, despite the dangers.

Passage 035-全球变暖将导致 1 亿余人陷入贫困

The World Bank has warned that 100 million more people could be pushed into poverty by 2030 unless action is taken to prevent global warming. It says global warming will ravage (毁坏) crops and fuel the spread of malaria (疟疾) and other diseases. Laura Becca reports from Washington.

"The World Bank says that climate change is already having an effect on the poorest people who are struggling to raise crops in extreme weather and low rainfall. They say the world's poorer receive fewer resources and are woefully (不幸地) unprepared to deal with further climate shocks such as rising seas or severe drought. They're calling for more to be done to help those in need and they want world leaders to act to reduce carbon emissions. That report had been released just a few weeks before a UN climate summit in Paris."

Passage 036-美古两国应跨越分歧共创未来

Appealing directly to the Cuban people in Havana, President Barack Obama said it's time for the U.S. and Cuba to move beyond their Cold War differences and begin a new journey toward a future that will benefit both nations.

“It’s time for us to look forward to the future together. And it won’t be easy and there will be setbacks (挫折). It will take time.”

Mr. Obama spoke in a televised address from El Gran Teatro de Havana as Cuban President Raul Castro sat nearby. Mr. Obama next traveled to the U.S. embassy (大使馆) where he met with Cuban dissidents (反对派) and members of civil society, hours before he departed the island nation.

Passage 037-换了环境睡不着存在科学依据

Have you ever had trouble sleeping in a new place? Lots of people do. And now researchers from Brown University in Rhode Island think they know why. They found that one-half of the brain “remains more awake” than the other half when people are trying to sleep in a new place. This appears to be a case of the brain keeping people ready for trouble in a new place, the researchers said.

In their report, the researchers said many people report they have a harder time sleeping the first night at a hotel or other places outside their home. They call it “first-night effect.” In Japan they say, “If you change your pillow, you can’t sleep,” said Yuka Sasaki, one of the report’s authors. “You don’t sleep very well in a new place. We all know about it.”

The researchers measured brain waves for 35 volunteers over two nights in a laboratory. The two nights were a week apart.

They found during the first night the left hemisphere (半球) of the brain was more active than the right hemisphere. This was during the first deep-sleep period, the researchers said. Sasaki said a lot of questions remain.

Researchers did not keep measuring brain waves all night long. So, they don’t know if the left hemisphere keeps “watch” all night. Or whether it “works in shifts” with the right hemisphere later in the night. They also do not know why the extra brain activity, at least during the first phase of deep sleep, is always on the left hemisphere.

For some, this research may be calming. It is good to know that our brain is “looking out for us,” in a new place.

But it may not help with sleep. That extra brain activity, at least according to this new research, makes it harder to get the sleep people need to wake up well rested in the morning.

Passage 038-移民遣返需要人性化

I’m Dave DeForest reporting. EU officials move to make the migrant return process more humane. European Union officials are pledging (保证) that there will be “no automatic return” for the migrants before they are given a chance to apply for asylum (避难). The announcement follows angry protests by international human rights activists who have accused the EU of denying migrants the basic rights of refugees to seek asylum. Jean-Pierre Schembri is a spokesman for the European Asylum Support Office:

“...So every individual, every case is different OK? Because everyone has specific things which needs to be looked into, so that’s what I want to highlight, that this won’t be a blank decision to send everyone back.” Meanwhile, Turkey is to receive a second group of migrants deported (驱逐出境) from Greece.

Passage 039-象棋大赛奖金百万美元

The first ever million-dollar chess tournament (比赛) has been taking place in Las Vegas with the aim of changing the whole feature of the game.

“The ancient sport of chess is about to change, forever.”

Well, that is what the organizers of the millionaire chess tournament would like to see happen. They’ve put up a million dollars in prize money, brought the whole show to Vegas and tried to change the game’s image.

“Chess will never be the same.”

The idea came from Maurice Ashley, the first African American chess grand master and a bit of a showman.

“A million dollars in Vegas go together and chess needs to get a new facelift. But this is the United States. We do things big. We do things grandiose (宏大的). And if you are gonna get any kind of public attention in the US, you’ve got to bring the excitement. And a million dollars in Vegas spells the excitement.”

Hundreds of players came from 40 countries.

“My name is Sasha. And I came here to play chess and win.”

“It has very little respect in this country. I think then in the future we’ll see a lot more girls. There’s a lot of us that are very strong.”

Well, this is the sound of 500 people playing chess in a huge ballroom (舞场) here in Vegas.

Lawrence Trent is an international chess master turned commentator.

“A young persons’ game. It’s not an old persons’ game.”

“This is definitely one of the biggest games that I’ve won. Yeah, this is definitely one of the biggest games that I’ve won. I keep playing cuz it’s fun. It’s fun playing good moves. And it’s fun coming up with new ideas.”

Chess has always been about just the professional players. But here you have a tournament where we have amateurs (业余选手) excelling.

Passage 040-林肯遇刺 150 周年的纪念活动

150 years ago on this wind-swept spot near Lake Michigan in Chicago, the coffin (棺木) holding the remains of assassinated (被刺杀的) President Abraham Lincoln began a somber (肃穆的) return to his hometown of Springfield.

Dan Weinberg, of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago, says a concerted effort was made to remain faithful to the past while planning the 150th anniversary commemoration (纪念).

The replicated (复制的) coffin and hearse (灵车) that traveled through Springfield’s downtown streets drew thousands of onlookers young and old, many who dressed in ornately (华丽地) designed period military uniforms and costumes, like Diane and Charles Sanders. Sanders says the massive turnout for this event 150 years later is a testament (证明) to Lincoln’s lasting legacy as “The Great Emancipator (救星)” who ended slavery in the United States.

Passage 041-意大利制造第一台太空咖啡机

Many people cannot imagine life without coffee, and for most Italians, coffee means espresso (浓缩咖啡), a thick brew (饮料) prepared in a special coffee machine.

“Without coffee, I don’t think I would be able to survive. It’s not a life.”

So, when Italian astronaut (宇航员) Samantha Cristoforetti headed for the International Space Station earlier this month, her compatriots (同胞) worried how she would survive there for six months, drinking only instant coffee.

“I believe that when working as an astronaut, a job in which you have to reason a lot, reflect (思考), and be attentive, espresso is definitely very important.”

To help Cristoforetti and other espresso lovers in orbit (轨道), the famed Turin-based coffee maker Lavazza and engineering firm Argotec, which specializes in making space food, joined forces to produce a coffee machine that would work at zero gravity (重力).

“We had to figure out how to make coffee on the station exactly like we make it on earth. The other difficulty was complying with safety measures in order to qualify the machine as ‘On-Board software’ on the International Space Station.”

The machine, called ISSpresso, overcomes the absence of gravity by firing pressurized (加压后的) water through capsules (胶囊) of coffee. Cristoforetti took it with her for testing when she blasted off into orbit on November 23.

Passage 042-金字塔骗局与庞氏骗局

When you work hard for your money, you do not want to lose it. And if you invest your hard-earned money, you want to see great returns. But if you're looking to invest your money, be careful! We have an expression: If a deal is too good to be true, it probably is.

There are many ways to be tricked out of your money. There are frauds, schemes, scams and cons (四者均指“诈骗, 骗局”) carried out by fraudsters, schemers, scammers and con artists.

Two types of rip-offs (窃取) that are good to know are pyramid (金字塔) schemes and Ponzi schemes. First, let's talk about pyramid schemes. It may sound like they started in ancient Egypt. But they did not. A pyramid scheme is a dishonest and usually illegal business in which the money of later investors is used to pay the people who invested first.

The fraudsters behind a pyramid scheme make their marketing scheme look real with many types of products or services. However, pyramid schemers simply use money coming in from new investors to pay off early stage investors. When they can't raise enough money from new investors to pay earlier ones, the pyramid scheme falls apart. As it comes crashing down, many people can lose lots of money.

A Ponzi scheme is similar, but also different. In both Ponzi and pyramid schemes, existing investors are paid by the money of new investors. But there is a big difference between a Ponzi and pyramid scheme. In a Ponzi scheme, participants believe they are actually earning returns from their investment. In a pyramid scheme, participants are aware that they are earning money by finding new participants. They become part of the scheme.

A Ponzi scheme is an investment trick. Ponzi scheme is named after Charles Ponzi. In the 1920s, Charles Ponzi tricked thousands of people into investing in a postage stamp scheme.

At the time of his scheme, the annual interest rate for bank accounts was five percent. Ponzi promised investors a high return—50 percent, in a very short amount of time. However, there were no investments. There were no honest returns. Ponzi used incoming funds from new investors to pay the returns to the earlier investors.

A man named Bernie Madoff ran the largest and longest-running Ponzi scheme in the United States. The website BusinessInsider.com says Madoff made off with about \$20 billion of investors' funds.

One reason Madoff was able to fly under the radar (雷达) for so long is because he was very well-known and trusted in the financial industry. He started his own investment firm in 1960 and helped start the Nasdaq stock market.

But no matter how financially smart you are, a Ponzi scheme can only work if the clients keep their money in the scheme. Madoff's world came crashing down when his clients demanded to be paid about \$7 billion and Madoff had only \$200 to \$300 million.

In 2009, Madoff pleaded guilty (认罪) to running a Ponzi scheme and stealing \$17.5 billion from investors. He is serving a 150-year sentence in prison. But that is cold comfort to the thousands of investors, some of whom lost their entire life savings.

So consider yourself warned! If an investment scheme sounds too good to be true, it is.

Passage 043-美国掀起韩语热

Thanks to the Internet and websites like YouTube, pop music and dramas from South Korea have caught on outside of Asia. It's a phenomenon called the "Korean wave."

David Schaberg is dean of the Division of Humanities at University of California Los Angeles. "As a dean of Humanities, to look at a country that's creating its reputation globally through cultural production, that's very exciting. Of course it attracts students. Of course it means that more Americans who may have had nothing at all to do with Korea will now be gravitating (被吸引的) to the study of Korean language and culture."

Korean entertainment is one reason why Korean language enrollments have increased by almost 45 percent over four years. "Many students say they really want to get inside the culture and they want a better understanding and so clearly

language gives us access into culture and cultural expression.”

That's the case for Korean language student, Persida Radu. “I actually first got into Korean pop and then the dramas they show and then learning it.” Another reason is that the children of Korean immigrants want to learn the language of their ancestral (祖先的) homeland.

Passage 044-世界人口日关注女性生命

Last Tuesday was World Population Day. The message this year was Saving Women's Lives.

The director of the United Nations Population Fund, Nafis Sadik, released a statement in observance of the day. Doctor Sadik said that the lives of women around the world are full of risk.

She said more than 500,000 women die each year as a result of pregnancy. She said many more pregnant women become sick or injured because of their condition.

Doctor Sadik said pregnancy is even most dangerous for young women. She said girls between the ages of ten and fourteen are five times more likely to die from the condition than women ten years older.

The UN agency director also discussed women and their increased risk of getting the virus that causes AIDS. Doctor Sadik said there are 2,000,000 more African women with the HIV infection than African men.

The UN official urged all people to take action to save women's lives. She said people must support equal rights for women. Doctor Sadik said women should receive the same education and health care as men. The UN official said many women do not have the freedom to make decisions to control their lives. 60% of the poor people in the world are female. Doctor Sadik said 65% of the people who cannot read or write are women. And she said 350,000,000 women cannot get reproductive health care.

Passage 045-英国喜剧演员：诺曼·威斯登

Sir Norman Wisdom, comedian, died on October 4th, aged 95.

What a chirpy (活泼的) little fellow that Norman was! All puppy eyes, rubber legs and innocent smiles, even when the world was crashing round him. Show him a grand piano, and he'd have to dive into it. Suggest a manhole (检修口), and he'd plummet (垂直落下) straight down it. Run a cable across the road and he'd go flying into next week.

He was born grinning (咧嘴笑), it seemed. He was certainly born small, and never made much progress after. Smallness shaped Little Norm, but poverty taught him something, too. As a boy, thrown out by his drunken father, he slept rough in London and stole to eat. The gutter (贫民窟) wasn't a bad place, considering. He learned things there, such as how to lift eggs very nimbly (机敏地) and delicately from a stall (货摊) and secrete them, uncracked, in his pockets. He also acquired the trick of making his lower lip tremble (抖动) when asking, his pathetic (令人同情的) face only just above the counter, for a free pie from a coffee stall. By the time of his first hugely successful film, “Trouble in Store” (1953), he could stretch the pathos (悲怆) really far: to the point where, soaking wet (浸湿) after a tumble (跌倒) into a duck-pond, he sadly serenaded (唱小夜曲) his love in a teashop, and then found he had nothing in his pockets to pay with except one small, wriggling (扭动的) fish.

Once he had decided that comedy was his life, he practised and practised. This discipline the army taught him—as well as how to play 11 instruments, and trip up (绊倒) people on parade (游行). When he caused hilarity (大笑) once by falling off a horse, he rehearsed (排练) more such tumbles until he was black and blue (青一块紫一块). At work, he would go through his routines from 9am till just before six in the darkened theatre; out of work, he would spend hours pulling faces in mirrors. His reward was stardom (明星身份) in the 1950s and 1960s, a knighthood in 2000, a yacht (游艇) and several gleaming motors. He had to skip in the 1980s to a mansion in the Isle of Man (马恩岛), so the tax man wouldn't get him.

Passage 046-柬埔寨大米被评为“世界最佳”

Although Cambodia is a minnow (小鱼) in the world rice stakes (份额), producing just 1 percent of global output in 2012, the award for its fragrant romduol varietal (品种) should help promote exports.

The rice industry, though small-scale and inefficient, remains key to the economy. Most Cambodians survive in part by growing rice on small plots. Inefficiencies mean large amounts of unmilled (未脱壳的) rice—known as paddy (稻谷)—go to neighboring Thailand and Vietnam where they fetch a higher price.

Sok Puthyuth is the president of a Cambodia Rice Federation, which represents all players in the industry. “We need better seeds, we need a better collection process, we need better storage, we need better logistics (物流), and also our exports need to brand Cambodian rice to be one of the top brands in the world.”

The target is 1 million tons of milled rice exported by 2015. So far this year Cambodia has exported around 400,000 tons—most to the European Union.

Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon says a central tenet (原则)—to boost farmers’ incomes—remains key to government efforts to improve the industry.

Challenges remain: Thailand’s rice stockpile (储备) has driven down prices, making it harder to compete; meantime countries like Myanmar (缅甸) also want to increase exports.

But even if Cambodia doesn’t reach the million-ton target next year, its award-winning rice should appear on more plates around the world, lifting incomes for millers, exporters and its millions of impoverished (贫穷的) farmers.

Passage 047-二战战机复飞致敬退伍老兵

More than 50 World War II-era planes flew in formations (编队) over the World War II Memorial in Washington Friday, marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the conflict in Europe.

The flyby, called Arsenal (军工厂) of Democracy, was organized by the General Aviation (航空) Manufacturers Association. Its president and CEO, Peter Bunce, says restoring (修复) old airplanes is a slow and painstakingly hard process done mostly by enthusiasts.

Many of the planes, such as this Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress (堡垒), called Texas Raiders (编队), belonged to a Texas-based non-profit organization called Commemorative Air Force.

Civilian corporate (民营企业) pilot Buddy Cooksey has been flying its vintage (老式的) planes at air shows for more than 40 years. He says the group has over 11,000 members but is always looking for new fans ready to devote time and work to restoration and upkeep of old planes.

“We are looking for young ladies, young men. And race, color, creed (宗教) does not matter to us. They got the enthusiasm—we want them.” Cooksey says despite their age, the planes are still in very good shape. “Strangely enough the airplanes are quite durable (耐久的), they were meant to be that durable. And there’s a lot of redundancy (冗余) in the systems and so, the problem that we have is the parts are not easily come by.”

Passage 048-东南亚的出生登记问题仍有待改善

Just hours after coming into the world, baby Edar is among the lucky ones. Her registration process has already commenced (开始)—something that will prove vital (至关重要的) for her chances to rise above a subsistence existence.

Edar’s mother, a 30-year-old from Myanmar who has been working in Thailand for seven years, says she is aware of how critical the documentation will be for her second child.

“Without a birth certificate, my child will not be able to go to school, previously schools wouldn’t enroll children who didn’t have birth certificates. So everyone now should get sure certificates for their babies.”

Some officials remain less than enthusiastic about certifying non-Thai births, although the kingdom’s law mandates (规定) that all newborns, within 15 days, must be registered and given a national identification number.

“The message that we always emphasize is that birth registration is the right for every child whether they are Thai or non-Thai and that the hospital should do everything to help the parents, especially those who don’t speak Thai and might not know the process to understand what is the importance of birth registration and the process that they need to do.”

However, about one-third of the births in this country by mothers from Myanmar, Laos (老挝) and Cambodia are still not being processed. Sometimes this is due to discrimination; in other cases officials are neglectful or corrupt.

While Thailand—where 95 percent of births occur in a hospital—is held up as a model case, some other Asian countries are faring relatively poorly for birth registrations.

In light of that, delegates to this week’s regional conference are to commit to universal (普遍的) registration by the year 2024.

Passage 049-学霸同时被 8 所常春藤名校录取

For the second time in two years, all eight Ivy League schools have offered admission to a teenager from Nigeria (尼日利亚).

Augusta Uwamanzu-Nna is in her final year at Elmont High School in Long Island, New York. She is at the top of her game, academically speaking. Few Americans are able to get accepted into every one of the Ivy League schools. The eight are Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University and Yale University.

In addition, the teenager was accepted at four other schools in the United States. They are Johns Hopkins University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York University, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The 17-year old is valedictorian (致辞者) of her high school class. She has a grade point average of 101.6.

In a press release, Uwamanzu-Nna credited her success to the ideals of the town of Elmont, New York, her supportive parents and her teachers. She said she is elated (高兴的) and thankful.

Passage 050-英女王 90 岁大寿

Queen Elizabeth is celebrating her 90th birthday on Thursday. Three photographs of the Monarch (皇室) taken by Annie Leibovitz have been released to mark the occasion. Our royal correspondent (通讯员) Peter Hunt reports. “After celebrating her silver, golden and diamond Jubilees (周年纪念), the now 90-year old longest reigning (统治) monarch in British History will go and walk about in Windsor and light a beacon (明灯). As she enters her 10th decade, Buckingham Palace has released three pictures taken by the American photographer Annie Leibovitz, the Queen’s captured with her corgis (柯基犬), with her daughter Ann and with two of her grandchildren and her five great grandchildren. BBC news.

Passage 051-研究者寻找干预措施降低早产率

Complications (并发症) from preterm births now outrank all other causes of death for young children. Of the more than 6.3 million deaths of kids under age five in 2013, more than one million resulted from preterm problems.

The study appears in *The Lancet* (柳叶刀) medical journal. It’s a collaborative effort by researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the London School of Hygiene (卫生) and Tropical Medicine and the World Health Organization.

The vast majority of the deaths from direct complications of preterm births occurred within the first 28 days of life—with an additional 125,000 deaths occurring between one month and five years.

Dr. Andres de Francisco is interim (临时的) director of the Geneva-based Partnership for Maternal Newborn (产妇及新生儿) and Child Health.

“Over the last few years the proportion of deaths due to preterm births has been increasing. The reason for this is that we do not really have major interventions (干预) in place to avoid premature births. And second, to manage them in most communities where they occur.”

He says preterm birth complications are a worldwide problem.

Passage 052-阿富汗政府决心根除腐败问题

The Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who's attending an international anticorruption (反腐败) summit in London today, has told the BBC that the illegal drug habit is the main driver of corruption in his country. He said his government was determined to address the issue, but it needed help. Earlier this week in unguarded comments caught on camera, the British Prime Minister David Cameron described Afghanistan and Nigeria as fantastically (非常) corrupt. But President Ghani said there were no hard feelings about those remarks. “He was describing the legacy of the past, a legacy in which many actors, many factors combined to produce one of the most corrupt countries on earth. But that's not the desire of our people, and I've been elected on a mandate (任命) to make transparency, accountability (应负责任), and rule of law imperative (必要的).”

Passage 053-英国的咖喱屋

The future of curry houses looks grim (暗淡的). The curry house is a British institution. Every town has at least one. Ballater, a tiny village in the icy remoteness of northern Scotland, boasts two. It is also the economic bulwark (堡垒) of a community. Bangladeshis (孟加拉国人) run most of the country's Indian restaurants, and they depend heavily on the trade. Fully 42% of working-age Bangladeshi men toil (长时间辛苦工作) in restaurants. But changes in eating habits, immigration rules and growing aspirations (强烈愿望) add up to trouble for the industry.

“Following the financial crisis, people cut back on eating out but ordered more takeaways (外卖),” says Oli Khan, a Bangladeshi chef who owns four establishments. Now even the takeaway trade is struggling. A quarter of curry-lovers say they have swapped (换掉) restaurant meals or takeaways for supermarket ready meals.

And staff costs are soaring. “Chefs have become like gold dust (难求),” says Enam Ali, a restaurateur and founder of the British Curry Awards. Importing them has been made difficult. Visa rules mean chefs must speak English and earn at least 20,300 pounds (32,500 dollars) a year. Some reckon the answer is teaching natives to cook chicken tikka masala. But they are reluctant. Not a single white Briton has applied.

Passage 054-法国的郊区问题

Market day in Clichy-sous-Bois—a time to chat and to buy items from the home country. Many residents and their forefathers (祖先) immigrated here from North and sub-Saharan Africa. They were looking for better opportunities.

Not everybody found them. In 2005, this Paris suburb exploded into violence after two teenagers were electrocuted (电棍致死) as they hid from police.

Most people here say pent-up (被压抑的) anger about the lack of jobs and a future helped fuel the riots (激起暴乱) that spread across the country.

Clichy-sous-Bois today looks very different. The state has invested massively in infrastructure (基础设施). Old-timers like Yaya Jaiel, from Algeria, praise the results. “They demolished (拆除) all those old buildings, the towers, they replaced them with the small ones you see over there. There are lots of things that have changed.”

But some things have not, just as 18-year-old Mehdi Hassani, who's studying to be an electrician (电工). “It's really hard to find a job, especially when you come from here, we are still identified by the 2005 riots, we are still considered delinquents (违法青年) and druggies (瘾君子).” Nearly half of Clichy's population is under 25. More than a third of them are jobless. A tramway (有轨电车) is under construction, but for now, the only easy way out of here is by car.

Passage 055-电影对环保的影响力

“How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can’t Change” is the latest movie from filmmaker and climate activist Josh Fox. The movie is the third film in a three-part series about climate change.

In 2010, America’s Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences nominated Fox’s documentary (纪录片) “Gasland” for its highest award—an Oscar. “Gasland” explored “fracking,” the hotly debated process of removing natural gas from the ground. He examined the subject again in “Gasland II,” the second film in his climate change series.

Fox was in Washington, D.C. recently to present his third film. In the film, Fox says pollution from fossil fuels must be reduced. Without limits, he says, there will be more extreme weather, like severe storms and dry weather, rising sea levels and shortages of food and water.

“It’s going to change in some of the most difficult and dangerous ways that we can imagine. When you really encounter that head on, it causes an incredible crisis. I think you go deep into some kind of despair and I think you ping-pong back and forth between that despair, and denial.”

Fox is visiting 100 cities with his new film to try to bring attention to the efforts being made to fight climate change. His film will be shown on the television cable channel HBO soon.

Passage 056-室内立体种植

As experts warn of a coming food crisis, the vertical (立体的) farming industry aims to create plants that offer more nutritional value and require fewer resources.

In vertical farms, plants are grown indoors. Each set of plants is stacked (堆) on another. Workers control the climate and closely monitor each plant’s growth.

Vertical farm supporters say the methods are good for the environment, and good for the world’s growing population.

Experts say the size of the vertical farming market is expected to quadruple over the next five years to nearly \$4 billion.

Because of the technology it has created, AeroFarms has become one of the top indoor-farming companies.

One of its vertical farms is in a large building near a busy road in Newark, New Jersey. It grows more than 250 kinds of greens and herbs. Farmers wear gloves, coats and coverings on their head. Their shoes must be cleaned.

AeroFarms grows crops at the same rate throughout the year. The methods it uses lower soil erosion (侵蚀). They also reduce the amount of pesticides (杀虫剂) and water needed to grow the crops. The company says carbon emissions are heavily reduced and in some cases eliminated.

Passage 057-双 11 购物狂欢节

What’s the biggest online shopping day in the world? Not Valentine’s Day. Not Cyber Monday or Black Friday. They are the days that follow Thanksgiving in the U.S. and usher in the start of the holiday shopping season. The winner is China’s Singles’ Day, celebrated November 11, or 11.11.

Singles’ Day began as a day for unmarried or uncoupled people to celebrate their lives. Single students, looking for an excuse to buy themselves presents, started it on November 11, 1993, reported *The Guardian*.

It is symbolized by the four number ones in the date of November 11th (11.11) and is also called Double Eleven, in reference to the day it was started, said the BBC.

It became a major shopping day in 2009. The CEO of an online shopping site, Alibaba, sought to increase sales at the e-commerce company. The CEO, Daniel Zhang, launched an annual online sale that day, said *Fortune*.

When it first began, Singles’ Day was very much an offline solace (安慰) for actual single people. It quickly became a cultural phenomenon. Today, Singles’ Day is a retail blockbuster (风靡事物). Analysts predict that this year, sales on China Singles’ Day will soar to a new high.

Passage 058-关于曼德拉的歌剧即将上演

“Madiba The African Opera” will debut at the State Theater in South Africa today. It’s a dramatic musical retelling of the early life and times of Nelson Mandela. Little is known about his early childhood and the opera is going to focus on his later years.

It was Nelson Mandela’s great nephew who believed a story needed to be told about the great statesman. This has been done through a host of books, autobiographies (自传) and films. But “Madiba The African Opera” presents the life of a man through song, orchestra, drums into the storytelling of how Mandela ran away to Johannesburg because of an arranged marriage, how he became a lawyer, his courtship (恋情) with Winnie Mandela and his prison years.

“I’m the conductor (指挥家), and the musical director and also the orchestrator (演奏家) of the opera. It’s really good for us to do it now, to also remind people cuz people soon forget. We’ve just had an election. So people forget. Just remind them of the nation builder this man was, that we have him and others of course, but he was really the protagonist (主角) and he is the one that the story can be told through and that’s what the beauty of the opera is. It tells us the story of many South Africans through one man. So we feel that we’ve been blessed with this opportunity.”

Passage 059-家政工人职业保护不足

The International Labour Organisation says the vast majority of domestic workers are excluded from employment protection and vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse (虐待). In the first report of this kind, the UN agency said only 10 percent of them benefited from the same kind of protection as other workers. Mark Gregory has more.

“Nobody really knows how many domestic servants are employed around the world. The ILO puts the figure at a minimum of 52 million, but says the actual number could be tens of millions higher. More than 80 percent of them are women. Indeed domestic service accounts for more than seven percent of all women’s waged employment. Many domestic workers migrate (移居) to other countries to find work. The ILO says their terms of employment tend to be worse than other workers.”

Passage 060-创业的 16 岁女孩

Like many people, Bree Britt once dreamed of starting her own business. But unlike many people, the 16-year-old American did not wait until she grew up to become an entrepreneur (企业家). With a sense of purpose, a plan of action and the help of her mother, she opened Bree’s Sweet Treats in Accokeek, Maryland.

For Bree Britt, nothing is more enjoyable, satisfying and calming than preparing food in the kitchen.

Being a baker is like being an artist—the food has to be cooked just right. She says baking enables her to be innovative and creative. Bree Britt started cooking with her great-grandmother when she was five years old. When she was 12, Bree told her mother she wanted to open a bakery (面包房).

Charmaine Britt is Bree’s mother. She told Bree to sell her baked goods online first to see if her daughter was serious.

“I thought it was gonna be fly by night, something that she just would get tired of eventually once she saw how much work it would be. So my deal was: we’ll start on-line you can bake and I’ll deliver on weekends.”

The baked goods made enough money through Internet sales that Charmaine Britt became her daughter’s business partner.

Going to school is not easy when operating a business. However, Bree says doing both taught her how to make good decisions about how she spends her time.

Passage 061-医学影像技术的新突破

Since the 1980s, doctors have used Magnetic Resonance Imaging (磁共振成像) machines, or MRI scanners, to look into patients’ bodies without exposing them to the harmful effects of X-rays.

An alternating magnetic (交变磁场) field created inside the MRI's tube excites hydrogen atoms (氢原子) in the body's tissues, making them emit (发射) radio waves. Those waves can be turned into pictures, similar to X-ray images.

"Using something like 7-tesla imaging, you can do very high resolution (分辨率), you can get the contrast (对比度) you need in order to identify the particular sub-parts of the nuclei (原子核) that you need."

But high-resolution two-dimensional black-and-white pictures are quite different from three-dimensional color renditions (演示) that can be viewed from all angles.

Using MRI-generated images of water molecules (分子) moving within the brain's white matter (脑白质), scientists at the British company Holoxica created a hologram (全息图) showing the connections between neurons (神经元).

"The brain is such a complex three-dimensional structure, and sometimes it is quite difficult to describe, or understand, the actual connections. So to see it in 3-D, that may be a short cut to education, and it can reinforce the learning process."

The holographic display is still in prototype (雏形) phase, but researchers say, once ready for production, it will be compatible (可兼容的) not only with MRI machines but also with CT and ultrasound (超声) scanners.

Passage 062-核战反对者：约瑟夫·罗特布拉特

Many of the scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project, America's programme to build an atom bomb (原子弹) during the Second World War, had misgivings (疑虑) about their work. After the detonation (爆炸声) of the first test bomb in 1945, Robert Oppenheimer, the programme's director, later claimed to have recalled a line from Hindu scripture (经文): "I am become Death, destroyer of worlds." His colleague Kenneth Bainbridge was pithier (简洁扼要的): "Now we're all sons of bitches," he muttered (低声说).

Joseph Rotblat, a Polish-born (波兰的) physicist, had stronger reservations than most. He had been disturbed to overhear the American general in charge of the project admit that the real point was not to pre-empt (先发制人) the Nazis—whose own atomic-bomb project had got nowhere—but to intimidate (威慑) the Soviets, the Americans' wartime allies (盟国). In 1944 Rotblat left the programme to return to Britain, where he had taken refuge from occupied Poland, and resolved to put his expertise (专业知识) to more humane (人道的) use. He swapped theoretical physics for the medical kind and began a life of vigorous opposition to nuclear weapons. A friendship with Bertrand Russell, a British philosopher, led to the founding of the Pugwash conferences on nuclear disarmament (解除).

Throughout his life, his goal remained a world free of nuclear weapons. He was not convinced by the argument that the threat of nuclear weapons would ultimately prevent war. The logic of deterrence (威慑), and later of mutually assured destruction—which presumes that war between nuclear-armed nations is impossible, because the mutual annihilation (歼灭) ensures that neither side could win—applies only to rational (理性的) actors. "Had Hitler had the bomb," Rotblat argued, "his last order from the bunker (地堡) in April 1945 would have been to use it on London even if it meant terrible retribution (报应) to Germany."

Passage 063-太空探索的成功与失败

The biggest achievements of 2014 happened in the last half of the year. In August, after a decade-long flight, the European Space Agency's Rosetta spacecraft became the first man-made object to enter into orbit around a comet (彗星), more than 400 million kilometers away. In November, Rosetta launched a probe (探测器), named Philae, that made the first soft landing on the comet.

In September, the US scientific satellite MAVEN entered an orbit around Mars, with the mission of learning what happened to the Red Planet's atmosphere and water.

MAVEN principal (主要的) investigator Bruce Jakosky says scientists now know that Mars once had a much denser atmosphere and that it has changed significantly over the last few billion years. What they still don't know is how and why that happened.

The budding (刚起步的) private space industry in the US suffered two setbacks (挫折) this year. In October, Orbital Sciences Corporation's cargo (货运的) rocket Antares, bound for the International Space Station, exploded soon after liftoff. Later that month, Virgin Galactic's experimental space vehicle SpaceShip Two broke up in the middle of a test flight, killing one of the two pilots.

Both companies said the mishaps (意外) will not deter (阻止) them from trying to develop reliable spacecraft for near orbit flights.

Passage 064-中国学生的赴美留学热

Students from China have a long history of coming to the United States for education. And this month, American educators expect high schools across the U.S. to enroll more Chinese students than ever.

Many of the students are from China's growing middle class, they want a good education and an advantage, a better chance to compete for places in America's most respected universities.

Attending schools outside China also means an escape from the intense competition at schools inside China. Chinese students in the U.S. do not face the Chinese examination Gaokao. It is designed to measure a student's ability to do college work. Many students in their home country worry about this difficult test.

The number of international students attending university in the United States is also reaching record numbers: 800,000 foreign students were studying at American colleges in 2012.

Passage 065-火山灰具有灭菌功效

Ancient people knew that some kinds of clay (泥土) have healing qualities. They rubbed (涂抹) clay on their skin to cover wounds. They also used the natural rock or soil material to treat stomach problems.

Now, American researchers have discovered how different clays work as medicine. They are researching the effectiveness of clays against antibiotic-resistant (耐抗生素的) infections.

Blue and green clays are found in volcanic (火山的) areas of the world. Around volcanoes, native peoples used the clays to improve their health. It seems they knew what they were doing.

Lynda Williams is a clay and mineral (矿物质) scientist. She works at Arizona State University's School of Earth and Space Exploration in Tempe. She and her research team have been studying the Aboriginal people (土著) of Australia.

"There is evidence of Aboriginals using clays for treating wounds and they eat it. Many cultures eat clays to settle their stomach."

Williams and her team found the clay was effective against some pathogens (病原体). Pathogens are bacteria (细菌) and viruses (病毒) that cause disease. They examined bacteria that have developed resistance (抵抗力) to other antibiotics.

In laboratory tests, they saw how a blue-colored clay is effective against the drug-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, also known as MRSA. MRSA is a dangerous and sometimes deadly skin infection.

Williams says she hopes the study will interest drug companies that want to explore the healing properties of blue and green clays.

The National Science Foundation provided financial support for the study. Williams and her colleagues reported their findings in the journal *Nature Scientific Reports*.

Passage 066-人民币被 IMF 指定为主要货币之一

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) added China's yuan to its group of key global currencies this week, a historic development that gives new status to the world's second-largest economy.

It is "a sign that China is rising ever faster and further on the global economic stage," reported the BBC. China now

accounts for more than 15 percent of the global gross economic output, nearly three times what it was a decade ago, said the *Wall Street Journal*.

The IMF said the yuan, also called the renminbi, will be added to the group of reserve currencies (储备货币). Those include the U.S. dollar, Europe's euro, the Japanese yen and the British pound. These currencies are in the IMF's Special Drawing Rights group. The IMF uses this group of reserve currencies to make emergency loans to its 188 member nations. The new IMF designation (指定) will take effect at the end of September 2016.

Passage 067-与“自我”相关的英语表达

Have you ever talked to someone who only wants to talk about themselves? It's "me, me, me" or "I, I, I" from them all day long! This kind of talk can be a real "turn off" to the people listening.

But at times, perhaps we are all guilty of being selfish or self-absorbed (热衷于自身想法的). For those days, here are some self-centered expressions you can use.

Today our program is all about you! Let's start with the word "self".

"Self" can be added to many words to make new words. If you are self-conscious, you are aware of yourself in a bad way. You carefully plot (谋划) your every move. People who are self-conscious can seem nervous around others and perhaps not very self-confident.

However, self-awareness is a good thing. Self-awareness means you recognize both your good points and bad points. A person who is self-aware understands that what they say and do affects the people around them.

The difference between being self-aware and self-conscious may seem minor. But there is a big difference.

Self-employed people are people who work for themselves. They are their own bosses. But people who are self-serving only think of their own needs. However, if you are self-employed, being a self-serving business person is a good thing. No one is there to help you. You must look after yourself.

Self-preservation (自我保护) is also a good thing. You have to depend on yourself to survive. However, self-pity is not a good thing to have. Nobody likes to be around people who always feel sorry for themselves.

You don't have to be filled with self-pity to annoy other people around you.

If you are unable to make a decision, people could say to you, "Suit yourself." This expression is a response when you don't really care what someone does. It means "do as you please." In other words, have it your own way!

Some expressions using the word "self" can sound strange. Take, for example, the saying "to be beside yourself". To many people, this might sound like you are having an out-of-body experience. But "to be beside yourself" means to be affected by a strong, usually negative emotion, like anger or sadness. Here are a few examples: "When her mother died, she was beside herself with grief." "He was so upset that he was beside himself."

Another unusual-sounding expression is "to be full of yourself". This means that you think so highly of yourself that you are full; there is no room for anyone else.

If you are full of yourself, you might think that you are the greatest thing, you may need to get over yourself. "To get over yourself" may sound like a difficult physical exercise. But it only means that you need to think of others, not just yourself.

If you are way too caught up in your own life or think you are better than everyone else, others might say to you, "Get over yourself."

Passage 068-久坐危及健康

If you are sitting down listening to this Health Report, stand up. Move your legs. Touch your toes, if you can. Do anything but sit.

If you cut down on the time you spend sitting, you might live longer. New research shows that sitting less than three hours a day might extend your life by two years.

The human body is designed to move. But modern lifestyles and office jobs rarely give us the chance to move around.

“Just the opposite,” says Peter Katzmarzyk. He is a scientist at the University of Louisiana in the southern United States. He says that sitting is ubiquitous (普遍存在的) in our lives, meaning it is something we do all the time, everywhere. But, he adds, that does not make sitting good for us.

“Sitting is ubiquitous in our lives today. You know, we sit while we’re eating, we sit in the car, we sit while we watch television. And many of us sit for many hours at work. So on average, Americans report they sit between four and a half to five hours a day.”

Mr. Katzmarzyk says you may exercise often. But, he says even that does not mean you can sit for the rest of your waking hours.

“We can’t throw away physical activity. It’s extremely important. We have 60 years of research showing us that. But sedentary (久坐) behavior is also important. So even if you exercise for 30 minutes a day. You know, what goes on in the other 23-and-a-half hours of the day is also very important.”

Passage 069-中国出境游人数持续增加

Over the past five years, the number of Chinese travelers has grown to 120 million people. One in 10 international travelers is from China.

New airports and better infrastructure have made travel easier for Chinese citizens. Young Chinese citizens are benefiting from reduced visa restrictions around the world. James Roy, a business analyst at China Market Research Group, said Chinese travelers are going to many more destinations than they did in the past.

“You know, in the past where it was more about buying an expensive watch or a bag, and showing that off. Now it’s much more about sharing on social media all of the exotic (国外的) places that you’ve been to,” Roy said.

The World Travel and Tourism Council says that the number of Chinese tourists grew by 53 percent in 2015. Last year, travelers from China spent \$215 billion outside the country.

Some countries have benefited from tourism from China. Iceland, a popular destination for Chinese tourists, saw its tourism industry grow by 19 percent in 2015. Japan had 37 percent growth in visitor spending.

The growth in the number of Chinese travelers is contributing to the global growth of the tourism sector, which has added 7.2 million jobs worldwide.

Passage 070-美国农民老龄化

Studies show the average age of American farmers is slowly rising. Fewer young Americans are deciding to enter farming than in the past. And the number of farmers and working farms in the United States has decreased over time. The Economic Research Service released a report describing the findings. The agency is part of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Economic Research Service says the average age of an American farmer is fifty-four years old.

It notes the percentage of farmers fifty-five or older rose to 61% in 1997. Only 37% of farmers were fifty-five or older in 1954. The new report says farmers generally are older than other American workers for several reasons.

Farmers can continue working on their farms long after most wage earners have retired. The number of years that Americans can expect to live has increased. This means many farmers can continue working until they are very old. The increased use of machines in agriculture also has helped older farmers. They can use machines instead of physical labor.

The Economic Research Service notes that the future of farming in the United States depends on the employment of more new workers on farms. However, fewer young Americans are becoming farmers. The percentage of farmers younger than thirty-five years old has dropped from 15% in 1954 to 8% three years ago. People usually enter farming through the family farm business. Other people enter farming through what is called the agricultural ladder.

Under this method, someone working on a farm becomes the owner and operator. The report says there has been a recent increase in the number of some groups of minority farmers. This may suggest that more and more farms in the United States are being operated by former workers.

A person's decision to enter farming is linked to economic and business conditions. The report says many young Americans have chosen non-farm positions with higher wages and better job guarantees. It notes, however, that more than half of all farm families have at least two people earning money. It says this can protect farmers against sudden changes in the farm economy.

Passage 071-文明奇观：老挝石罐平原

A new group of human remains (遗址) has been uncovered on the Plain of Jars in Laos. They are believed to date back to the Iron Age, some 2,500 years ago.

The Plain of Jars is in the central Lao province of Xieng Khouang. The area covers hundreds of kilometers in which can be found thousands of ancient stone jars. They are grouped together at about 100 sites. The Plain of Jars has been a puzzle for archaeologists (考古学家) —scientists who study prehistoric people and their culture.

A joint research team from Australia and Laos found the remains. Dougald O'Reilly teaches archaeology at Australian National University. He led the field work in Laos. "This is one of the great enigmas of the Jars' sites," he said. "These massive stone jars, some of them weighing up to 10 metric tons, that have been dragged (拖行) eight to ten kilometers from a quarry site (采石场) and set up in groups."

Little is known about the people who made the jars. What did the jars hold? How and why did people place them where they did?

O'Reilly said a central question that needs to be answered is who created the stone jars. There are no known sites offering answers to the ethnicity (种族) and identity of the people who made them.

The latest field work uncovered an ancient burial ground in an area known as Site 1, in Xieng Khouang Province. It has more than 300 stone jars, stone discs and markers.

The scientists uncovered different burial methods. They include burial of whole bodies, the burying of bones grouped together, and bones placed inside ceramic vessels (陶瓷容器) and then buried.

Scientists will do isotopic (同位素) and chemical tests on the remains. They may provide information on the ethnicity of the people connected to the sites. O'Reilly said it is possible that the Lao sites may be linked to similar jar sites in India.

The Australian Research Council is paying for the project. It will continue over five years with field work in Laos and some in northeastern India as well. The effort may soon provide answers to one of Southeast Asia's greatest cultural mysteries.

Passage 072-弗洛伊德乐队发行最后一张专辑

One of the world's most successful and influential bands Pink Floyd have announced that their new album, their first in 20 years will also be their last. Pink Floyd have sold more than 250 million albums (专辑) since their first LP in 1967. Their new work released next month is a tribute to the band's former keyboard player Rick Wright. Our entertainment reporter has been listening.

The final track on Pink Floyd's forthcoming album "The Endless River", which the band say will be their last. In an interview broadcast on Radio Six Music today, David Gilmour explained that the album is dedicated to their keyboard player Richard Wright and it was his death in 2008 which brought about the end of the group.

"Well, Rick's gone, dead. This is the last thing that will be out from us. I'm pretty certain that there will not be any sort of a follower. It's a shame, but this is the end."

"The Endless River" has been constructed from instrumental sessions recorded in 1993 during the making of Pink Floyd's "Division Bell" album. The music has been augmented (扩展). And David Gilmour's wife Polly Samson has written lyrics

to the only song “Louder Than Words” about the relationship between the band members. Pink Floyd last played with founding member Roger Waters at Live 8 in 2005. And David Gilmour is clear that there was never any chance of him contributing to this album.

“No, no. Roger left in eighty-five, you know. We were getting on pretty reasonably well. It’s sad obviously for other people, probably much more sad than for me, but it just wouldn’t work.”

So after a career spanning 15 albums and almost 50 years, Pink Floyd are no more.

Passage 073-最好的咖啡产自埃塞俄比亚

An international group of coffee experts has rated Ethiopia’s coffee as the best in the world. Coffee is a top export for the country. But at home, it is a source of national pride. Ethiopians feel good about their coffee, and enjoying a drink with friends is a longstanding tradition.

International coffee experts travel the world to find the best tasting cup of coffee. They keep returning to Ethiopia. Some people say the climate produces quality beans. Morton Wenersgrard is a coffee importer.

“They are grown in places with perfect soil, perfect altitude (海拔), and micro climates that are really suitable for coffee processing, such as drying and things like that.”

Ethiopia is making big profits on its coffee reputation with export to more than 120 countries. The country has an export revenue of more than \$840 million a year.

But not all the best coffee leaves Ethiopia. Forty percent of the coffee grown in the country stays there. It remains an important part of everyday life at work, at home and at ceremonies just to celebrate that special cup.

Passage 074-日本地震

A second powerful earthquake struck southern Japan early Saturday.

The quake caused the Japan Meteorological (气象) Agency to give and then cancel a tsunami (海啸) warning for the area.

The magnitude (地震级数) 7.0 earthquake struck near the city of Kumamoto on the island of Kyushu. Magnitude is a measure of the energy released during an earthquake.

Rescue workers have been searching wreckage (残骸) from an earlier 6.5 magnitude earthquake that hit the same area Thursday. More than 100 aftershocks (余震) have been felt since then.

An eight-month-old baby girl was trapped in a house damaged by the earlier quake. Nearly 50 rescuers were involved in the effort to pull the child from the rubble (瓦砾) early Friday. About 1,600 soldiers have joined nearly 2,000 police officers and 1,300 firefighters in the recovery (恢复) effort.

Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said Friday that the quake killed at least nine people and injured more than 800 others. The quakes have destroyed houses and damaged roads. Damage was severe in the town of Mashiki. Eight of the dead lived in the town, which is about 1,300 kilometers southwest of Tokyo.

Japanese officials said no damage was reported at nearby nuclear power centers.

Passage 075-太阳能数字图书馆

Alexis Cullen works as a volunteer in Vanuatu (瓦努阿图), one of the Peace Corp’s most remote postings (委派).

In the village where she works, called Naviso, some people have never heard of the Internet. That is not uncommon in the South Pacific, where some people have limited access to learning resources.

“Nobody has ever seen the Internet. People don’t know what the Internet is. Some of them are very separated out from what the rest of the world is doing.”

And without the Internet, says Cullen, people in these areas are falling behind. It is not likely they will be able to access

the Internet in the near future.

To help with that problem, Dr. Laura Hosman, a professor at California Polytechnic (理工) State University, and her students developed a mobile library. It is called SolarSPELL.

Dr. Hosman says she wanted to get educational content to rural places. She wanted to create a digital library that would not be ruined in bad weather. The SolarSPELL unit, which is powered by the sun, creates a WiFi hotspot. Although it does not use the Internet, it creates a similar experience.

“So, any device that can connect to the Internet can connect to our library,” Hosman says.

“And it seems like they are on the Internet, even though they are not. So it’s an offline website that really feels like you are online.”

It lets users practice using the Internet on a smaller scale.

Each SolarSPELL unit comes with a memory card, a small plug-in (插件) device that holds the educational content. It only uses a small amount of space, and does not rely on power cables (电源线) or electricity networks.

Hosman and her students worked hard to find content to put in the library. They wanted to choose content appealing to people who live in rural areas in the South Pacific, such as Vanuatu and the Federated States of Micronesia (密克罗尼西亚).

Passage 076-库尔德足球队

Fans are celebrating another victory for their beloved Amedspor. But, it’s not just winning that makes this club so special.

“Amedpor is more than a sports team. In its essence, it represents resistance and a sports culture that aims to reflect people’s freedom. It is, in a way, becoming a voice of resistance (抵抗) against unfairness, violence and pressure in an environment of war.”

It is a very important representation of the people of this city. And, especially after changing the name to Amedspor last year, it became more important for the people in the region.

“Amedpsor is important for reflecting all the emotions of the Kurdish (库尔德) people on the football field. For us, it became a place where we can pour out all our emotions. We can’t do all the things we wanna do. But, thanks to Amedspor, we can express ourselves.”

Passage 077-微软控诉美司法部

Computer technology company Microsoft has brought a legal case against the U.S. government. Microsoft says a law that permits agencies to demand to read emails or online files without their owners’ knowledge violates (违反) the Constitution (宪法). The Reuters news agency reports that the company believes the government’s actions violate the Fourth Amendment (修订案) to the Constitution. That amendment bans “unreasonable searches and seizures (罚没).”

Reuters also reports that Microsoft says the law violates the company’s First Amendment right to free speech.

The law in question is the Electronics Communications Privacy Act of 1986. It permits government investigators to examine emails and other electronic files without telling the owners of the documents. In most cases, a judge must give the investigators permission to do so.

Microsoft says the law was written before distant computer data storage (存储) centers, known as the cloud, were developed. Microsoft is a major operator of cloud storage for computers. It says the government is using the new technology to increase its power.

The Justice Department says it is studying the lawsuit (诉讼案件). Daniel Rosenthal is a former U.S. attorney (律师). He told the Associated Press news agency that forcing the government to tell the owners of files that they are being examined could hurt law enforcement efforts. He says doing so would let “child molesters (骚扰者), domestic abusers, violent criminals and terrorists” know that their emails and files are being read.

Passage 078-美式英语开始在香港流行

People in Hong Kong speak a rich mixture of languages. Hong Kong was a British colony for more than 150 years before was returned to Chinese control in 1997. English was the only official language until 1994.

Most people in Hong Kong today speak Cantonese (粤语), but Mandarin and other dialects also are heard, and English as the British used it is still widely spoken and taught here. Now however, many people are choosing to learn English as it is spoken in the United States.

Victor Chan, for example, has children who attend a school called Nature EQ on Saturday and Sunday, they are learning to say words the American way. Mr. Chan says he wants his sons to learn American English, because he plans to send them to the United States for further study.

Student Sam Yu has another reason for studying English spoken in the American way.

“The thing is getting more and more important, and maybe it’s taking over the dominance (主导) of British English. Yes. So I’m willing to learn.”

Public schools in the former British colony still teach mostly British English. But the number of private language schools teaching American English is growing.

Some observers say American English is becoming the language of international business. Increased contact with American culture, like movies, television programs, computer games and the Internet is spreading American expressions and accents in areas other than business.

Language teachers in Hong Kong say wealthy people who live in mainland China are helping to increase the demand for classes in American English. Mainland Chinese are crossing into Hong Kong because it has more educational choices.

But for now, people hearing English in the streets of Hong Kong are mainly hearing traditional British English.

Passage 079-全球变暖威胁中东 5 亿人生存

Climate change may make parts of the Middle East too hot for human beings, according to a new study.

Researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry and the Cyprus Institute studied weather conditions in the Middle East since 1970. The researchers say “very hot” days in the area have doubled over that period. Right now, over 500 million people live there. “In the future, the climate in large parts of the Middle East and North Africa could change,” says Jos Lelieveld, director at the MaxPlanck Institute and a professor at the Cyprus Institute. He added that because temperatures could get so high, those living in the area could be at risk.

Researchers say temperatures in summer in the Middle East and North Africa will continue rising. The nights and days will be hotter, too.

The researchers believe that by 2050, temperatures will not fall below 30 degrees Celsius at night in the hottest part of summer. During this period, day-time temperatures could rise to 46 degrees Celsius (摄氏) .

Extreme heat could continue past the middle of the 21st century. Researchers think temperatures in the middle of the day could reach as high as 50 Celsius. Heat waves could increase, and those hot periods are likely to last longer.

Passage 080-现代人对于智能设备的迷恋

At electronic shows, visitors flock (聚集) around the newest tablet computers (平板电脑), cameras, 3D television screens, even small robots, dreaming of taking one home.

Consumers spend hours waiting in lines and spend hundreds of dollars to be among the first to get the latest smart phone.

The modern world seems to be infatuated (着迷的) with shiny expensive objects that keep us connected, help us navigate (操纵), record our thoughts and memorable events, and even talk to us. So infatuated, that we no longer own our gadgets (设备) —we have relationships with them.

But the gadgets are magical. They fascinate us the same way we are intrigued (迷住) by a magician’s trick.

Epstein, former editor-in-chief of *Psychology Today* magazine, says he is concerned that the gadgets will take on a life of their own.

“All we’re seeing so far is a little bit of so-called wearable technology that you might wear on your wrist (手腕) or on your glasses. But we’re moving very rapidly, whether the public knows it or not, towards real biological interfaces (界面) so that the gadgets will be built into us to some extent.”

Scientists predict that the gadgets with biological interfaces may be available within the next 20 years and, coupled with strong artificial intelligence (人工智能), will be much smarter than today.

Passage 081-非洲广告业崛起

Western advertising and public relations agencies are increasingly joining with African advertising companies. They are working together to attract international businesses that want to advertise products or services in Africa. The continent (大洲) has been considered the last frontier, or undeveloped territory, for consumer markets.

Advertising agencies are now helping international companies become well known in Africa. After all, the continent is home to six of the 10 fastest growing economies in the world.

Many overseas companies have little experience dealing with Africa. They do not know much about the culture or the way things are done on the continent. Also, there is a lack of information to help with the marketing. So having employees who are experts in the area and culture is helpful for companies.

Passage 082-成功的央行行长：保罗·沃克尔

Alan Greenspan may be the most famous central banker of the modern era, but Paul Volcker has been the most influential. He played a crucial diplomatic (外交的) role during the death of the Bretton Woods financial system in the early 1970s, which severed the link between money and gold and ushered in (导致) floating (浮动的) exchange rates.

As head of the Federal Reserve (美联储) from 1979, Mr. Volcker then tamed the inflation that ensued (继而发生), bringing monetary stability in the face of political opposition to the very high interest rates required. In doing so, he set the template (样板) for modern economic management, built around an independent central bank with an implicit, or explicit, inflation (通胀) target.

After serving at the Treasury under Richard Nixon, the towering (6ft 7in) Mr. Volcker was appointed to the Fed by both Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan. More recently he has been an adviser to Barack Obama, who traded on the former Fed chief’s credibility (可靠性) by dubbing his plan to end banks’ proprietary trading the “Volcker rule”.

Passage 083-持续的生育低谷

As the financial crisis hit, birth rates fell in rich countries, as expected. But a persistent baby bust is a real puzzle.

He is not exactly leading by example, but Pope (教皇) Francis wants more babies. “The great challenge of Europe is to return to being mother Europe,” he said last year, while suggesting that young people might be having too few children because they preferred holidays. Europe certainly lacks young souls, particularly in Catholic countries such as Italy and Spain. But the baby shortage is broader: mother America and mother Australia have gone missing, too.

The financial crisis abruptly turned the boom to bust. Countries in the European Union delivered 5,469,000 babies in 2008 but only 5,075,000 in 2013—a drop of over 7%. The crunch was unsurprising: anxiety about jobs and money puts people off children. But a rich-world baby bust that began predictably turned into a puzzle.

Passage 084-农场走向数字化

When it comes to food, it’s said that we are what we eat. And what we eat is getting fresher and healthier. “I think it’s very clear people want good food that’s sustainable, that’s traceable and is good for them.”

“Kakaxi is a social farming platform that we’re building to bring the story of food production to the table. We have internal sensors (感应器) that can measure the weather data, such as temperature, daily humidity (湿度).” Adam Smith is showing off Kakaxi’s farm-monitoring device. Farmers install it to harvest vital data, while consumers connect by an App to see crops growing in real time. “Seeing how food is transformed from nothing into something is a miraculous (不可思议的) story. When we see food at the supermarket, that story is gone.” Kakaxi works with local community-supported agriculture groups, or CSAs. Farmers get member feedback, along with advertising they may not otherwise be able to afford. “We’re not promising 5% increase in yields (收益) if they use it, but what they all need is better ways to generating content and marketing assistance.”

Passage 085-iPhone 销量下滑

Apple is the world’s most valuable company. Its yearly growth trend started in the early 2000s, with exciting new computers and a portable music player known as the iPod.

The company continued to grow, with the introduction of the iPhone smartphone. Then, it introduced the iPad tablet. Sales of Apple products grew every year for 51 straight quarters. That all changed on Tuesday, when the company reported a drop in sales. Sales for the first quarter of 2016 dropped 13 percent.

Sales dropped to \$50.6 billion from \$58 billion during the same quarter in 2015. The news caused Apple’s stock (股票) to drop, too. The company’s shares were down by about 8 percent in after-hours trading.

The company’s report shows sales were down in China by a combined 26 percent. Apple’s Chief Executive, Tim Cook, says the smartphone market is not growing because of the slowing economies in some countries. But other experts say Apple is no longer regularly producing exciting products. People who bought new Apple laptops or smartphones in the last two or three years do not feel like they need to buy the latest products.

Passage 086-APP 帮助解决交通问题

At the Los Angeles public transit system known as Metro, these workers monitor buses on their routes to look for delays or other signs of trouble. The system uses information from its cameras and sensors, and will soon use data from the social media application Waze, sent by drivers who note real-time traffic conditions. Kali Fogel of LA Metro says the transit system needs up-to-date information. “Data is king, so to have a lot of data is very important. We have a lot of infrastructure (基础设施) data. What crowd-sourcing and apps like Waze allow us to do is to fill in the gaps.”

Waze, owned by Google, has partnered with cities from Rio to Jakarta to better understand urban traffic problems. Drivers like Freda Sideroff of Los Angeles rely on Google Maps and other navigation apps to get through the traffic. “It is so useful, I use it every day.”

The California Department of Transportation, known as Caltrans, also communicates with drivers through messages on freeways, its highway mapping site called Quick Map, and social media sites like Twitter.

Caltrans spokesman Patrick Chandler says traffic managers see millions of trips each day. “Still it’ll be easy to move a lot of people, but the system is old. It’s 60, 70-years-old, so we try different things to maximize capacity beyond just building new freeways or interchanges or widen the freeways. We try different ways to inform travelers of the conditions that are ahead of them.”

Passage 087-儿童的大脑发育

Last month, scientists announced that they recorded the first detailed maps of the development of a child’s brain between the ages of three and fifteen. Scientists at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine led the group of scientists. The study appeared in the magazine *Nature*. The researchers say their study provides new information about what areas of the brain are used in learning at different ages.

The scientists at the University of California invented a process that let them map brain growth in greater detail than ever before. They used a machine called an MRI to take a picture of the brain of each child in the study. Using a computer, the scientists identified millions of areas of each brain, they took more pictures of each child's brain during the four-year study. Then they mapped the changes in position as the brain developed. The scientists mainly observed growth in the area of complex nerve tissue called the corpus callosum (胼胝体). This area sends information between the two halves of the brain.

They say they found that a child's brain experiences two main periods of growth. The first takes place between the ages of three and six. The greatest growth appears in an area of the corpus callosum in the front of the brain. This area is involved in learning new skills, planning and organizing new actions and working on an activity. The second period of brain growth takes place in the middle and back areas of the corpus callosum from age six to twelve. The most growth was in the areas of a child's brain involved in language skills and understanding relations in space. The scientists say it is during these quick growth periods that the brain is best able to learn. Scientists say the brain overproduces some cells when it grows. The new cells organize into networks based on the connections that are used in mental or physical activity. Cells and pathways used often form strong permanent connections. Those used least die out as the brain returns to its normal size.

Passage 088-婴儿被困废墟 4 天奇迹生还

Rescue crews in Nairobi (内罗毕) have pulled a live baby from the wreckage of an apartment building that collapsed last Friday.

Kenyan officials say the baby girl was found on Tuesday. She has no injuries, but needs food and water. Doctors are treating her for dehydration (脱水).

The girl was identified as Dealeryn Saisi Wasike. She is almost six months old. On Monday, a 1-year-old girl was found in the collapsed building. She was also unharmed, but dehydrated. Rescuers are still searching for other survivors. Officials say 23 people died in the apartment building collapse. 93 others were reported missing.

The building collapsed in Huruma, a crowded, poor neighborhood in Kenya's capital. The building fell down after heavy rains caused flooding and landslides (滑坡) in the area. Officials had already declared the building unsafe. It was unclear why apartment residents had not left it. Police detained (拘留) the two owners of the building, as well as several government officials, after it collapsed.

Last year, eight buildings in Kenya collapsed. The Architectural Society of Kenya estimates that half the buildings in the country do not meet rules for building safety.

Passage 089-可通过意念控制的假肢

It looks very natural when Gummi Olafsson moves his prosthetic leg (义肢). "It took me about 10 minutes to get control of it. I could stand up and just walk away." Olafsson says it feels as if he's moving it with his own muscles.

Last year, tiny sensors developed by the U.S.-based Alfred Mann Foundation were implanted in the muscle tissue left over when his lower right leg had to be removed ten years ago. "We put sensors into the muscles. They would pick up the signal, and then in fact the signals move their way into the prosthetics, and then the prosthetics react as your brain actually wants."

Implanted sensors have been used before, but Ingvarsson says this is the first time the amputee (截肢手术者) has been able to move the bionic (仿生学) leg without intensely focusing on the task. Olafsson says with practice he is increasingly getting better control of his artificial limb (人造肢体). "Every day you're learning more about how to walk properly with the foot, how to use it going downhill, uphill, downstairs, upstairs, even sitting down and standing up from a chair."

Passage 090-亚裔美国人的媒体地位偏弱

Clicking through the channels, you might not see many Asians reporting on the evening news, even though they're the fastest growing segment of the US population.

Juju Chang is one of only a handful of Asian-American news anchors (主持人), and she says it's due to a lack of diversity in top management.

"When I went on air at the network here, I was the only Asian-American and among the few women. And I'm sad to say that all these many years later, I think that we've gone a long way in terms of diversity in front of the camera, but I think we still have ways to go behind the scenes, especially in upper management."

Chang says it's important for minorities (少数人) to be involved when story ideas are approved.

"Until Asian-Americans get real attraction in that sense, you know, we're going to keep pressing our noses against the invisible window."

Asians make up only three percent of the broadcast workforce. Journalism Professor Angie Chuang says a cultural bias (偏见) may be to blame.

"The truth is that all kinds of psychological studies and employment studies have shown that we tend to favor or be more comfortable with people who are like us."

Passage 091-西班牙的智能城市

Santander is a port (港口) on the Northern Atlantic coast of Spain that spreads along a bay. Parking is easy to find.

As one car drives away, an underground sensor registers that a parking space is now free. Four hundred sensors send messages to signs at street intersections (路口), and GPS devices direct drivers to the nearest available parking spaces, reducing traffic congestion (拥堵).

A smart phone app makes the payment easy and eliminates the problem of finding coins to feed the meter (计费器). Most Santander businesses use scannable (可扫描的) barcodes in their windows to save their customers' time.

"When we are closed, they can find out about our opening hours, our products and where our other shops are. They can also learn about any sales and special offers we have."

In Santander, trash is collected only when the bins are full and bus stop signs show exactly when the next bus is coming. The public parks are watered only when the soil gets dry. All this is made possible by 20,000 sensors installed on buildings, street posts and even buses. They are part of the "smart city" project, launched by the University of Cantabria seven years ago.

University researchers regularly meet with locals to discuss how to make their city even smarter.

Passage 092-新装置为飞行员保驾护航

Two different physiological (生理的) situations can lead to a pilot's loss of consciousness, says Elbit Systems senior research and development director, retired fighter pilot Yaron Kranz. "One is G-LOC or G Loss of Consciousness, and the other one is hypoxia (缺氧) which is lack of oxygen to the brain."

G-LOC happens during sharp turns and high-speed accelerations, when centrifugal (离心的) force reduces the normal flow of blood to the pilot's brain. At that speed, loss of control of the aircraft proved fatal (致命的) for many pilots. Hypoxia, or lack of oxygen, can affect anyone at high altitudes (高空), which is why passenger planes are equipped with oxygen masks, deployed (应用) in case of loss of cabin pressure. Current devices for preventing these dangerous situations are bulky (笨重的) so Elbit Systems and a startup (新兴公司) called Life BEAM developed a system called Canary. It uses small, non-invasive (非侵入的) sensors built into the pilot's helmet (头盔).

"The pilot doesn't have to do anything in order to activate those sensors and they are small enough and wise enough to

give the information in order to gather the physiological data that is required.”

When the danger is imminent (危急的), the system flashes an alert message on the helmet's visor. If it senses that the pilot has lost consciousness, it signals the plane's computer to activate the autopilot (自动驾驶).

Passage 093-学习跳伞

Excitement fills the early morning air as you arrive at the little airport for your lesson in sport-parachuting. First, you learn to recognize and name each part of the parachute. You also learn what each part does.

The excitement builds as your teacher describes each step of the jump—from take-off to landing. He tells you what to do in an emergency. Again and again, he explains the need for safety.

By early afternoon, you have completed the schoolwork. Now it is time for your first jump. As you put on the equipment, you probably begin to think, “Do I really want to do this?” You are excited, of course, but a little afraid, too.

The teacher inspects your equipment. Nothing is loose. Nothing is broken. He asks you questions about safety. Finally, he smiles and says you are ready. Then you, two other students and the teacher climb into a small airplane. The pilot makes sure everyone is sitting down and that no one else is outside near the plane.

The plane's engine starts. The pilot moves the plane to the end of the runway. Moments later, you are climbing into the sky. The door of the plane has been taken off so you can get out more easily with all the parachute equipment. Without the door, the engine noise and the wind are very loud. Talking is almost impossible. So you sit there and think about everything you have learned. You go over each step for a successful and safe jump.

You try to put the fear out of your mind. While you are thinking, your teacher and the pilot are working. The teacher leans out the door, watching the ground far below. With one hand he points toward a spot in the sky above your landing area. When the teacher is satisfied that the plane is flying toward the right place, he shouts: “Jump-run!” This means you are getting close to the jump area. When the plane reaches it, your teacher tells the pilot: “Cut the engine!”

The pilot slows the plane's engine. Then the teacher points at you, and says: “Sit in the door!” Still fighting your fear, you sit in the doorway, with your legs outside the airplane. Then, you get the next command: “Climb out!” You reach out and hold the wing support.

When you have a good, tight hold with both hands, you slide out of the plane using its wheel as a step. When you reach the right position, you step off the wheel. Hanging by your hands, you look at your teacher and nod your head. You are ready and waiting for his final command. You look down at the ground, 900 meters below your feet. The wind from the plane's propeller (螺旋桨) feels heavy against your chest. Then your teacher shouts: “Go!”

You let go of the wing support and fall away from the plane.

Passage 094-人类需要柔软机器人

Many of today's robots resemble people—some only in parts while some are almost life-like. Others look like animals, from insects and fish to snakes and birds.

But most of them are hard-surfaced machines, designed to do heavy-duty work.

Soft robots, such as this cuddly (让人想拥抱的) baby seal (海豹) called Paro used to comfort the elderly in Japanese assisted living homes, are rare. But researchers at Carnegie Mellon University say we need more of them.

“Ten years ago, people were doing robotics; people were building robots. But people were more interested in building robots using rigid materials and strong materials and powerful machines.”

Since many robots have to interact with people, Yong-Lea Park and his colleagues say making robots softer will make them safer for humans.

Robotics professor Charles Atkeson says a robot's rigid structure could be covered with inflatable (可充气的) segments that could change shape as needed.

He says researchers were inspired by Baymax (大白), a robot in the popular Disney movie "Big Hero 6".

Passage 095-闰年

The month of February usually has 28 days. But this year, it has 29.

February has an extra day this year because the year is a "leap year". That means that one day is added to the calendar. That day is February twenty-ninth, also known as "leap day". Leap days were added to some years to make the calendar year nearly the same as the time it takes the Earth to travel around the sun.

That is exactly 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and a little over 45 seconds. The leap year was first used in the Julian Calendar 2,046 years ago. It was developed by the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar.

In the Julian calendar, each year contained twelve months and had an average of 365 and one-fourth days in a year. This was done by having three years of 365 days and one year of 366 days: a leap day every four years. However, after Julius Caesar died, it was discovered that the priests (神父) who wrote the yearly calendars had been adding leap days every three years instead of every four. As a result, no more leap days were added for many years.

By 1582, Pope Gregory the Thirteenth recognized that the calendar had too many leap days. If this continued, the seasons would start on different days each year. Over time, for example, this would cause the holiday of Easter to move closer and closer to Christmas. So Pope Gregory changed the calendar. It became known as the Gregorian Calendar. It is the one that is used most today.

Pope Gregory's calendar continued to have leap days every four years, with an exception. Years ending in zero zero were leap years only if they could be divided by 400. So this year is a leap year, but 1900 was not.

Passage 096-耐热玻璃餐具

The characteristic sound of putting the lid (盖子) on a Pyrex dish is recognizable to many, as it can be heard in kitchens all over the world.

Heat resistant glass was invented in Germany at the end of the 19th century, but was used mostly in lanterns (灯笼) and in jars to hold telegraph and telephone batteries (电池).

Its usefulness as cookware was discovered by accident. A scientist from the Corning Glass Works manufacturing company in New York brought to his wife a sawed-off (锯开的) battery jar made of the so-called borosilicate glass (硼硅酸盐玻璃), resistant to heat and mechanical abuse.

"She proceeded to bake a cake, a sponge cake, in this battery jar. And she discovered that the baking was much more efficient, and much more even (平和的) than baking in ceramic (瓷的) or metal was."

Kelley Elliott, of the Corning Museum of Glass says that when it finally appeared on the market in 1915, Pyrex dishware became an instant hit. At first, dishes were made of clear glass, but the company soon started offering it in colors popular at that time.

Passage 097-亚马逊无人机送货申请专利

According to the patent (专利) application published by the U.S. Patent Office, Amazon plans to use the Global Positioning System, or GPS, not only for deliveries to homes around the country, but directly to purchasers, wherever they may be.

Focusing on the location of the customer's mobile device, usually a smart phone, the drone (无人驾驶飞机) will be able to avoid both living things and inanimate (无生命的) obstacles, identify areas safe for landing and deliver the package within 30 minutes. For security reasons, the Federal Aviation (飞行器) Administration requires the drones in this experimental test period to remain within sight of their operators, which severely limits their reach.

Amazon is working on solutions, says Loretta Alkalay, from Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology in New

York, speaking by Skype.

“I think that they are going to have to work on those in parallel with advancing the new technology. So I don't see the security problems as being something that should stop the technology.”

Amazon is still not advertising the drone deliveries, but Alkalay is optimistic that they will happen. “I do think that in the reasonably foreseeable future they are going to start doing deliveries. We have already seen deliveries being done in disaster areas and remote areas. I think there is a huge demand for that type of delivery.”

There are still a number of concerns regarding possible collisions (碰撞) with various objects, as well as vandalism (故意破坏) and theft of the drones and goods, but Alkalay says the media has assumed incorrectly that deliveries would be made to people's front doors.

“If you think of a drone delivery perhaps to your rooftop, then you would have an opportunity to separate the pedestrian (行人) and the vehicular traffic, and at the same time separate it from air traffic.”

Alkalay says even though American homes are not set up for rooftop deliveries, it is possible that future homes will have special platforms for air deliveries of small merchandise.

Passage 098-木薯

Cassava is an important food in the diets of more than 500 million people in Africa, Asia and South America. However, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization notes that agricultural development policies often forget the importance of cassava. FAO officials organized a conference to prepare a plan of action to demonstrate the value of this food crop. Agricultural experts met late last month in Rome, Italy.

Thousands of years ago, people in South America grew cassava as a food crop. Portuguese explorers took the plant to Africa during the 16th century. Today, it is one of the most important crops in Africa. FAO officials say more than 116 million tons of cassava were grown worldwide last year.

They expect production to rise to almost 210 million tons in five years. Cassava is a root plant. It can live without water better than other root or cereal (谷类) crops. It is the most productive crop in poor soils. Cassava requires little fertilizer (肥料) or other chemicals. And it needs the least labor to grow. Farmers can harvest cassava anytime from eight to twenty-four months after planting.

Passage 099-女孩受教育权利

Romina Kola's family moved from a village in Albania, where the closest school was two hours away to the city of Shkodra so she could get an education.

“Many of my friends can't attend the school because of distance and poverty. Schools are too far away from the village where we live.”

What her parents didn't know was that by doing so, they kept her from being one of the sixty-two million girls around the world who were not in school.

Susan Markham, of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) says distance and risk of violence are only some of the barriers to a girl's education.

“Whether it's child marriage or economic pressures because of school fees, we want to address those.”

“A threat to girls' education anywhere is a threat to progress everywhere.”

The Obama administration has launched a campaign called “Let Girls Learn.”

First lady Michelle Obama went to Japan and Cambodia (柬埔寨) in March to promote it, along with Peace Corps director, Carrie Hessler-Radelet.

“The First lady is incredibly passionate about this topic. She looks at her own life and her husband's life, President Obama's life and they see how important education was in them achieving their life goals. And they want to make sure that

every girl has the same chance that they had.”

Peace Corps volunteers like these in Tirana, Albania will help implement the program in many countries.

These volunteers work mostly in remote areas, their initiatives (初步活动) include programs to promote gender equality and empower young women, says volunteer Mary Quandt.

“It is about starting a dialogue and increasing expectations of these girls. Let them know that they can achieve this and they can grow in their sense of self and their capabilities of leadership and experience. And as soon as you plant that seed in them, they are gonna nurture it and it’s gonna grow.”

USAID’s Susan Markham points out that educating girls benefits the entire society.

“Women who stay in school, young girls who stay in school till womanhood, are likely to be healthier. They are more likely to get married later, bear children later and they are more likely to keep their own kids in school for longer. So it has a great ripple effect (连锁效应) across the whole community.”

Passage 100-加拿大森林大火

A vast wild fire in the Canadian province of Alberta is continuing to rage out of control (失控). Three days on, the blaze (火焰) has grown in size defying (挑战) the efforts of firefighters with helicopters and air tankers to contain it. More than 80,000 people have already fled their homes in the Fort McMurry area and an emergency worker Chad Morrison says the flames are fueled by powerful winds.

“Late yesterday, the wild fire grew rapidly due to the increased winds. We had winds recorded on site (当地) up to 70 kilometers an hour. And those winds came from the northwest. The fire blew out to the southeast corner late last night. And hours late as the Premier said the fire was estimated to be 85,000 hectors (公顷).”

The Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told parliament it was the largest evacuation (撤离) in the province’s history. He said the footage (长度) of cars racing down highways as far as spread around them was nothing short of terrifying.