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Hope grows for deal to avoid U.S. tariffs on Mexican goods



Inside C2

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Trump says he is confident Mexico will enforce new immigration deal



A street vendor is seen among trucks waiting in queue for border customs control at the Otay border crossing in Tijuana

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday predicted Mexico would strongly enforce a new deal under which it agreed to expand a controversial asylum program and boost security on its southern border to stem Central American migrants trying to reach the United States.

The deal, announced on Friday after three days of negotiations in Washington, averted Trump's threatened imposition of 5% import tariffs on all Mexican goods starting on Monday.

"Mexico will try very hard, and if they do that, this will be a very successful agreement between the United States and Mexico," Trump wrote in a tweet on Saturday morning.

Trump deal with Mexico a win for 'hostage-taking': former WTO chief

The Trump administration believed the deal would "fix the immigration issue," U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Saturday in a Reuters interview on the sidelines of a G20 finance meeting in Fukuoka, Japan.

Mnuchin, however, warned that Trump retained the authority to impose tariffs if Mexico failed to enforce the new agreement.

Trump also tweeted on Saturday that Mexico would immediately begin buying "large quantities" of agricultural goods from U.S. farmers, who have been hit hard by his trade war with China and risked a new blow from Mexican retaliation if Trump had imposed tariffs.

It was not immediately clear whether Mexico made such a pledge. There was no mention of expanded Mexican purchases of U.S. agricultural products in the joint U.S.-Mexican declaration outlining the immigration deal.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump, a Republican, has made stemming illegal immigration a signature issue of his presidency. He has been frustrated by a surge through Mexico of Central American migrants seeking asylum in the United States.

Under the new deal, Mexico agreed to the immediate expansion along the entire border of a program under which the United States returns asylum-seeking migrants to Mexico to await adjudication of their cases.



An official of the National Migration Institute (INM) checks a passenger's ID at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Tapachula, in Chiapas state, Mexico June 7, 2019. REUTERS/Jose Torres

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G20 finance chiefs to warn of trade risks, differ on how 'pressing'

FUKUOKA, Japan (Reuters) - Global trade tensions threaten an expected pick-up in economic growth this year and in 2020, a draft communique by the world's financial leaders showed on Saturday, but the policymakers were divided on whether the need to resolve them was "pressing".

Finance ministers and central bank governors of the world's 20 biggest economies, the G20, are meeting in the southern Japanese city of Fukuoka to discuss the global economy amid rising trade tensions between China and the United States.

U.S. Treasury's Mnuchin says Trump-Xi meeting has parallels to Buenos Aires summi

"Global growth appears to be stabilizing and is generally projected to pick up moderately later this year and into 2020," the draft G20 communique, seen by Reuters, said.

"However ... risks remain tilted to the downside. These include, in particular, intensified trade and geo-political tensions," said the draft communique, which may yet change before it is released on Sunday. The draft statement, to which all the G20 financial leaders have to agree, contains a sentence in square brackets — which means it was not yet agreed — that trade and investment were important engines of growth.

"We reaffirm our leaders' conclusions on trade from the Buenos Aires Summit and recognize the pressing need to resolve trade tensions," the sentence still under discussion said.

If the sentence is dropped from the final statement, it would mean rowing back on an agreement reached by G20 leaders last year in Argentina that while the existing international trade system — the World Trade Organisation — needs improvement, it helps world growth and should be fixed.

US Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin (R, on podium) delivers a speech during the G20 Ministerial Symposium on International Taxation in the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Fukuoka on June 8, 2019. Toshifumi Kitamura/Pool via REUTERS

G20 leaders also agreed last December to review the WTO reform in Osaka later this month. But progress in overhauling the WTO, which still functions under rules created a quarter of a century ago, has been slow, partly because of U.S. actions to block appellate judge appointments.



Japan's Finance Minister Taro Aso poses next to IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda for a family photo during the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting, in Fukuoka



Haruhiko Kuroda, governor of the Bank of Japan (BOJ) is surrounded by his delegates during the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting in Fukuoka

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Editor's Choice



A sign left on a window saying 'Pink Floyd built a wall so why can't Trump' is seen during the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump in the County Clare village of Doonbeg



Men work inside a HL-2M Tokamak nuclear fusion reactor under construction in Chengdu



U.S. President Trump returns from overseas travel at the White House in Washington



Najila Trindade de Souza, who accuses Brazilian soccer player Neymar of rape, is carried by her lawyer Danilo Garcia de Andrade after giving testimony in a police station, in Sao Paulo



Soccer Football - Women's World Cup - Group A - France v Korea Republic - Parc des Princes, Paris, France - June 7, 2019 A France fan inside the stadium before the match REUTERS/Christian Hartmann TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A migrant from India registers to get his permission to cross the country at the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) in Tapachula



People take pictures as they visit a panda pavilion at the Moscow Zoo on a hot summer day in the capital Moscow, Russia June 7, 2019. REUTERS/Tatyana Makeyeva TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A graduating student listens as former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg delivers the Commencement Address at MIT in Cambridge

The Number of Overweight People In The U.S. Has Increased Significantly in Recent Years

Obesity Greatly Increases Risk Of Serious Disease And Early Death, Warn Researchers

Being obese is linked to a significantly higher chance of serious disease and early death than being a healthy weight, research on more than 2.8 million adults suggests.

The chance of suffering serious illness goes up with increasing weight gain, experts analysing health, death and sickness data from UK adults found.

How much does the risk increase as your BMI rises?

Presented at the European Congress on Obesity (ECO) in Glasgow, the study found that people with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 to 35 were at 70% higher risk of developing heart failure than their healthy weight peers.

Even a BMI of 25 to 30 increased the risk by 20%, while a BMI of 35 to 40 more than doubled the risk and a BMI of 40 to 45 almost quadrupled the risk compared to people of a normal weight.

The study also found that compared with normal weight individuals, a BMI of 25 to 30 increased the risk of Type 2 diabetes and sleep apnoea by more than double, while a person with a BMI of 30 to 35 was more than five times as likely to develop Type 2 diabetes and almost six times as likely to develop sleep apnoea.

For those with a BMI of 35 to 40, the risk of Type 2 diabetes was almost nine times higher, and 12 times higher for sleep apnoea.



People with severe obesity (BMI of 40 to 45) were 12 times more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes and had a risk of sleep apnoea that was 22 times greater.

The results also showed that increasing weight was linked to higher risk of high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat and dyslipidaemia (abnormal levels of cholesterol and other fats in the blood).

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Advertisement for 幸福新邨公寓 (Happy Village Apartments), listing amenities like '華人管理順心意' and '位於西南城中區'. Includes phone number (713) 771-5868.

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Drug Resistance Could Kill 10M People Per Year By 2050, Experts Say



(Illustration/S. Grillo/Axios)

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

Infectious disease experts agree with a dire scenario painted in the UN report posted earlier this week saying that, if nothing changes, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) could be "catastrophic" in its economic and death toll.

Threat level, per the report: By 2030, up to 24 million people could be forced into extreme poverty and annual economic damage could resemble that from the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, if pathogens continue becoming resistant to medications. By 2050, AMR could kill 10 million people per year, in its worst-case scenario.

"There is no time to wait. Unless the world acts urgently, antimicrobial resistance will have disastrous impact within a generation."

— per the report

What they're saying: Experts tell Axios action must be taken or the scenario will come true.

"Unfortunately, I think if we don't do anything differently, the estimates are absolutely realistic. ... Like global warming, the longer we delay action, the worse it's going to get."

— Amy Mathers, director, The Sink Lab at the University of Virginia

"If global action fails to stem the tide of AMR, a century of medical advancement will be irreparable, more people will fall into extreme poverty, [and] global health security will be imperiled."

— Tarik Jasarevic, spokesperson, World Health Organization

"We are currently losing the arms race against bacteria! ... Soon routine surgeries and treatments for diseases like cancer ... may become life-threatening and too risky to be implemented because of the probability of bacterial infections."

— Stéphane Mesnage, lecturer, The University of Sheffield



By the numbers: Currently, at least 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases, including 230,000 people from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, per the UN. Common diseases — like respiratory infections, STDs and urinary tract infections — are increasingly untreatable as the pathogens develop resistance to current medications.

•The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says AMR causes more than 23,000 deaths and 2 million illnesses in the U.S. annually.

•"In India, the CDC estimates that more than 58,000 babies under the age of 1 die every year of a drug-resistant pathogen," Mathers points out.

What needs to be done: Jasarevic says the economic and health systems of all nations must be considered, and targets made to increase investment in new medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines and other interventions.

1. The mindset around current antibiotics usage must be altered.

•"We need to think about antibiotics as a shared and finite resource," Mathers says. Usage to promote animal growth "must be eliminated" and doctors need to stop prescribing medicines "just in case" their patient needs it.

•Pamela Yeh, assistant professor at UCLA, agrees. "An enormous amount of antibiotics — around [roughly] 80% — used in this country [are] used in industrial agriculture. Not to make sick animals healthy, but to make healthier animals grow a little faster. ... There needs to be political will to stop using our few and precious antibiotics in these situations."

2. Incentives for companies to develop new antibiotics need to be fostered.

•"We need to think of antibiotics (developing and protecting them) as a public good — much like we invest in things like national parks, public libraries, roads, bridges, traffic lights," Yeh says.

•Mathers says the traditional drug manufacturing process doesn't work for public companies because investors prefer drugs that need to be taken regularly rather than ones with sporadic usage. She points to the case of Achaogen, a California biotech company that generated buzz when it won one of the few antibiotic approvals in recent years with Zemdri, but was recently forced to file for bankruptcy.



But: Some progress has been made.

•Some new antibiotics are proving to be life-saving, Mathers says, pointing to a new type of combination antibiotics that is "saving lives."

•Research continues, such as this study published today in the journal PLOS Pathogens that says they've figured out how the superbug Enterococcus faecalis is able to cause disease — it modifies a polysaccharide on its cell surface — although they're

still trying to figure out why the immune system doesn't recognize it. But, the discovery of this change "will allow the design of novel drugs targeting this process critical for the infection," study author Mesnage says.

•Antibiotic use in animal husbandry is slowly being tackled, although Mathers says "the reworking, cost and investment that will need to take place to overhaul the food chain is really enormous." Still, the FDA issued a 5-year plan to promote the proper use of antibiotics, and a group of companies and trade groups representing the entire food chain process recently agreed on a shared stewardship framework.

The bottom line: Action must be taken to avoid a catastrophic future. (Courtesy axios.com)

Related Growing antibiotic resistance is dire concern, health experts say



Better screening and increased drug research into new antibiotics and antiviral medications are greatly needed to head off what some health experts say could be a future in which there will be no effective medications to fight common infections like gonorrhea, syphilis, E. coli and staph.

Why it matters: Antimicrobial resistance is currently projected to be the number one killer by 2050 — "outpacing even cancer" — according to Amy Mathers, assistant professor at the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

The specter of increasingly drug-resistant diseases made news this week when CDC officials announced America reached a record high of new cases of sexually transmitted diseases. They also warned of increasing signs that one of the most common STDs, gonorrhea, is becoming more resistant to front-line antibiotics.

The threat: This disease has proven to be a "smart bug," developing resistance to multiple antibodies in the past, Elizabeth

Torrone, who leads surveillance and special studies for CDC's Division of STD Prevention, tells Axios.

•If left untreated, gonorrhea can cause infertility, miscarriages, chronic pain and blindness in newborns.

•Currently, there's one last antibiotic (ceftriaxone) that remains effective against the disease.

•It's often prescribed as a dual therapy, with a single shot of ceftriaxone plus an oral dose of a second antibiotic (azithromycin), in an attempt to preserve the ceftriaxone's effectiveness, Torrone says.

•CDC officials warned they recently found an uptick in the portion of lab samples showing resistance to azithromycin — from 1% in 2013 to 4% in 2017.



Despite being a small percentage, this is a concern because genes from the resistant strains could crossover with gonorrhea genes and reduce its susceptibility to ceftriaxone, Torrone says.

•In addition, 3 severely resistant cases found outside the U.S. this year are causing alarm.

•The WHO, which has a separate program to monitor this problem, continues to report growing resistance to multiple antibiotics in many countries.

What's needed is both better diagnostic testing and the development of new antibiotics, Mathers says. She says next-generation sequencing is where testing should head, so that physicians know which specific antibiotic is best to prescribe, instead of having the patient take multiple ones. Plus, she adds, this can help track antibiotic resistance more carefully.

This is a complicated problem," Mathers says. More antibiotic resistance research is needed not only in people, but also the role resistance plays in other areas like animal husbandry and wastewater. (Courtesy axios.com)

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