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Trump re-election campaign to deny credentials to Bloomberg News reporters



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# Southern DAILY

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## U.S.-China trade deal swaps tariff rollbacks for farm, energy purchases



WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Reuters) - The United States and China cooled their trade war on Friday, announcing a "Phase one" agreement that reduces some U.S. tariffs in exchange for increased Chinese purchases of American farm products and other goods.

Beijing has agreed to buy \$32 billion in additional agricultural goods over the next two years, U.S. officials said, from a baseline of \$24 billion purchased in 2017, before the trade war started. China would also ramp-up purchases of U.S. manufactured goods, energy, and services.

The United States would suspend tariffs on Chinese goods due to go into effect on Sunday, and reduce others, officials said. A deal is expected to be signed the first week of January in Washington by principal negotiators.

U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted Friday morning "We have agreed to a very large Phase One Deal with China." Officials in China have "agreed to many structural changes and massive purchases of Agricultural Product, Energy, and Manufactured Goods, plus much more," he said.

During a later news conference in the White House, Trump said he thought China would hit \$50 billion in agricultural purchases.

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China to buy additional \$32 billion in U.S. farm goods over two years, sign deal in January: USTR  
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In a press conference Friday night in Beijing, Chinese officials said the two countries have achieved major progress in their phase one trade negotiations, and agreed on the text of a deal, but offered no specific details on the amount of U.S. goods Beijing had agreed to buy.

The agreement was announced as the U.S. House Judiciary Committee voted in Washington to charge Trump with abuse of power and obstruction during an impeachment inquiry.

Some U.S. business groups hailed the deal as an end to uncertainty that's slowed global growth; critics questioned whether the trade war had been worth the job losses and drop in sales.

U.S. markets have gyrated on rumors and leaks about the trade deal in recent months, but were muted on Friday on news it had been agreed

#### CHINA AG BUYS

China has agreed to aim to purchase \$50 billion in farm products a year, Robert Lighthizer, the United States Trade Representative, told reporters at the White House on Friday.

To get there, Beijing has committed to buying \$16 billion more a year in farm products over the next two years, he said.

The United States has been pushing for the \$50 billion

figure after Trump said during an October 11 press conference that the two countries had agreed to a "Phase one" trade deal that included a "purchase of from \$40 (billion) to \$50 billion worth of agricultural products."

Beijing has since balked at committing to buy a specific amount of agricultural goods during a certain time frame, however. Chinese officials said they would like the discretion to buy based on market conditions.

China will import more U.S. wheat, corn, and rice after the deal, China's vice agricultural minister said Friday, but did not elaborate.

China has not been a major buyer of U.S. corn, wheat or rice in the past - though in recent years it has been the No. 3 or 4 buyer of one particular variety of wheat, U.S. spring wheat used for blending. China was a top 5 buyer of U.S. corn from 2011 to 2014 but has not been a major buyer since

Soybeans made up half of China's agricultural purchases in 2017. Demand has since cratered because the pig herds that eat it have been reduced by African swine fever.

Asked specifically about Trump's \$50 billion figure, officials in Beijing said Friday that details on value will be disclosed later.

Lighthizer didn't offer any details about Chinese commitments to import U.S. energy or other products.



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## Fate of global climate action 'in the balance' as U.N. talks go down to wire

MADRID (Reuters) - Big polluting countries faced last-ditch pressure from smaller nations on Friday to show serious commitment to averting catastrophic climate change as negotiators battled to salvage a result from a fraught U.N. summit in Madrid.

EU Executive Vice-President in charge of the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans poses with ministers and envoys from the High Ambition Coalition during the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid, Spain, December 13, 2019. REUTERS/Nacho Doce

With the final hours of the two-week gathering still mired in multiple interlocking disputes over how to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement on global warming, Chile, presiding over the talks, tried to inject a note of optimism.

"Today is the day when we must show the world that we are capable of delivering the agreements that are needed to tackle the unprecedented challenge before us," Andrés Landerretche, a Chilean official, told a news conference.

But observers said delegates were struggling to resolve the question of whether big emitters will signal their intent to raise their emissions-cutting targets next year, when the Paris deal enters a make-or-break implementation phase.

### RELATED COVERAGE

Australia's climate stance sparks anger at U.N. summit "The fate of the Paris Agreement is in the balance," said Andrew Norton, director of the International Institute for Environment and Development, a London-based think tank.

Fast-growing emerging economies such as China, India and Brazil are reluctant to commit themselves to unveiling new goals so soon, observers say, fearing they will end up paying the price of emissions cuts that should be borne by the rich.



EU Executive Vice-President in charge of the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans poses with ministers and envoys from the High Ambition Coalition during the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Ma-

The European Union, whose members, barring Poland, agreed to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at a summit in Brussels on Thursday, is pushing for a more ambitious statement of intent, along with many of the most vulnerable developing countries.

After two weeks of talks in Madrid, held after months of preparation, ministers were holed up in small groups attempting to break deadlocks over financial aid for states at

most risk from climate change, and rules governing carbon markets. Progress on those issues would help deliver the bigger prize: a clear statement from the gathering that governments are committed to honoring the Paris deal by imminently announcing more ambitious action to wean themselves off fossil fuels.

"There is a very big question on the commitment of the parties to the Paris Agreement," said Mohamed Nasr, chair of the Africa bloc of negotiators.

'25 YEARS OF TALKS'

With scientists warning that the window to prevent the Earth's climate hitting irreversible tipping points is fast closing, an increasingly strident activism movement says a strong signal from the summit is the only acceptable outcome.

"We've had 25 years of talks and the only thing that really matters is global emissions are still rising," said Tim Crosland, a prominent member of Extinction Rebellion, a civil disobedience campaign, after meeting officials at the talks.



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# Editor's Choice



Hunter Schafer and Cyndi Lauper walk the red carpet at the "Billboard Women in Music" event in Los Angeles



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidate Sanders is joined by U.S. Rep. Omar in Manchester



Police detain a protester outside Jamia Millia Islamia University during a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill in New Delhi



House Judiciary Committee votes on articles of impeachment against U.S. President Trump in Washington



British Columbia Premier John Horgan and Alberta Premier Jason Kenney are seen during a news conference after a meeting with Canada's provincial premiers in Toronto, Ontario, Canada December 2, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Osorio



Actor Lily James poses as she arrives at the Fashion Awards 2019 in London, Britain December 2, 2019. REUTERS/Lisi Niesner



Police detain a protester outside Jamia Millia Islamia University during a protest against the Citizenship Amendment Bill in New Delhi



Weapon of a Palestinian security man is seen as he guards during a rally in the southern Gaza Strip

SHANGHAI, Dec. 11 (Xinhua) -- Chinese tourists will travel to more overseas destinations during the Spring Festival holiday in 2020, said a report released by the country's largest online travel agency Trip.com Group.

Chinese tourists have booked trips to 419 overseas cities in over 100 countries and regions during the seven-day holiday beginning Jan. 24, 2020, said Trip.com, adding that both figures are new highs for the group.

Boasting warm weather, Australia and New Zealand are among the most popular destinations for Chinese during the period. Trips to Italy, Britain, Spain, Russia, France and the United Arab Emirates are also bestsellers, according to the report.



Ninety percent of Trip.com Group's users have chosen high-quality travel products and services. Private travel groups with tour guides and flexible schedules have also been favored by tourists.

The fact that Chinese are willing to spend more money and time on traveling shows their growing incomes and higher living standards, said Peng Liang, a researcher with the tourist data research center of Trip.com Group.

As more Chinese travel overseas for holidays, the world will also share the benefits of China's development, said Peng. Chinese made 6.3 million outbound trips during the Spring Festival holiday in 2019, up 12.48 percent year on year.

**Railway passengers to reach 440 mln in Spring Festival travel rush**  
BEIJING, Dec. 11 (Xinhua) -- Railway

## Chinese To Travel To More Overseas Destinations During 2020 Spring Festival Holiday



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

passengers in China are expected to hit 440 million during the Spring Festival travel rush, up 8 percent year on year, the China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. forecast Wednesday.



The upcoming holiday for the Spring Festival, a traditional festival for family reunions, will run from Jan. 24 to

30, while the travel rush, also known as "chunyun," will last for 40 days from Jan. 10 to Feb. 18.

To serve the rising demand before the festival, 5,275 pairs of trains will be put into operation every day with a capacity to handle 10.1 million passengers. Train tickets for the first day of the Spring Festival travel rush will be available next Thursday.

### Related Chinese version of "The Nutcracker" to be staged to celebrate Spring Festival

BEIJING, Dec. 9 (Xinhua) -- China's National Center for the Performing Arts will stage "The Chinese New Year," a localized version of the classic ballet "The Nutcracker," between Jan. 17 and 19 in Beijing to celebrate the Spring Festival.



The ballet, featuring a long scroll of Chinese festival customs, will be presented by the National Ballet of China.

In the Chinese version of "The Nutcracker," the setting is changed to a residence in a Beijing hutong, or alleyway, on the eve of the Spring Festival. The ballet tells the story of a girl Yuanyuan, who embarks on a mystical journey, with a nutcracker, her New Year gift.

The Spring Festival, or Chinese Lunar

New Year, falls on Jan. 25 next year. **Spring Festival gala to be staged in Houston**

HOUSTON, Dec. 7 (Xinhua) -- A Spring Festival gala is going to be staged in Houston, the fourth largest U.S. city, on Jan. 11, 2020, the organizer said at a press briefing on Saturday.

The gala, to be performed by artists from the Greater Houston Area, will be the largest of its kind in Houston.



Deputy Chinese Consul General in Houston Liu Hongmei said at the briefing that the gala will be "a good way to showcase traditional Chinese culture, as well as to express the thoughts on the beloved hometown and the good wishes to the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year."

According to the organizer, the gala will feature singing, dancing and traditional instrument playing. Several local art groups will also participate in the performance. (Courtesy <http://www.xinhuanet.com/>)

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**Misinformation Haunts 2020 Primaries**



(Illustration/Grillo/Axios)

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

Despite broad efforts to crack down on misinformation ahead of the 2020 election, the primary season so far has been chock full of deceptive messages and misleading information.

**Why it matters:** More sophisticated tactics that have emerged since 2016 threaten to derail the democratic process by further polluting online debate. And the seemingly unending influx of fakery could plant enough suspicion and cynicism to throw an otherwise legitimate election into question.

**The big picture:** Social media platforms, which host the greatest volume of misinformation, have gotten wise to basic techniques used in previous elections, and now regularly take down swaths of accounts they say are fake or meddling.

In response, trolls both foreign and domestic have developed new attacks.

But plenty of simple bots that appear to be foreign controlled still slip through the companies' automated sieves, experts say, further endangering the already-precious coming elections.

And the playing field has grown. "Far more people have gotten the idea that you can throw a U.S. election by trolling," says Ben Nimmo, a misinformation

expert at the Atlantic Council.



**Driving the news:** Kamala Harris and Joe Biden were the most frequent targets of misinformation during and immediately after the most recent Democratic debates, according to a new report from VineSight, a company tracking Twitter activity.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal reported that bot-like activity pushed racially divisive content, especially about Harris, during the Democratic debates, citing data from social intelligence company Storyful.

**Some of the most important shifts and tactics:**

1. Smarter bots: Bad actors are relying less on phalanxes of bots known as botnets, instead creating convincing fakes to manipulate humans into doing the dirty work for them.

Bots today are more likely to mimic humans by hacking real accounts, aping human behavior or targeting people with

lots of followers who can easily disseminate false or misleading information.

A lot of this happens on Twitter, because that's where journalists, experts and politicians hang out. "The impact of coordinated campaigns and bots on Twitter is first and foremost to set the news agenda," says Matthew Hindman, a professor at George Washington University. "Setting the agenda is hugely powerful."

2. Audience building: Rather than churn out short-lived fake accounts that spread misinformation but are quickly shut down, sophisticated players build pages and accounts that post engaging non-political content just to build a following.



A large group of trusting followers is more likely to spread a well-timed meme or political message snuck in between anodyne posts.

3. Shift from foreign to domestic: Influence from overseas, particularly Russia, has remained a central concern for government watchdogs — but misinformation is coming from other countries and inside the U.S., too.

False rumors about Mayor Pete Buttigieg committing sexual assault, for example, were created by two American white nationalists. And last week, Yahoo News obtained an FBI document warning that conspiracy theories are a new domestic terrorism threat.

Homegrown players range from troublemakers on internet message boards to high-profile consultants.

4. Shift in focus to obscure platforms: Facebook and Twitter have sucked up most of the attention since 2016, but fringe sites like 4chan and 8chan, plus niche blogs and pages, are breeding grounds for misinformation, and largely outside the public eye.

5. Targeting individual influencers: The rumormongers' holy grail is to get a

mainstream journalist or celebrity to amplify misinformation. Tailored messages over Twitter DMs or emails can help win their trust, Nimmo says.

6. Distorting candidates' backgrounds: Newer candidates, still relatively unknown to the public, are having their pasts picked apart and misrepresented — a new spin on the racist "birther" attacks on President Obama's background.



Harris has been a particular target for misinformation.

Rep. Beto O'Rourke weathered false claims that he left racist language on an answering machine in the 1990s, per Politico.

7. Shift in focus on mainstream media: Even traditional outlets, with their large followings, have been caught spread-

ing misinformation. Fox News hosts have recently been accused of peddling conspiracy theories about Joe Biden's health. And most major outlets, including The New York Times, have cited Russian troll accounts in news and opinion pieces, according to a study from UW Madison.

8. Deepfakes: The potential for a manipulated video to create chaos for voters became clear after an edited clip of Nancy Pelosi went viral earlier this year. That wasn't a deepfake — those sophisticated AI-manipulated videos haven't shown up in the U.S. political sphere yet, but experts worry they will soon. Most campaigns, however, are largely unprepared for the threat.

But, but, but: Despite the increasingly sophisticated tactics, some of the kludgy methods used in past election campaigns persist undetected.

"There's still an enormous amount of very crude obviously fake accounts on pretty much every platform," says Hindman. (Courtesy axios.com)

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