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China backtracked on almost all aspects of U.S. trade deal



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## Trump 'happy' to keep tariffs on Chinese goods; Beijing threatens retaliation

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he would be happy to keep tariffs on Chinese imports, prompting Beijing to threaten retaliation, as the world's two largest economies prepared to resume talks to end a trade war that has roiled global supply chains and financial markets. The United States and China have locked horns over trade since last year, when the Trump administration slapped levies on billions of dollars worth of Chinese goods and demanded the Asian nation adopt policy changes that would, among other things, make China's market more accessible to U.S. companies. Beijing has responded in kind with its own tariffs on a range of U.S. goods including soybeans and pork products. While expectations have mounted that the two sides appeared to be nearing a deal, relations have soured in recent days.

Reuters, citing U.S. government and private-sector sources, reported on Wednesday that China late last week had backtracked on almost all aspects of a draft trade agreement, threatening to blow up the negotiations.

China to retaliate if U.S. raises tariffs as planned: commerce ministry  
U.S. to hike tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports: Federal Register

Trump, who has embraced largely protectionist policies as part of his "America First" agenda, warned China on Wednesday that it was mistaken if it hoped to delay a trade deal until a Democrat controlled the White House.



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# China backtracked on almost all aspects of U.S. trade deal

WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Reuters) - The diplomatic cable from Beijing arrived in Washington late on Friday night, with systematic edits to a nearly 150-page draft trade agreement that would blow up months of negotiations between the world's two largest economies, according to three U.S. government sources and three private sector sources briefed on the talks.

The document was riddled with reversals by China that undermined core U.S. demands, the sources told Reuters.

In each of the seven chapters of the draft trade deal, China had deleted its commitments to change laws to resolve core complaints that caused the United States to launch a trade war: Theft of U.S. intellectual property and trade secrets; forced technology transfers; competition policy; access to financial services; and currency manipulation.

U.S. President Donald Trump responded in a tweet on Sunday vowing to raise tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods from 10 to 25 percent on Friday – timed to land in the middle of a scheduled visit by China's Vice Premier Liu He to Washington to continue trade talks.

The United States said on Wednesday the higher tariffs would go into effect on Friday, according to a notice posted on the Federal Register. Trump said on Wednesday that China is mistaken if it hopes to negotiate trade later with a Democratic presidential administration. “The reason for the China pullback & attempted renegotiation of the Trade Deal is the sincere HOPE that they will be able to ‘negotiate’ with Joe Biden or one of the very weak Democrats,” Trump tweeted. Trump also said he would be happy to keep tariffs on Chinese imports in place.

The stripping of binding legal language from the draft struck directly at the highest priority of U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer - who views changes to Chinese laws as essential to verifying compliance after years of

what U.S. officials have called empty reform promises.

Lighthizer has pushed hard for an enforcement regime more like those used for punitive economic sanctions – such as those imposed on North Korea or Iran – than a typical trade deal. “This undermines the core architecture of the deal,” said a Washington-based source with knowledge of the talks.

Spokespeople for the White House, the U.S. Trade Representative and the U.S. Treasury Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a briefing on Wednesday that working out disagreements over trade was a “process of negotiation” and that China was not “avoiding problems”.

Geng referred specific questions on the trade talks to the Commerce Ministry, which did not respond immediately to faxed questions from Reuters. Lighthizer and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin were taken aback at the extent of the changes in the draft. The two cabinet officials on Monday told reporters that Chinese backtracking had prompted Trump's tariff order but did not provide details on the depth and breadth of the revisions.

Liu last week told Lighthizer and Mnuchin that they needed to trust China to fulfill its pledges through administrative and regulatory changes, two of the sources said. Both Mnuchin and Lighthizer considered that unacceptable, given China's history of failing to fulfill reform pledges. One private-sector source briefed on the talks said the last round of negotiations had gone very poorly because “China got greedy.”

“China reneged on a dozen things, if not more ... The talks were so bad that the real surprise is that it took Trump until Sunday to blow up,” the source said.

“After 20 years of having their way with the U.S., China still appears to be miscalculating with this administration.”

**FURTHER TALKS THIS WEEK**  
The rapid deterioration of negotiations rattled global stock markets, bonds and commodities this week. Until Sunday, markets had priced in the expectation that officials from the two countries were close to striking a deal.

Investors and analysts questioned whether Trump's tweet was a negotiating ploy to wring more concessions from China. The sources told Reuters the extent of the setbacks in the revised text were serious and that Trump's response was not merely a negotiating strategy. On Wednesday morning, U.S. stock market indexes were mostly weaker again, pointing to a third straight day of losses on Wall Street. The S&P 500 has fallen more than 2 percent so far this week. Yields on benchmark U.S. Treasury securities fell to the lowest in more than a month.

Chinese negotiators said they couldn't touch the laws, said one of the government sources, calling the changes “major.” Changing any law in China requires a unique set of processes that can't be navigated quickly, said a Chinese official familiar with the talks. The official disputed the assertion that China was backtracking on its promises, adding that U.S. demands were becoming more “harsh” and the path to a deal more “narrow” as the negotiations drag on. Liu is set to arrive in Washington on Thursday for two days of talks that just last week were widely seen as pivotal – a possible last round before a historic trade deal. Now, U.S. officials have little hope that Liu will come bearing any offer that can get talks back on track, said two of the sources. To avert escalation, some of the sources said, Liu would have to scrap China's proposed text changes and agree to make new laws. China would also have to move further toward the U.S. position on other sticking points, such as demands for curbs on Chinese industrial subsidies and a streamlined approval process for genetically engineered U.S. crops.

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

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**Editor's Choice**



A woman casts her ballot during South Africa’s parliamentary and provincial elections, in Khayelitsha township near Cape Town, South Africa



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S., May 8, 2019. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A woman who identified herself as “Donna J. Trump” protests Georgia’s anti-abortion “heart-beat” bill at the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S., May 7, 2019. REUTERS/Elijah Nouvelage TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Britain’s Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex with their baby son at Windsor Castle



Su-34 military fighter jets fly in formation during a rehearsal for the Victory Day parade in Moscow



Japan’s Emperor Naruhito attends a ritual called Kenji-to-Shokei-no-gi, a ceremony for inheriting the imperial regalia and seals, at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo



Britain’s Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, launch the King’s Cup Regatta in London

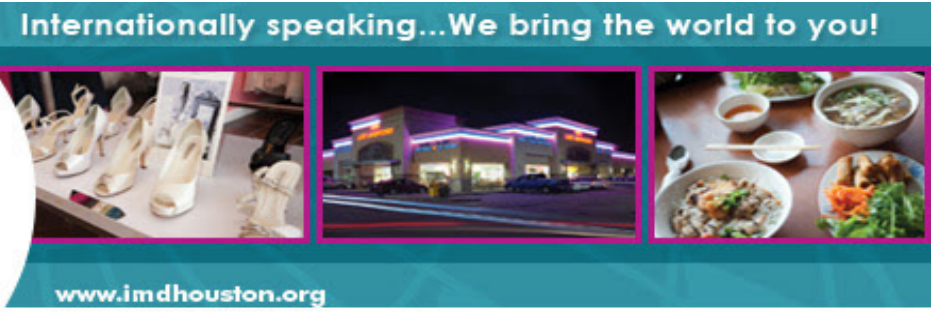


Police officers detain a demonstrator during a protest after a panel of judges dismissed a sexual harassment complaint against Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, outside Supreme Court in New Delhi



An Open Invitation

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



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T4T is for emerging and seasoned leaders, residents who have been involved in community building OR individuals who work for an organization that supports community development. T4T participants must be able to attend 5 monthly learning sessions, connect to a coaching partner between sessions, co-facilitate another leadership training session (Leading Together), and commit to teaching other leaders after they graduate the program. See the program flyer for more information. (Go to <https://files.constantcontact.com/867888f4101f786fe1c8aa9-4f7d-9ccd-bdba15b83325.pdf> for a copy of the flyer.)  
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Applications to the program are due April 30th and can be submitted electronically by completing the application (see above link). Please share this link and flyer with those individuals you wish to nominate. Candidates will be interviewed and se-

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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 lost, damage to the environment 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 antibiotic 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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