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China says U.S. policies are causing existential damage



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Trump and Xi to meet after defiant China hits U.S. with new tariffs

WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he would meet Chinese President Xi Jinping next month as the trade war between the world's two largest economies intensified, sending shivers through global markets.

China announced earlier it would impose higher tariffs on a range of U.S. goods, including frozen vegetables and liquefied natural gas, a move that followed Washington's decision last week to hike its own levies on \$200 billion in Chinese imports.

The U.S. Trade Representative's office said later it planned to hold a public hearing next month on the possibility of raising duties of up to 25% on a further \$300 billion worth of imports from China. Cellphones and laptops would be included in that list but pharmaceuticals would be excluded, the office said.

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Trump says no decision yet on levying tariffs on more Chinese goods
China says U.S. policies are causing existential damage to the WTO
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The prospect that the United States and China were spiraling into a no-holds-barred dispute that could derail the global economy has rattled investors and led to a sharp selloff on equities markets in the past week.

A gauge of global stocks shed a further 1.9% on Monday, its biggest one-day drop in more than five months. China's yuan currency fell to its lowest level since December and oil futures slumped.

Trump, who has embraced protectionism as part of an "America First" agenda, said he would talk to Xi at a G20 summit in late June.

"Maybe something will happen," Trump said in remarks at the White House. "We're going to be meeting, as you know, at the G20 in Japan and that'll be, I think, probably a very fruitful meeting."

The Chinese government's top diplomat, State Councilor Wang Yi, said during a trip to Russia that China-U.S. talks were not a "one-way street" and needed to be conducted on the basis of equality, according to China's Foreign Ministry.

"Both countries' negotiating teams have the ability and wisdom to resolve each other's reasonable demands, and in the end reach a mutually beneficial, win-win agreement," he said.

The comment period on the planned new tranche of U.S. duties - which covers 3,805 product categories - is much shorter than in previous rounds and could potentially leave Trump in a position to trigger those tariffs by the time he meets Xi.

U.S. President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping meet business leaders at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, November 9, 2017. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj/File Photo - RC1E974F0B70

U.S. farmers are among those most hurt by the trade war, with soybean sales to China plummeting and U.S. soybean futures hitting their lowest level in a decade. Trump said on Monday his administration was planning to provide about \$15 billion to help farmers whose products might be targeted.

Farmers, who are a core political constituency for Trump's Republicans heading into the 2020 presidential and congressional elections, are growing increasingly frustrated with the protracted trade talks and the failure to reach an agreement.

"What that means for soybean growers is that we're losing," Davie Stephens, president of the American Soybean Association, said in a statement. China said on Monday it planned to set import tariffs ranging from 5% to 25% on 5,140 U.S. products on a \$60 billion target list. It said the tariffs would take effect on June 1.



U.S. President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping meet business leaders at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, November 9, 2017. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj/File Photo - RC1E974F0B70

"China's adjustment on additional tariffs is a response to U.S. unilateralism and protectionism," its finance ministry said. "China hopes the U.S. will get back to the right track of bilateral trade and economic consultations and meet with China halfway."

In the middle of the negotiations last week, Trump hiked tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods to 25% from 10%. The move affected 5,700 categories of Chinese products, including internet modems and routers.

Sources have said talks stalled after China tried to delete commitments from a draft agreement that its laws would be changed to enact new policies on issues from intellectual property protection to forced technology transfers.

Beijing said on Monday it would never surrender to external pressure. Its state media kept up a steady drum beat of strongly worded commentary, reiterating that the door to talks was always open but vowing that China would defend its national interests and dignity.

State television said in a commentary the effect of the U.S. tariffs on the Chinese economy was "totally controllable."

Trump has said he is in no rush to finalize a deal with China. He again defended the move to hike U.S. tariffs and said there was no reason why American consumers would pay the costs. Economists and industry consultants, however, maintain that it is U.S. businesses that will pay the costs and likely pass them on to consumers. U.S. tariffs last year triggered retaliation by China, which imposed 25% levies on \$50 billion worth of U.S. products including soybeans, beef and pork and lower tariffs on a list of \$60 billion in goods.

Goldman Sachs economists said in a research note new evidence showed the costs of Washington's tariffs on China last year had fallen entirely on U.S. businesses and households, with no clear reduction in prices charged by Chinese exporters.

They said the effects of the tariffs had spilled over noticeably to the prices charged by U.S. producers competing with goods affected by the levies.

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Global finance officials say risks to growth skewed to downside

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Global financial officials on Saturday said risks to worldwide economic growth were “tilted to the downside” due to factors such as trade tensions, policy uncertainty and the sudden tightening of financial conditions.

The higher risks are presenting themselves against a backdrop of limited policy space, historically high debt levels and heightened financial vulnerabilities, officials said in the joint communique of the International Monetary Fund’s steering committee.

The statement from the International Monetary and Financial Committee, or IMFC, was released at the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington. Earlier this week, the IMF cut its global growth outlook for the third time in six months.

IMF chief calls for central bank accountability, communication

The world economy will likely grow 3.3 percent this year, the slowest expansion since 2016 and 0.2 percentage points below the global lender’s estimate from January.

The IMFC urged the world’s central banks to form monetary policy aimed at ensuring that inflation remains on track toward targets and that expectations for price increases remain anchored. “Central bank decisions need to remain well communicated and data-dependent,” it said.

The committee also said fiscal policy should be flexible and growth-friendly, but should be mindful of debt sustainability.

Growth is projected to firm up in 2020, it said.

In Europe, many of the global factors weighing on growth appear to be waning, keeping alive

expectations for a recovery in the second half of the year, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi said.

But he also warned that factors that undermine confidence, including the risk of a hard Brexit and a global trade war, continue to “loom large,” putting growth at risk.

Elevated trade tensions have been a central talking point at the IMF and World Bank meetings this week and have been widely cited as a primary driver behind the weakening of the global economy.

Earlier, China took a swipe at U.S. President Donald Trump’s “America First” policies that have sparked a trade dispute between the world’s two largest economies, including tit-for-tat tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of goods.

“The protectionism of some countries has harmed mutual trust among countries, limited the scope for multilateral cooperation, and impeded the willingness to achieve it,” Chen Yulu, a vice governor at the People’s Bank of China (PBOC), said in a statement to the IMFC.

“Unilateralism and protectionism can only exacerbate domestic imbalances and impair necessary structural adjustments, which can negatively affect the countries concerned as well as global growth,” he said.



Central bank governors and other global finance officials sit for a group photo at the IMF and World Bank’s 2019 Annual Spring Meetings, in Washington, REUTERS/James Lawler Duggan

China says U.S. policies are causing existential damage to the WTO

GENEVA (Reuters) - China said on Monday U.S. policies are threatening the existence of the World Trade Organization, setting out a string of grievances in a WTO “reform proposal” published by the WTO on its website.

Since entering office, Trump has taken a tough line on the WTO, accusing it of unfairly penalizing U.S. trade while being soft on China, which was a far smaller economy when it joined the WTO in 2001.

He has threatened U.S. withdrawal unless the WTO can “shape up” and has blocked judicial

appointments at the WTO’s Appellate Body, effectively the supreme court of world trade, meaning that trade disputes could go into legal limbo from December.

China did not name the United States in the document, but referred to the block on the appointment of WTO appeals judges and “national security” tariffs on aluminum, steel and cars, policies uniquely associated with Washington.

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Editor's Choice



The motorcade of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un leaves following his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump during the second U.S.-North Korea summit in Hanoi, Vietnam



U.S. President Donald Trump departs after speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) annual meeting at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) annual meeting at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland



Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva arrives at the headquarters where he is serving a prison sentence after attending the funeral of his 7-year-old grandson, in Curitiba



U.S. Presidential Candidate and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders speaks at a rally in New York



Supporters watch as U.S. Presidential Candidate and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders arrives for a rally in New York



Models present creations by designer Nadege Vanhee-Cybulski as part of her Fall/Winter 2019-2020 women's ready-to-wear collection show for fashion house Hermes during Paris Fashion Week in Paris, France, REUTERS/Stephane Mahe



Chester, PA, USA; Philadelphia Union forward Fafa Picault (9) chases a loose ball against Toronto FC during the first half at Talen Energy Stadium. Mandatory Credit: Bill Streicher-USA TODAY Sports



HCC Names Dr. Megan Palsa Associate Vice Chancellor of Communications and Marketing

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

HOUSTON (May 6, 2019) – Houston Community College (HCC) has named Megan Palsa, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor (AVC) of Communications and Marketing. HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E., reintroduced and welcomed her at last Wednesday’s Board of Trustees meeting at HCC’s Administration Building, 3100 Main. Since Dr. Palsa started her position in April, Dr. Maldonado said her years of experience in marketing, public relations and communications, as well as creating diverse teams, are already greatly benefiting HCC. “As a proven leader in higher education, Dr. Palsa has the perfect combination of skills required to be successful in the associate vice chancellor position,” said Dr. Maldonado of the transplant from Texas A&M University. “We are already seeing the new ideas and positive energy she is bringing to her role.”



Dr. Megan Palsa Named HCC Associate Vice Chancellor of Communications and Marketing
Dr. Palsa credits the existing HCC Communications Department for a smooth

transition into her role. “I’m honored to be part of the college and community,” said Dr. Palsa. “The communications and marketing team at HCC is dynamic, energetic and creative. I’m looking forward to working with everyone.” With 20 years of leadership experience before arriving at HCC, Dr. Palsa’s most recent role was that of Executive Director of Communications, Media & Public Relations at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. Before that, she served in director and associate director roles in the Office of Graduate Studies and the Department of Multicultural Services at Texas A&M. Dr. Palsa also served as Director of Marketing for the Dallas County Community College District. She received her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. Dr. Palsa was selected following a national search process by an advisory committee comprising of HCC faculty and administrators. “The dedication of faculty and administrator representatives on the committee was instrumental in establishing a pool of highly qualified finalists,” said Dr. Maldonado. “I want to thank the committee members for their service.”



HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado
Chancellor Maldonado also celebrated the “stellar work” of Dr. Michael Ed-

wards as interim AVC of Marketing and Communications during the search process. “Please join me in thanking Dr. Edwards for his service to Houston Community College, said Dr. Maldonado. “His long-standing dedication to HCC will continue as Executive Director of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.” The Chancellor added that he believes Dr. Palsa’s creative energy and leadership will elevate Houston Community College to an even greater level of success. “The entire HCC family has never been in a better position to set the national tone for my main priority—student success,” said Dr. Maldonado. ABOUT HCC Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 15 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country’s largest singly accredited, open-admission community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit hccs.edu

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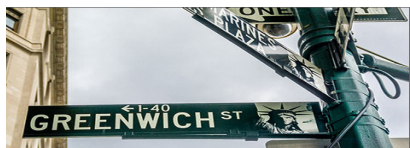
5G Signal Could Jam Satellites That Provide Weather Forecasting



Forecasters may no longer be able to predict and warn against storms which last year dumped heavy snow on cities on the East Coast of the U.S. (Photo/ Humphreys/PA)

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

The introduction of 5G mobile phone networks could seriously affect weather forecasters' ability to predict major storms. That is the stark warning of meteorologists around the world, who say the next-generation wireless system now being rolled out across the globe is likely to disrupt the delicate satellite instruments they use to monitor changes in the atmosphere. The result will be impaired forecasts, poorer warnings about major storms, and loss of life, they say. "The way 5G is being introduced could seriously compromise our ability to forecast major storms," said Tony McNally of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts in Reading, Pennsylvania. "In the end it could make the difference between life and death. We are very concerned about this."



5G boxes are being attached to street signs across America.

The crisis facing the world's meteorologists stems from the fact that the radio frequencies the new 5G networks will use could contaminate critical Earth observations made by weather satellites. Instruments onboard the satellites peer down into the atmosphere and study variables such as water vapour, rain, snow, cloud cover and ice content – all crucial factors that influence our weather. One example is the 23.8 gigahertz (GHz) frequency. Water vapor emits a faint signal at this specific natural wavelength, and this data is monitored and measured by weather

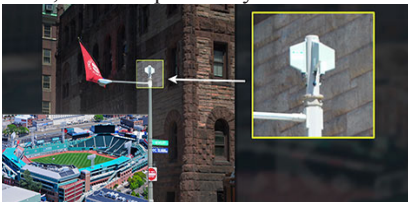
satellites. Forecasters then use this information to work out how a storm or weather system is likely to develop. Such data is critical to our ability to make forecasts," said Niels Bormann, also of the Reading weather centre. "They are a unique natural resource, and if we lose this capability, weather forecasts will get significantly worse."



A 5G box attached to a pole on the Las Vegas Strip, just one block from Caesar's Palace.

The problem is that some 5G phone networks may transmit near a frequency similar to that emitted by water vapor, and so would produce a signal that looks very like the presence of water vapor in the atmosphere. "We would not be able to tell the difference and so would have to discard that data," added Bormann. "That would seriously compromise our ability to make accurate forecasts."

The urgency of the problem is underlined by the fact that US Federal Communications Commission and similar agencies in other countries have already started to auction off frequencies close to the 23.8 GHz frequency to future 5G network providers. In addition, other bands that are used to probe our weather include the 36-37 GHz band, which is used to study rain and snow; the 50 GHz band, which is used to measure atmospheric temperature; and the 86-92 GHz band, which helps to analyze cloud and ice.



A 5G box high on a pole near Boston's Fenway Park.

All these contain sections of waveband that are being auctioned off in the US. It remains to be seen if other nations will follow suit and sell these frequencies in their own coun-

tries over coming months. The issue is set to be debated at a global conference in Egypt later this year.

Forecasters say the US move has already compromised their ability to collect data, and promise to lobby other nations to limit use of crucial frequencies to preserve their ability to provide accurate forecasts. They accuse phone operators of ransacking the radio spectrum for wavelengths to exploit, and regulators of failing to protect the natural frequencies vital for Earth observation from space.

"The more we lose, the greater the impact will be," states meteorologist Jordan Gerth of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in the current issue of Nature. "This is a global problem." (Courtesy <https://www.theguardian.com>)

Related 5G Health Effects: Dangers Of New Wireless Technology



5G, the next-generation mobile wireless technology, will create the always-on, always-connected wireless world long-sought by the wide-eyed champions of this technology. It will infuse billions of connected devices, which will ceaselessly emit and receive wireless signals as they work to satisfy users all around the world.

The electromagnetic radiation from the hundreds of billions of 5G-connected devices will bombard the entire planet and most every human on it every second of every day. And herein lies the problem, say critics of 5G concerned about the health hazards of this new technology. 5G is a health risk, they contend, and a mounting number of studies seem to prove this point.

This new tech took its biggest leap forward in April when South Korea proudly boasted to the world that it had become the first country to deploy a nationwide 5G network. Samsung then revealed the world's first 5G mobilephone, the Samsung Galaxy S10 5G.

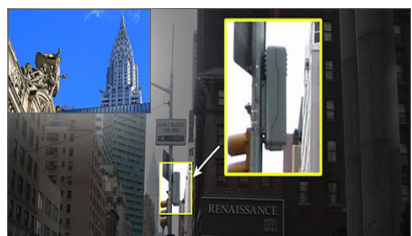


The United States plans to roll out nationwide 5G networks over the next few years. China wants to beat the U.S. to this landmark while the 27 countries in the European Union will deploy the tech by the next decade.

5G will be everywhere by the 2020s, and so will be its health dangers. For a start, getting 5G to become ubiquitous will mean building new cell towers, millions and millions of them. These towers bring with them all the health risks associated with overexposure to electromagnetic radiation.

The preliminary results of a the \$25 million National Toxicology Program study released in 2016 found a link between cell phone radiation and cancer. It also found an increased risk of radiation exposure beyond what's deemed safe by the U.S. government.

Critics of 5G and its health dangers admit a lot of research needs to be done before they can definitely say cell phone radiation causes cancer. But the question they pose is: "Should humans be guinea pigs in the meantime?"



A 5G box attached to a lamp pole at the corner of East 57th Street, close to Times Square in New York City.

"I don't think it's clear that there are health risks, but it's also not clear that there are no health risks," said Dr Leeka Kheifets, PhD, an epidemiology professor at UCLA. According to a 2018 study published in the journal Health Physics, extremely fast bursts of data transfers on a device as the result of 5G technology might lead to the heating of skin tissue in exposed people under current safety guidelines. (Courtesy <https://www.medicaldaily.com>)

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