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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Thursday, Octomber 06 2022|

Inside C2

Putin finalises ‘annexation’ in Ukraine even as troops flee front

LYMAN/BILA TSERKVA, Ukraine, Oct 5 (Reuters) - President Vladimir Putin signed a law to incorporate four partially occupied Ukrainian regions into Russia on Wednesday, in what Kyiv called the act of a “collective madhouse” at a time when Russia’s forces have been fleeing from the front lines.

The new law would incorporate around 18% of Ukraine’s territory into Russia, equivalent to the area of Portugal, in Europe’s biggest annexation since World War Two. Russia does not fully control any of the four provinces it claims to have annexed, however, and Moscow has yet to demarcate what it now asserts to be Russia’s new borders.

Ukrainian forces have recaptured thousands of square miles of territory since the start of September, including dozens of settlements in just the past few days.

A map of Russia’s “new regions” published by state news agency RIA included the full territory of the Ukrainian provinces, but some parts were shaded and labelled as being under Ukrainian military control.



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“They will be with Russia forever,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said of the new regions, adding that settlements recaptured by Ukraine in recent days “will be returned”.

Russia announced the annexation of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces after staging referendums that Kyiv and the West say were phoney exercises held at gunpoint. Kyiv says it will never accept the illegal seizure of its territory by force.

Serhiy Gaidai, the governor of Luhansk, told national television that pro-Kyiv forces had liberated six villages in his region on Wednesday. He declined to give details.

BODIES IN TREES
The Russian moves come as momentum in the war has clearly swung in Ukraine’s favour since the start of September.

Thousands of Russian troops fled their positions after the front line crumbled, first in the northeast, and, since the start of this week, also in the south.

“Worthless decisions by a terrorist country are not worth the paper they are signed on,” Andriy Yermak, head of Ukraine’s presidential office, said on Telegram of the annexation

moves, which he said reminded him of a “collective madhouse”.

Putin celebrated the annexations in a ceremony in the Kremlin followed by a concert on Red Square last week, only hours before Ukrainian forces captured Lyman, Russia’s main bastion in the northern part of Donetsk in the east.

On Wednesday, the bodies of two Russian soldiers were still lying bloating in trees on opposite sides of the road near Lyman, close to the blasted hulks of cars and a van.

Occasional crumps echoed from distant fighting between retreating Russians and Ukrainian troops advancing toward a north-south highway that serves as one of the last supply routes for Russian forces in Luhansk province.

In Lyman, Nina, 73, stood by vans waiting for humanitarian handouts by the municipal building. There were 15 dead bodies of Russian soldiers lying in her street, she said.

A local resident passes by a building damaged by a Russian suicide drone strike in Bila Tserkva

A view shows destroyed Russian tanks and armoured vehicles, amid Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, in the recently liberated town of Lyman

A view of destroyed Russian tanks and armoured vehicles, amid Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, in the recently liberated town of Lyman

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

10/04/2022

CDC Suspends Country Specific Covid-19 Advisories

The CDC said today that they will no longer maintain a country-by-country list of travel advisories related to Covid-19.

Starting from October 3rd, a notice will only be posted for the country if there is a Covid-19 variant of concern.

But the CDC said that regardless of their destination, international travelers should stay up-to-date on their Covid-19 vaccines and follow up on CDC guidance.

The CDC issued its first travel notice for China in January 2020. The



agency has long been updating its advisories list each Monday.

Vaccination is the most significant safety factor for travel and most people can be protected from being severely ill.

The CDC still advised people to test before you come back home. Do not travel if you are

sick.

Now that the pandemic has slowed down, most countries are opening their doors to welcome tourists and business people back to come and visit. Over the last three years, the pandemic has really been painful and unforgettable.



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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Liverpool's Thiago Alcantara in action with Rangers' Ryan Kent during Champions League action in Liverpool, Britain, October 4. REUTERS/Phil Noble



A newly-mobilised Russian reservist fires a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launcher during training on a range in Donetsk region, Russian-controlled Ukraine, October 4, 2022. REUTERS/Alexander Ermochenko



A boy looks on as Palestinian Islamic Jihad militants march in a rally marking the 35th anniversary of the movement's foundation, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip October 4. REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa



A man looks on as Palestinian Islamic Jihad militants march in a rally marking the 35th anniversary of the movement's foundation, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip October 4. REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa



An egret flies while others walk and stand on rubbish floating in a water canal at Dahshur village, north of Giza, Egypt, October 4. REUTERS/Amr Abdallah Dalsh



A woman attends a protest at Catalunya square in support of Iranian women and against the death of Mahsa Amini in Barcelona, Spain October 4. REUTERS/Nacho Doce

A Daily Pill To Treat COVID-19 Could Be Just Months Away, Scientists Say



Results of trials on a daily pill to treat COVID-19 could be available within months.(Image/Unsplash/Halacious)

Key Point

- At least three antivirals for COVID are in clinical trials.
- An early trial of 202 participants last Spring showed that molnupiravir rapidly reduced the levels of infectious virus.
- Antivirals are already essential treatments for viral infections, including hepatitis C and HIV.
- The drugs work by interfering with the virus's ability to replicate in human cells

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

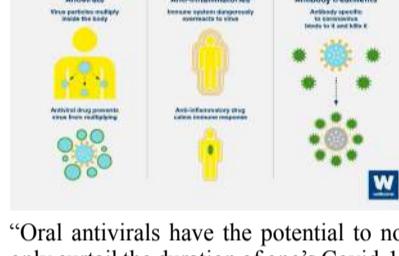
Within a day of testing positive for Covid-19 in June, Miranda Kelly was sick enough to be scared. At 44, with diabetes and high blood pressure, Kelly, a certified nursing assistant, was having trouble breathing, symptoms serious enough to send her to the emergency room. When her husband, Joe, 46, fell ill with the virus, too, she really got worried, especially about their five teenagers at home: "I thought, 'I hope to God we don't wind up on ventilators. We have children. Who's going to raise these kids?'" But the Kellys, who live in Seattle, had agreed just after their diagnoses to join a clinical trial at the nearby Fred Hutch cancer research center that's part of an international effort to test an antiviral treatment on the unvaccinated that could halt Covid early in its course.

By the next day, the couple were taking four pills, twice a day. Though they weren't told whether they had received an active medication or placebo, within a week, they said, their symptoms were better. Within two weeks, they had recovered.

"I don't know if we got the treatment, but I kind of feel like we did," Miranda Kelly said. "To have all these underlying conditions, I felt like the recovery was very

quick."

The Kellys have a role in developing what could be the world's next chance to thwart Covid: a short-term regimen of daily pills that can fight the virus early after diagnosis and conceivably prevent symptoms from developing after exposure.



"Oral antivirals have the potential to not only curtail the duration of one's Covid-19 syndrome, but also have the potential to limit transmission to people in your household if you are sick," said Timothy Sheahan, a virologist at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill who has helped pioneer these therapies.

Antivirals are already essential treatments for other viral infections, including hepatitis C and HIV. One of the best known is Tamiflu, the widely prescribed pill that

can shorten the duration of influenza and reduce the risk of hospitalization if given quickly. The medications, developed to treat and prevent viral infections in people and animals, work differently depending on the type. But they can be engineered to boost the immune system to fight infection, block receptors so viruses can't enter healthy cells, or lower the amount of active virus in the body.

At least three promising antivirals for Covid are being tested in clinical trials, with results expected as soon as late fall or winter, said Carl Dieffenbach, director of the Division of AIDS at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who is overseeing antiviral development. "I think that we will have answers as to what these pills are capable of within the next several months," Dieffenbach said. The top contender is a medication from Merck and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics called molnupiravir, Dieffenbach said. This is the product being tested in the Kellys' Seattle trial. Two others include a candidate from Pfizer, known as PF-07321332, and AT-527, an antiviral produced by Roche and Atea Pharmaceuticals.



They work by interfering with the virus's ability to replicate in human cells. In the case of molnupiravir, the enzyme that copies the viral genetic material is forced to make so many mistakes that the virus can't reproduce. That, in turn, reduces the patient's viral load, shortening infection time and preventing the kind of dangerous immune response that can cause serious illness or death. So far, only one antiviral drug, remdesivir, has been approved to treat Covid. But it is given intravenously to patients ill enough to be hospitalized, and is not intended for early, widespread use. By contrast, the top contenders under study can be packaged as pills. Sheahan, who also performed preclinical work on remdesivir, led an early study in mice that showed that molnupiravir could prevent early disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid. The formula was discovered at Emory University and later acquired by Ridgeback and Merck.

Clinical trials have followed, including an early trial of 202 participants last spring that showed that molnupiravir rapidly reduced the levels of infectious virus. Merck chief executive Robert Davis said this month that the company expects data from its larger phase 3 trials in the coming weeks, with the potential to seek emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration "before year-end."

Pfizer launched a combined phase 2 and 3 trial of its product Sept. 1, and Atea officials said they expect results from phase 2 and phase 3 trials later this year. If the results are positive and emergency use is granted for any product, Dieffenbach said, "distribution could begin quickly."

That would mean millions of Americans soon could have access to a daily orally administered medication, ideally a single pill, that could be taken for five to 10 days at the first confirmation of Covid infection.



"When we get there, that's the idea," said Dr. Daniel Griffin, an infectious diseases

and immunology expert at Columbia University. "To have this all around the country, so that people get it the same day they get diagnosed."

Once sidelined for lack of interest, oral antivirals to treat coronavirus infections are now a subject of fierce competition and funding. In June, the Biden administration announced it had agreed to obtain about 1.7 million treatment courses of Merck's molnupiravir, at a cost of \$1.2 billion, if the product receives emergency authorization or full approval. The same month, the administration said it would invest \$3.2 billion in the Antiviral Program for Pandemics, which aims to develop antivirals for the Covid crisis and beyond, Dieffenbach said.

The pandemic kick-started a long-neglected effort to develop potent antiviral treatments for coronaviruses, said Sheahan. Though the original SARS virus in 2003 gave scientists a scare—followed by Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS, in 2012—research efforts slowed when those outbreaks did not persist.

"The commercial drive to develop any products just went down the tubes," said Sheahan.

Widely available antiviral drugs would join the monoclonal antibody therapies

already used to treat and prevent serious illness and hospitalizations caused by Covid. The lab-produced monoclonal antibodies, which mimic the body's natural response to infection, were easier to develop but must be given primarily through intravenous infusions. The federal government is covering the cost of most monoclonal products at \$2,000 a dose. It's still too early to know how the price of antivirals might compare.

Like the monoclonal antibodies, antiviral pills would be no substitute for vaccination, said Griffin. They would be another tool to fight Covid. "It's nice to have another option," he said.



One challenge in developing antiviral drugs quickly has been recruiting enough participants for the clinical trials, each of which needs to enroll many hundreds of people, said Dr. Elizabeth Duke, a Fred Hutch research associate overseeing its molnupiravir trial. Participants must be unvaccinated and enrolled in the trial within five days of a positive Covid test. Any given day, interns make 100 calls to newly Covid-positive people in the Seattle area—and most say no.

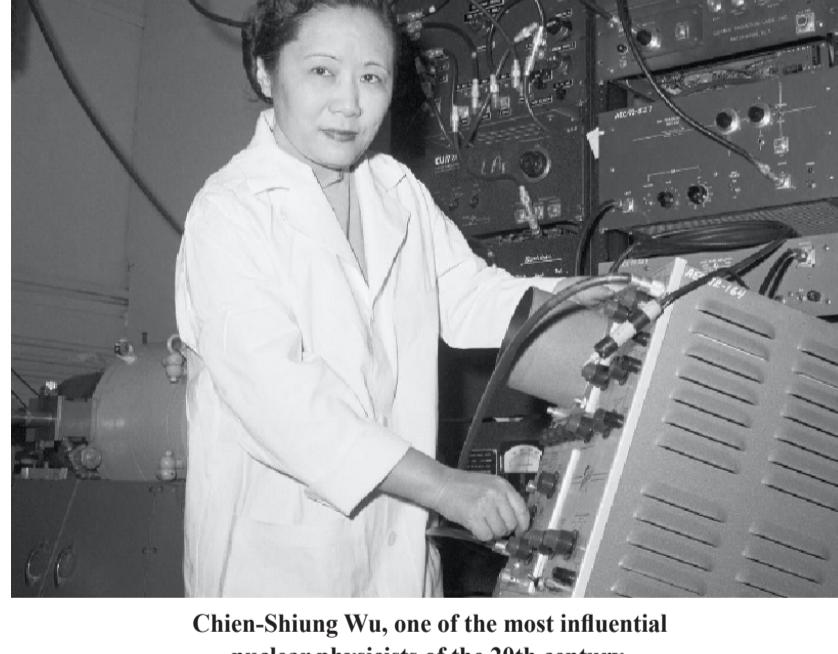
"Just generally speaking, there's a lot of mistrust about the scientific process," Duke said. "And some of the people are saying kind of nasty things to the interns." If the antiviral pills prove effective, the next challenge will be ramping up a distribution system that can rush them to people as soon as they test positive. Griffin said it will take something akin to the program set up last year by UnitedHealthcare, which sped Tamiflu kits to 200,000 at-risk patients enrolled in the insurer's Medicare Advantage plans. Merck officials predicted the company could produce more than 10 million courses of therapy by the end of the year. Atea and Pfizer have not released similar estimates.

Even more promising? Studies evaluating whether antivirals can prevent infection after exposure.

"Think about that," said Duke, who is also overseeing a prophylactic trial. "You could give it to everyone in a household, or everyone in a school. Then we're talking about a return to, maybe, normal life." (Courtesy weforum.org)

Southern **DAILY** Make Today Different

New U.S. Postage Stamp Honors Chien-Shiung Wu, Trailblazing Nuclear Physicist



Chien-Shiung Wu, one of the most influential nuclear physicists of the 20th century.

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

On Feb. 11, 2021, the sixth International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the U.S. Postal Service will issue a new Forever stamp to honor Chien-Shiung Wu, one of the most influential nuclear physicists of the 20th century.

A Chinese American woman, Wu performed experiments that tested the fundamental laws of physics. In a male-dominated field, she won many honors and awards, including the National Medal of Science (1975), the inaugural Wolf Prize in Physics (1978) and honorary degrees from universities around the world.

"In China, where I grew up," explained Xuejian Wu, Assistant Professor of Physics, Rutgers University – Newark, NJ, "Wu is an icon who is sometimes called the 'Chinese Marie Curie.'"

"I first read about Wu's extraordinary story in my physics textbook, when I was a teenager in high school. Chien-Shiung Wu

became a scientific role model for me, inspiring me to pursue an academic career in physics and follow her path to the U.S."

From China to the US, to pursue physics

In 1912, Wu was born in Liuhe in Jiaxing province, a town about 40 miles north of Shanghai. Although it was uncommon in China for girls to attend school at that time, her father founded a school for girls where she received her elementary education.

Analysis of the world, from experts

In 1930, Wu attended National Central University in Nanjing to study mathematics. But the revolutionary triumphs of late 19th-century modern physics – such as the discoveries of atomic structure and of X-rays – attracted Wu's attention. She changed her major to physics and graduated at the top of her

class in 1934.



The new U.S. postage stamp featuring Wu. (U.S. Postal Service)

Encouraged by her college advisor and financially supported by her uncle, Wu booked the month-long steamship trip to the United States in 1936 to pursue her doctoral education. She arrived in San Francisco, where she met her future husband, Luke Chia-Liu Yuan, another physicist, when he showed her around the Radiation Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley. Scientists at the lab had only recently invented the cyclotron, the most advanced instrument for accelerating charged particles in a spiral trajectory.

Enticed by the atomic nuclei research being done in the lab, Wu abandoned her original plan to attend the University of Michigan and successfully enrolled in the physics doctoral program at Berkeley.

In her graduate research, Wu worked closely with nuclear scientist Ernest Lawrence, who had won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1939, and Emilio Segrè, who went on to win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1959. She studied the electromagnetic radiation produced when charged particles decelerate, as well as radioactive isotopes of xenon generated by splitting uranium atoms via nuclear fission. In June 1940, Wu completed her Ph.D. with honors.

After a short period of postdoctoral research still at the Radiation Laboratory,

Wu moved to the East Coast, where she taught at Smith College and then Princeton University.

Experimental work in radioactive decay

In 1944, Wu became a research scientist at Columbia University, where she joined the Manhattan Project, the top-secret U.S. effort to turn basic research in physics into a new kind of weapon, the atomic bomb. As a team member, Wu helped develop the process for separating uranium atoms into the charged uranium-235 and uranium-238 isotopes using gaseous diffusion. This work eventually led to enriched uranium, a critical component for nuclear reactions.



After World War II, Wu remained at Columbia and focused her research on the radioactive process of beta decay. She investigated beta particles: fast-moving electrons or positrons emitted from an atomic nucleus in the radioactive decay process.

In the mid-1950s, Wu performed a famous experiment to test the law of parity conservation. This was a widely accepted but unproven principle implying that a physical process and its mirror reflection are identical. As proposed by theoretical physicists Chen Ning Yang and Tsung-Dao Lee, Wu designed an experiment to see if reality matched the theory.

Observing the beta decay of cobalt-60 atoms, Wu measured the radiation intensity as a function of the radiation direction. To increase the accuracy of her experimental measurements, Wu figured out techniques to get her cobalt-60 atoms all spinning in the same direction. She observed that more particles flew off in the direction opposite to the direction the nuclei were spinning. The law of parity

predicted that the atoms would emit beta particles in symmetrical ways. But Wu's observations meant the "law" did not hold and she had discovered parity nonconservation.

This breakthrough achievement helped Wu's theoretical colleagues win the 1957 Nobel Prize in Physics, but unfortunately, the Nobel Committee overlooked Wu's experimental contribution.



Wu received many accolades, including an honorary doctorate at Harvard in 1974. (Bettmann via Getty Images)

In addition to her famous parity law research, Wu carried out a series of important experiments in nuclear physics and quantum physics. In 1949, she experimentally verified Enrico Fermi's theory of beta decay, correcting the discrepancies between the theory and previous inaccurate experimental results and developing a universal version of his theory.

In 1958, Wu was the first Chinese-American elected to the National Academy of Sciences. In 1967, she served as the first female president of the American Physical Society.

After her retirement in 1981, Wu dedicated herself to public educational programs in both the United States and China, giving numerous lectures and working to inspire younger generations to pursue science, technology, engineering and math education. She died in 1997.

Wu's legacy continues today, with the issuing of her postage stamp. She joins a short list of physicists featured on U.S. stamps, including Albert Einstein, Richard Feynman and Maria Goeppert-Mayer. (Courtesy https://theconversation.com)

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COMMUNITY

class in 1934.



The new U.S. postage stamp featuring Wu. (U.S. Postal Service)

Encouraged by her college advisor and financially supported by her uncle, Wu booked the month-long steamship trip to the United States in 1936 to pursue her doctoral education. She arrived in San Francisco, where she met her future husband, Luke Chia-Liu Yuan, another physicist, when he showed her around the Radiation Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley. Scientists at the lab had only recently invented the cyclotron, the most advanced instrument for accelerating charged particles in a spiral trajectory.

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