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Inside C2

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Exclusive: Democrats willing to risk 2020 chances to impeach Trump



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump responds to questions about the U.S. House impeachment investigation during a formal signing ceremony for the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement at the White House in Washington, October 7, 2019. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Most Democrats want to impeach U.S. President Donald Trump, even if that means weakening their party's chances of winning back the White House in the 2020 election, according to a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll.

FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump responds to questions about the U.S. House impeachment investigation during a formal signing ceremony for the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement at the White House in Washington, October 7, 2019. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

The poll, conducted on Monday and Tuesday, found that 55% of Democrats said that their party leaders should press ahead with impeachment even "if it means a lengthy and expensive process that could weaken their chances of winning the presidency in 2020."

And even a higher number - 66% of Democrats - agreed that Congress should pursue impeachment, "even if that means they will need to postpone efforts to pass laws that could benefit me."

Overall, the poll found that support for impeachment remains unchanged overall among all Americans - holding at 45% since last week. But opposition to impeachment dropped by 2 percentage points from last week to 39%.

Among those who identify as Democrats, 79% said Trump should be impeached, up 5 percentage points from a similar poll that ran Sept. 26-30. Only 12% of Republicans and about 1 in 3 independents supported impeachment, which is mostly unchanged from last week.

Support for impeaching Trump had been rising since late September after an unidentified U.S. intelligence official filed a

whistleblower complaint accusing the president of pressuring Ukraine to ensnare Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden and his son in a corruption investigation.

Biden, the former vice president, is an early favorite to win the Democratic presidential nomination, and opinion polls show that he fares better than other Democrats including Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders in a hypothetical general election matchup against Trump.

The whistleblower complaint, denounced by Trump as a "witch hunt" carried out by his political enemies, has since been backed up by a second unidentified whistleblower who has more direct knowledge than the first of some of the allegations in the complaint, according to the person's lawyers. Trump, who says he was acting out of his duty to root out corruption, said last week that China should also investigate Biden. Overall, the Reuters/Ipsos poll showed that 51% of all Americans agreed that Trump "pressured" Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate the Bidens, while 27% disagreed. And 59% agreed that Congress should investigate "if President Trump committed impeachable offenses" as part of his conversation with Zelenskiy.

In general, 39% said they approved of the job Trump was doing and 55% disapproved.

Elaine Kamarck, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution,

said the poll shows how much Democratic voters have lined up behind Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and moderate House Democrats who had been cautious about pursuing an impeachment inquiry earlier this year. "That phone call (between Trump and Zelenskiy) changed everything," Kamarck said.

"The moderates, Speaker Pelosi, they changed their minds in a very public way in favor of impeachment. They've been making their case to the public, and some of them have followed."

Democratic voter Moneque Jarmon, 51, from Philadelphia said she doubted Trump would be removed from office through the impeachment process. But it was important to set a precedent that the president is accountable for his actions, she said.

"The fact that he tweets every few minutes, the risky behavior he's doing - he's advertising that he can do whatever he wants, like he's the president and nobody can touch him," she said. "The longer he stays in there, the more damage he's going to do."

Jarmon, who supports Biden as an experienced candidate to take on Trump, said Congress had for a long time failed to pass important legislation like gun control, so she doubted an impeachment process would make the situation worse. The Reuters/Ipsos poll was conducted online, in English, throughout the United States. It gathered responses from 1,118 adults, including 454 who identify as Democrats and 457 who identify as Republicans. It has a credibility interval, a measure of precision, of 5 percentage points.



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U.S. visa move against China casts pall over talks to end trade war

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States said on Tuesday it had imposed visa restrictions on Chinese officials for the detention or abuse of Muslim minorities, heightening tensions with Beijing and casting a pall over high-level talks to end a 15-month trade war.

The State Department announced the move just a day after the U.S. Commerce Department cited the mistreatment of Uighur Muslims and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities in China in its decision to add 20 Chinese public security bureaus and eight companies to a trade blacklist. The State Department did not name the Chinese officials affected by the visa clampdown. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the restrictions “complement” the Commerce Department’s actions.

China urges U.S. to remove sanctions on Chinese firms

China’s embassy in Washington did not immediately comment. China has consistently denied any mistreatment of Uighurs.

Major U.S. stock indexes added to losses after the State Department’s announcement, with the S&P 500 index .SPX closing down about 1.6%. Investors feared the escalating tensions between Washington and Beijing could doom efforts to get the trade negotiations back on track.

U.S. and Chinese deputy trade negotiators had been due to meet in Washington for a second day of talks on Tuesday, laying the groundwork for the first minister-level meetings in more than two months later this week.

The South China Morning Post reported China had tamped down expectations ahead of the talks scheduled for Thursday with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, saying the Chinese delegation could leave earlier than planned because “there’s not too much optimism.”

Earlier on Tuesday, China warned the United States to stop interfering in its affairs. China will continue to take firm and resolute measures to protect its sovereign security, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular media briefing without elaborating.



FILE PHOTO: Aides set up platforms before a group photo with members of U.S. and Chinese trade negotiation delegations at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China February 15, 2019. Mark Schiefelbein/Pool via REUTERS/File Photo/File Photo

Prospects for a breakthrough in the on-again, off-again trade talks sagged after the Commerce Department’s blacklisting announcement on Monday. Hikvision (002415.SZ), which bills itself as the world’s largest maker of video surveillance gear, was among the firms targeted.

The listing bars the firms from buying components from American companies without U.S. government approval, a potentially crippling move. It follows the same blueprint used by Washington in its attempt to limit the influence of Huawei Technologies Co Ltd [HWT.UL] for what it says are national security reasons.

FILE PHOTO: Aides set up platforms before a group photo with members of U.S. and Chinese trade negotiation delegations at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China February 15, 2019. Mark Schiefelbein/Pool via REUTERS/File Photo/

File Photo

Washington is also moving ahead with discussions around possible restrictions on capital flows into China, with a focus on investments made by U.S. government pension funds, Bloomberg reported.

Tit-for-tat tariffs imposed by the United States and China have roiled financial markets and slowed capital investment and trade flows.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva issued a stark warning about the state of the global economy, saying an economic deceleration could worsen without action to resolve trade conflicts and support growth.

“We are decelerating, we are not stopping, and it’s not that bad. And yet, unless we act now, we are risking a potential more massive slowdown,” Georgieva, who took over as IMF chief this month, said at an event to preview the IMF and World Bank autumn meetings next week in Washington.

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Editor's Choice



Cast member Katherine Langford attends the European premiere of “Knives Out” in London, Britain October 8, 2019. REUTERS/Simon Dawson TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A protester is detained during an Extinction Rebellion demonstration at Whitehall in London, Britain, October 8, 2019. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Conservative leader Andrew Scheer and Liberal leader Justin Trudeau gesture to each other during the Federal leaders debate in Gatineau



Protests against Ecuador’s President Lenin Moreno’s austerity measures in Quito



Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam walks past a barrier to meet petitioners before a weekly Executive Council meeting in Hong Kong



Reality TV personality Kim Kardashian takes a selfie during the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT 2019) in Yerevan



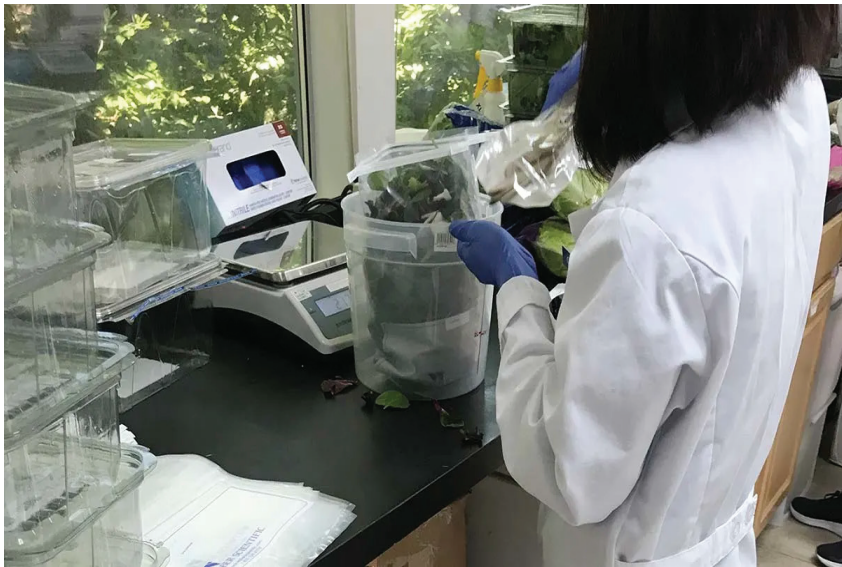
Cast member Paul and director Gilligan pose at the premiere for “El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie” in Los Angeles



Protests against Ecuador’s President Lenin Moreno’s austerity measures in Quito

Consumer Reports Found The Bacteria
In Prewashed And Unbagged Products

Leafy Greens With Listeria
Sold at Major Supermarkets



A lab technician preparing samples in Consumer Reports' recent tests of leafy greens.

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

A new Consumer Reports test of 284 samples of fresh greens—such as lettuce, spinach, and kale—found six samples tainted with *Listeria monocytogenes*, a potentially deadly bacteria. The samples were purchased at several grocery store chains including Acme, Costco, Hannaford, and Whole Foods.

“While it may not be surprising to find *Listeria* in a small percentage of leafy green products that are tested, it is always concerning to find bacteria that can make people sick in foods that aren’t meant to be cooked,” says Karen Wong, M.D., medical officer in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch.

What’s In Your Food?

CR’s study represents a snapshot of the market and was not large enough to draw conclusions about the safety of specific brands or retailers. But the testing underscores that industry needs to do more to improve the safety of leafy greens.



The supermarket industry has taken many steps to keep dangerous bacteria out of food, says Hilary Thesmar, Ph.D., senior vice president of food safety programs at the Food Marketing Institute, a trade association that represents retailers, wholesalers, and suppliers that sell products to grocery stores.

CR says that people can continue to eat leafy greens, which are packed with nutrients. “However, it’s important that those most likely to be affected by *Listeria*—older adults, infants and young children, anyone with a compromised immune system, and pregnant women—carefully consider whether to eat raw

leafy greens, including lettuce,” says James. E. Rogers, Ph.D., director of food safety research and testing at Consumer Reports. “The safest thing is to stick with greens you can cook.”

What CR’s Tests Found

Of the six samples tainted with *Listeria monocytogenes* that were tested by CR purchased between June 3 and June 19, 2019 in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York, one had a strain genetically linked to at least two cases of *Listeriosis* (the illness caused by *Listeria*) reported to the CDC. (We do not know if the people who got sick ate leafy greens.) That product was a “triple-washed” Nature’s Place Organic Spinach Spring Mix purchased at a Hannaford supermarket.



CR’s sample of Nature’s Place Organic Spinach Spring Mix contained a strain of *Listeria* that is genetically linked to two illnesses reported to the CDC.

CR’s Findings Trigger FDA Inspection
CR immediately informed the Food and Drug Administration and the CDC of our test results. We also contacted the companies that marketed the greens and the retailers where we purchased them.



In response to CR’s findings, the FDA initiated an inspection of the plant that produced Nature’s Place Organic Spinach Spring Mix, the product that contained a strain of *Listeria* linked to two

illnesses.

“We continue to look at the data provided by Consumer Reports. The FDA takes the presence of harmful pathogens in our food supply very seriously and considers the risk to public health when taking action.”

While CR applauds the FDA’s inspection of the Nature’s Place plant, the agency should take other steps, too, Rogers says.

“Given the severity of *Listeriosis*, our hope is that the FDA follows up on all the samples we found and not just the one linked to illnesses, in keeping with the agency’s zero tolerance policy,” he says.



Boskovich Farms, which produced the other sample of bagged spinach found to be contaminated with *Listeria*, told CR that it hasn’t received any reports of illness. It also said that when this lot of spinach was produced, inspections at the farm and at the processing plant showed no evidence of contamination.

The other retailers we contacted noted that food safety is their top priority and that consumers should wash unbagged leafy greens.

But washing may not remove all contaminants from fresh greens, according to CDC researchers and others in a recent article in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. “Washing is mainly helpful for getting rid of dirt and some pesticides, not bacteria,” says CR’s Rogers. “Bacteria can adhere to the surface of the leaves, and get stuck in microscopic crevices.”

The Risks of Listeria

Listeria monocytogenes is different from other types of bacteria that cause

foodborne illness. “It’s one of the very few bacteria that can actually grow under refrigerator temperatures. That’s where we have extra trouble with *Listeria*,” says Thesmar, at the Food Marketing Institute. In fact, she says, the cold, moist environments of refrigerators and food-processing facilities make ideal breeding grounds for the bacteria.

“*Listeria* primarily causes illness in pregnant women, newborns, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems.”



Symptoms of *Listeria* infection can include a fever, muscle aches, headaches, and diarrhea or other gastrointestinal symptoms. If the infection spreads to the nervous system, it can also cause a stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, and convulsions.

Where Listeria Is Found

Listeria is usually associated with deli meats, hot dogs, soft cheeses, and sprouts. But in recent years other types of foods have been linked to outbreaks of *Listeriosis*, including leafy greens.

How to Stay Safe

While *Listeria* is killed when it’s exposed to high temperatures, leafy greens are risky because they are often eaten raw.

The safest move is to stick with leafy greens that you cook. “If you cook greens until they are fully wilted, they’re likely to have been heated enough to be safe,” Rogers says. That step is most important for people especially vulnerable to *Listeria* infections. (Courtesy onsumerreports.org)



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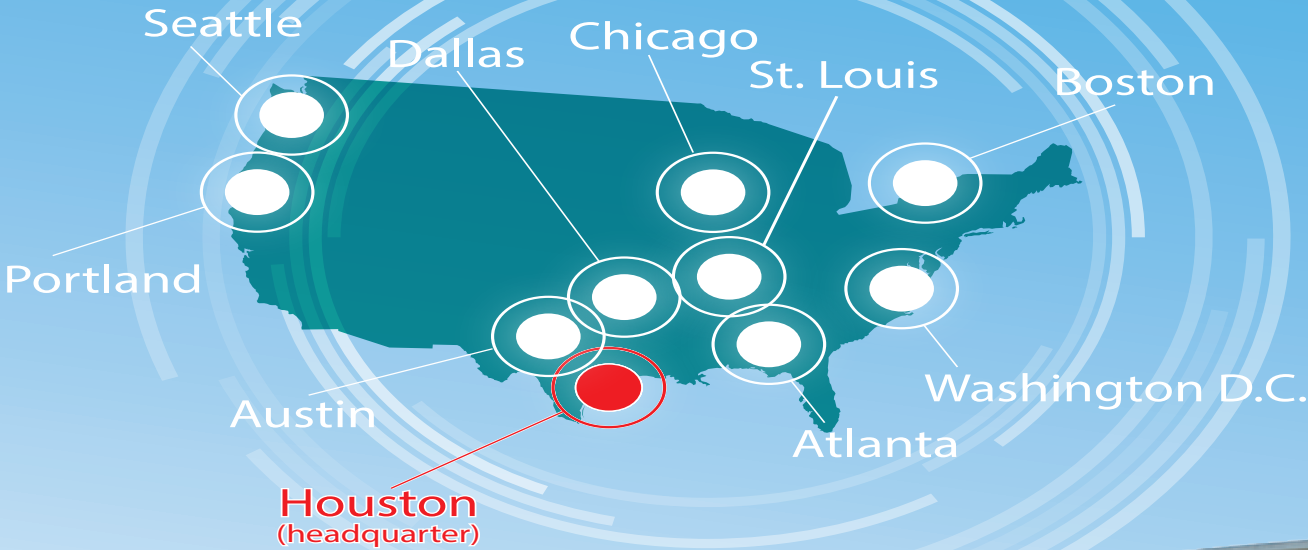
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HONG KONG — Alibaba’s co-founder and executive chairman, Jack Ma, said he planned to step down from the Chinese e-commerce giant on Monday to pursue philanthropy in education, a changing of the guard for the \$420 billion internet company.

A former English teacher, Ma started Alibaba in 1999 and built it into one of the world’s most consequential e-commerce and digital payments companies, transforming how Chinese people shop and pay for things. That fueled his net worth to more than \$40 billion, making him China’s richest man. He is revered by many Chinese, some of whom have put his portrait in their homes to worship in the same way that they worship the God of Wealth. Ma is retiring as China’s business environment has soured, with Beijing and state-owned enterprises increasingly playing more interventionist roles with companies. Under President Xi Jinping, China’s internet industry has grown and become more important, prompting the government to tighten its leash. The Chinese economy is also facing slowing growth and increasing debt, and the country is embroiled in an escalating trade war with the United States.



“He’s a symbol of the health of China’s private sector and how high they can fly whether he likes it or not,” Duncan Clark, author of the book “Alibaba: The House Jack Ma Built,” said of Ma. “His retirement will be interpreted as frustration or concern whether he likes it or not.”

In an interview, Ma said his retirement is not the end of an era but “the beginning of an era.” He said he would be spending more of his time and fortune focused on education. “I love education,” he said.

Ma will remain on Alibaba’s board of directors and continue to mentor the company’s management. Ma turns 54 on Monday, which is also a holiday in Chi-

Alibaba Founder Jack Ma Sees A New ‘Beginning’ In His Retirement

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



Jack Ma, chairman of Alibaba, prepares to ring the bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Sept. 19, 2014. Ma, China’s richest man, plans to retire from his e-commerce company to focus on philanthropy. (Photo/ The New York Times)

na known as Teacher’s Day. The retirement makes Ma one of the first founders among a generation of prominent Chinese internet entrepreneurs to step down from their companies. Firms including Alibaba, Tencent, Baidu and JD.com have flourished in recent years, growing to nearly rival American internet behemoths like Amazon and Google in their size, scope and ambition. For Chinese tycoons to step aside in their 50s is rare; they usually remain at the top of their organizations for many years.

The departure of Ma is likely to jolt China’s internet industry, which has been reeling from the arrest last weekend of Liu Qiangdong, the billionaire founder of the online retailer JD.com. Liu, who goes by Richard Liu in the English-speaking world, was arrested on a rape allegation in Minneapolis during a business trip. He was released and has since returned to Beijing, where JD.com is based.



Post-founding meeting in Jack Ma’s

Lakeside Gardens apartment in Hangzhou, China, 2000.

For Alibaba, Ma’s retirement completes a transition of power to other executives. Ma stepped down as Alibaba’s chief executive in 2013; the company’s current chief executive is Daniel Zhang, who is a candidate to succeed Ma. Yet Ma had remained active as the face of the e-commerce firm, as well as an architect of its long-term strategy. He owns a 6.4 percent stake of Alibaba, according to securities filings, but has considerably more sway over the company thanks to its complicated legal structure.

Ma, a natural salesman and charismatic leader, co-founded Alibaba with 17 others — some of them his students — out of his apartment in Hangzhou in eastern Zhejiang province in 1999.

Alibaba started as an online marketplace for businesses to sell their products to other businesses. But it did not take off until it began the Taobao marketplace in 2003, which merchants used to sell goods directly to consumers. Alibaba later rolled out Alipay, an online payment service, to facilitate transactions in a country where few people had credit cards. Alipay later became Ant Financial, the financial sub-

sidary that Ma also controls.

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Today, Alibaba’s empire encompasses e-commerce, online banking, cloud computing, digital media and entertainment — and even a corporate messaging service similar to Slack. The company owns or holds stakes in some of China’s most important media assets, including the Twitter-like social media site Weibo and the Hong Kong-based English-language newspaper The South China Morning Post.

Among China’s biggest companies, Alibaba is viewed as one of the firms with the deepest ranks of management talent. Many of the co-founders are still around, and professionals who joined the company later are now in charge.

Last month, Alibaba reported a 60 percent increase in quarterly sales, even as profits fell. The company’s annual revenue totals about 250 billion yuan, or \$40 billion.

While Alibaba has become dominant in China, it has faced a tougher time expanding internationally. The company has increased its presence outside China by investing in e-commerce and online finance companies in India and Southeast Asia. But its efforts to muscle into the United States largely have not been successful.



Even after Ma met with President-elect Donald Trump in early 2017 and promised to bring 1 million jobs to the United States, the federal government rejected Ant Financial’s bid to acquire the American money transfer company MoneyGram this year over national security concerns.

As Beijing has increased its involvement in the private sector, Ma has shifted what he has said about China’s government. He used to say that businesses should be in love with the government but never get married to each other, indicating that an arms-length relationship was preferred.

At a conference in November, Ma was more positive. “There’s no country like China in the world,” he said. “With political stability, social safety and 6 percent-plus economic growth, we have the best business environment.”

As Alibaba has flourished, Ma has talked many times about how he did not want to spend his whole life at the company, saying he would retire one day and go back to teaching.

In 2014, he created the Jack Ma Foundation, which has worked to improve education in rural China. Ma’s Weibo social media handle is “spokesman for village teachers — Jack Ma.” Within Alibaba, he is known and referred to as “Teacher Ma.”



In an interview with Bloomberg TV this week, Ma signaled he was thinking about focusing more on philanthropy. He cited Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates as an example.

Ma said he could never be as rich as Gates — but that he could retire earlier than Gates. Gates stepped down as Microsoft’s chairman in 2014, at the age of 58. (Courtsey <https://www.wral.com>)

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