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U.S., China agree to semi-annual talks aimed at reforms, resolving disputes: WSJ



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

Sunday, January 12, 2020 | www.today-america.com | Southern News Group

## Taiwan president wins landslide victory in stark rebuke to China



Supporters of Kuomintang party's presidential candidate Han Kuo-yu react to his admitting the defeat in the presidential election in Kaohsiung

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Taiwanese re-elected President Tsai Ing-wen by a landslide on Saturday in a stern rebuke that could fuel further tension with China, which has tried military threats and economic inducements to get the island to accept its rule.

Anti-government unrest in Chinese-ruled Hong Kong took center stage during a campaign in which Tsai held up Taiwan as a beacon of hope for protesters in the former British colony and rejected Beijing's offer of a "one country, two systems" model.

China claims Taiwan as its sacred territory, to be taken by force if needed, a threat President Xi Jinping reiterated a year ago while saying he preferred a peaceful solution. "One country, two systems," which gives a high degree of autonomy, much as Beijing uses in Hong Kong, has never been popular in Taiwan and is even less so after months of protests in Hong Kong.

China made itself even more unpopular in Taiwan in the run-up to the election by twice sailing its newest aircraft carrier through the sensitive Taiwan Strait, denounced by Taipei as an effort at military intimidation.

"We hope that the Beijing authorities can understand that a democratic Taiwan with a government chosen by the people will not give in to threats and intimidation," Tsai told reporters.

Beijing needs to understand the will of Taiwan's people, and that only Taiwan's people can decide its future, she added, repeating her firm opposition to "one country, two systems".

China's Taiwan Affairs Office, in a statement carried by state media, reaffirmed its commitment to this approach and its opposition to any form of independence.

Incumbent Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and Vice President-elect William Lai wave to their supporters after their election victory at a rally, outside the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) headquarters in Taipei, Taiwan January 11, 2020. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu

Tsai beat her main opponent Han Kuo-yu of the Kuomintang party, which favors close ties with China, by more than 2.6 million votes. Underscoring the scale of her victory, Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party also won a majority in parliament.

The United States, Taiwan's strongest international backer and main arms supplier, congratulated Tsai. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Taiwan a "force for good in the world". "The United States thanks President Tsai for her leadership in developing a strong partnership with the United States and applauds her commitment to maintaining cross-strait stability in the face of unrelenting pressure," Pompeo said in a statement. **LANDSLIDE WIN**

Tsai won almost 8.2 million votes in total, more than any Taiwan president since the island held its first direct presidential election in 1996.

Speaking in the southern city of Kaohsiung where he is mayor, Han, who had to fend off allegations from Tsai on the campaign trail that he and his party were puppets of Beijing, said he had called to congratulate Tsai.

"I still hope to see a united Taiwan after we wake up," Han said, accompanied by a swell of mournful music on stage. "I urge President Tsai Ing-wen to focus on giving people a life where they can live safely and happily."

Han said Taiwan could only be safe and prosperous if it had good relations with Beijing.

"People have been stirred up by the Hong Kong situation and

that deceived many people into voting for Tsai," said Huang Lu-lu, 38, at what was supposed to be a victory rally for Han.

After his brief speech, the glum crowds dispersed, some crying.

China cut off a dialogue mechanism when Tsai took office in 2016 and has regularly flown bombers near the island since.

China believes Tsai wants to push for a Republic of Taiwan, a red line for Beijing. Tsai says Taiwan is already an independent country called the Republic of China.

Tsai's win is all the more embarrassing for China because it follows another landslide victory, in November, for pro-democracy candidates in Hong Kong in district council elections after residents turned out in record numbers. "I believe friends in Hong Kong will be happy about our collective decision tonight," Tsai said. Prominent pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong tweeted that Tsai's victory was a "precious moment" for the people of Hong Kong.

"Today is the day for the majority of Taiwanese to choose their fate, to safeguard their democracy and freedoms, and most importantly, to say no to CCP's authoritarian invasion," he wrote in English, referring to China's Communist Party. Taiwanese are broadly sympathetic to the protesters in Hong Kong, an Asian financial hub.

"I saw what's happening in Hong Kong and it's horrible," said first-time voter Stacey Lin, 20, in the capital Taipei. "I just want to make sure I have the freedom to vote in the future."



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# U.S., China agree to semi-annual talks aimed at reforms, resolving disputes:

(Reuters) - The United States and China have agreed to hold semi-annual talks aimed at pushing for reforms in both countries and resolving disputes, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

The negotiations will be announced on Jan. 15 as part of the signing of a Phase 1 trade deal between the U.S. and China, but will be separate from any second-phase trade negotiations, the Journal reported, adding the effort will be lead by U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He. The two sides have been undergoing a trade war for well over a year. Treasury officials were not immediately available to confirm the report.

The talks would revive a practice begun under former President George W. Bush as a way for the world's two largest economic powers to discuss a wide array of topics and try to resolve disputes.

It was continued under President Barack Obama as the Strategic & Economic Dialogue, and initially followed by President Donald Trump. The first round of what the Trump administration renamed the Comprehensive Economic Dialogue was held in July, 2017.

But the regular sessions, sprawling affairs often criticized as heavy on process and light on tangible outcomes, were abandoned as the Trump administration moved towards a more confrontational approach to China that relied on the use of import tariffs to pressure the country into economic concessions.



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping shake hands after making joint statements at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, November 9, 2017. REUTERS/Damir Sagolj

## Trump impeachment charges may go to Senate as early as next week

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Democratic-led U.S. House of Representatives will send formal impeachment charges against President Donald Trump to the Senate as early as next week, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Friday, setting the stage for his long-awaited trial.

Pelosi, the top Democrat in the House, has been engaged in a three-week cat-and-mouse game with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell over the rules for Trump's trial in the Republican-controlled Senate.

Democrats have demanded it include new witness testimony and evidence about the Republican

president's pressuring of Ukraine to probe former Vice President Joe Biden, a leading Democrat running for the right to face Trump in the November election.

The ase against Trump in the Senate impeachment trial?

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McConnell slammed the door on that idea this week, saying he had enough Republican votes to start the trial without a commitment to hear from additional witnesses, including former Trump national security adviser John Bolton.

Democrats are trying to convince a few moderate Republican senators to allow witnesses. One moderate, Senator Susan Collins of Maine, told reporters in her home state that she and a "fairly small group" of her fellow Republican senators are working to ensure witnesses can be called.

The Senate is expected to acquit Trump before the 2020 presidential election campaign heats up, as no Republicans have voiced support for ousting him, a step that would require a two-thirds majority.

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**Editor's Choice**



A demonstrator wears a mask while attending a protest to oppose the threat of war with Iran, in London, Britain January 11, 2020. REUTERS/Henry Nicholas TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



U.S. President Donald Trump rallies with supporters in Toledo, Ohio, U.S. January 9, 2020. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Students offer prayers after taking a holy bath during a ceremony organised to resemble the annual month-long Hindu religious festival of Magh Mela, in Ahmedabad



Attendees at a candle light vigil for the victims of Ukraine International Airlines flight PS-752 on Parliament Hill in Ottawa



Women hold a protest across the street from the court where producer Harvey Weinstein's ongoing sexual assault trial is held in the Manhattan borough of New York City



Protesters lie on the floor during a demonstration over Australia's bushfires crisis, outside the Australian embassy in Santiago, Chile January 10, 2020. The placard reads: "Tell the truth." REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Traders work on the floor at the NYSE in New York



A woman holds a sign with others during a protest over the death of Iranian Major-General Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in an air strike near Baghdad, in Peshawar,



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**Houston, Chengdu to host 2021, 2022**  
**table tennis worlds**



**Liu Yi (center), vice president of Chinese Table Tennis Association, receives hugs as Chinese city of Chengdu won the bid to host the 2022 World Table Tennis Championships in Budapest on April 22, 2019.**

The U.S. city of Houston has won the bid to host the 2021 world table tennis championships and the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu will host the 2022 version.

The news followed Monday's historic vote at the International Table Tennis Federation's annual general meeting.

Strong bids put forward by the United States and Morocco had ensured that 2021 would mark the first time in 82 years that the world championships are held outside of Asia and Europe, since Cairo, Egypt hosted the 1939 competition.



"We're thrilled not only to be hosting the 2021 world table tennis championships, but also to have the chance to help commemorate that historic moment when Ping-pong Diplomacy was born," said Harris County-Houston Sports Authority CEO Janis Burke.

Chengdu beat Kitakyushu of Japan and Portugal's Lisbon to become the sixth Chinese city staging this tournament

"We are so happy to win and look forward to showing Chengdu to the entire world in 2022," said Liu Yi, vice president of the Chinese table tennis association. (Courtesy Xinhua)

**Related**  
**World Table Tennis Championships Awarded To U.S. For The First Time In 95-Year History**



**Kanak Jha competes in the men's table tennis bronze-medal match at the Summer Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018 on Oct. 10, 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.**

The old saying goes that everything is bigger in Texas, so what better place to hold the biggest World Table Tennis Championships in history?

The Lone Star State's largest city of Houston was selected Monday as the host of the 2021 world championships, beating out Agadir, Morocco, from the International Table Tennis Federation's short list. The selection of a U.S. city is historic, as it will be the first world championships held in the United States and the first one outside of Asia or Europe since 1939. The event began in 1926.

It is a fitting choice for 2021 as the ITTF is seeking to grow the game globally and

increase participation. The 2019 world championships in Budapest, Hungary — which began Monday — feature a record 609 players from 109 national associations, a figure that is still only 47 percent of the 226 associations around the world. The ITTF aims to move that number as close as possible to 100 percent for 2021.



The selection is also a major milestone for the city of Houston, which by 2021 will have hosted its fourth major world championships. Houston hosted world championships in boxing in 1999 and weightlifting in 2015, and will host the BMX cycling world championships in 2020. The city has hosted numerous U.S. Olympic Team Trials in the past, including marathon in 2012. Houston also bid for the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, though did not make it past the U.S. phase, and is the birthplace of two-time Olympian table tennis player Timothy Wang.

The U.S. is eighth all-time in the world championship medal table but has not brought home any hardware since the legendary Dick Miles took bronze in men's singles in 1959. The highest-ranked member of Team USA is 2016 Olympian and 2018 Youth Olympic medalist Kanak Jha, 38th in the most recent ITTF men's world rankings. The sport of table tennis has long been dominated by China, which has nearly double the world championship medals of second-place Hungary. (Courtesy United States Olympic Committee)

**Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor**  
**From the Office of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner**

It's official! Houston has been awarded the 2021 World Table Tennis Championships! The United States and China were both selected. There is no better way to celebrate 50 years of diplomacy between these two great countries than to bring the first of these back-to-back championships to the most diverse and welcoming city in the nation. The leadership of the Harris County – Houston Sports Authority has brought another incredible international event to Houston. I encourage both local and global Table Tennis fans to make plans to watch the competition and enjoy the hype and festivities connected to the event.

**Mayor Sylvester Turner**  
**Houston, Texas**

#

**The Official Press Release from**  
**Houston Sports Authority**

**Houston to Host 2021 World Table Tennis Championships**  
The United States and China both selected, will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ping Pong Diplomacy

**MEDIA RELEASE**

HOUSTON, TX – International Table Tennis is coming to Houston. The Harris County – Houston Sports Authority has been selected to host the International Table Tennis Federation's 2021 World Table Tennis Championships. It is the first time the event will be held in the United States.

The announcement was made today at the 2019 ITTF Annual General Meeting and World Championships in Budapest.

The ITTF also awarded the Chinese Table Tennis Federation the 2022 Championships, which will be held in Chengdu, Houston and China collaborated in what was, essentially, a joint request bid.

The announcement comes 50 years after the USA Table Tennis Team arrived in China for a friendly Table Tennis exchange and wound up changing the world. The 1971 event, dubbed Ping Pong Diplomacy, brought the USA and China to the table, thus establishing diplomatic relations.

The event allowed the Chinese athletic slogan "Friendship First, Competition Second," and eased diplomatic tensions enough to allow President Richard M. Nixon to travel to Beijing in 1972.

"We're thrilled not only to be hosting the 2021 World Table Tennis Championships but also to have the chance to help commemorate that historic moment," said Harris County – Houston Sports Authority CEO Janis Burke, said, "In 1971, China and the United States came together and helped change the world."

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner agreed, "There is no better way to celebrate 50 years of diplomacy between these two great countries than to bring the first of these back-to-back championships to the most diverse and welcoming city in the nation. The leadership of the Harris County – Houston Sports Authority has brought another incredible international event to Houston."

"I encourage both local and global Table Tennis fans to make plans to watch the competition and enjoy the hype and festivities connected to the event."

"The United States and China agreed to support each other's efforts with these back-to-back championships, with Houston and China both offering support from former Houston Rockets player, Yao Ming, as well as Nixon's grandson, Christopher Nixon Cox."

"I'm excited the event is finally coming to the U.S. and to Houston," Cox said. "There is no better way to recognize my grandfather's work with Chinese-American relations."

USA Table Tennis and the United States Olympic Committee supported Houston's bid.

"The event will spotlight the sport of Table Tennis, a sport for all ages – and provide dreams for our youth," said USATT Chairman of the Board, Anne Cribble. "It's also a sport has the ability to bring the world together as we celebrate what unites us rather than what divides us."

The two table tennis players most associated with 1971's Ping Pong Diplomacy, which inspired China's decision to host U.S. teams, were Glenn Cowan and Zhuang Zhihong. The two met each other on a bus which had been reserved for the Chinese team during the World Championships in Nagoya, Japan, in 1971. It was the first time China had publicly emerged since the Cultural Revolution began in 1966. At the time, Cowan was a three-time world champion (1961, 1963, 1965). During the short trip to the training venue and competition hall, Cowan, who had received help from U.S. friends, was allowed to sit with the Chinese, despite a ban on his desire for friendship between the two countries.

Morocco had also put in a bid to host the 2021 World Championships, while Japan and Portugal also bid for the 2022 Championships.

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**The Future Is Unsettling For Millions Of American Workers**



Illustration: Aida Amer/Axios

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

The U.S. economy has the best expectations for job growth, and the unemployment rate is at its lowest in several decades — but the other side of the story is that millions of jobs out there just aren't good enough.

**Why it matters:** Almost half of all American workers are stuck in low-wage jobs that often don't pay enough to support their lives, lack benefits and sit squarely inside the automation bullseye.

**By the numbers:**

•There are 53 million U.S. workers — around 44% of the total workforce — who work in jobs with a median hourly wage of \$10.22 and median yearly earnings of \$18,000, according to a November Brookings study that examines low-wage work.

•Around a quarter of low-wage workers are the only earners in their households. “The storyline from the jobs reports is the result of looking at an incomplete set of measures,” says Martha Ross, co-author of the Brookings report. “We do have to look at the quality of the jobs we are creating.”



**The big picture:** For decades, the job market has seen steady polarization, Jed Kolko, chief economist at Indeed, says. There's been growth in high-wage jobs in tech and finance in big cities, and there's been a similar surge in jobs at the lower end — but the middle has hollowed out, primarily due to the collapse of manufacturing.

•The labor market is tightening, which ought to push wages up, but that's not necessarily happening, says Kolko. While pay for low-wage jobs has been increasing in the last couple of years, that growth is not keeping up with inflation or the rise in housing costs.

•On top of that, millions of low-wage

jobs — such as in retail, food service, home health care or the gig economy — don't have robust benefits packages (if any) and don't have predictable schedules. “All of this is part of what makes a job a good job,” he says. “The wage growth for lower-wage industries is encouraging, but there's lots to worry about.”

**Low-wage work is more pervasive** in parts of the country that have been left behind by the winner-take-all cities on the coasts, Brookings found.

•And there are a number of cities where low-wage occupations make up the majority of jobs: Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Jacksonville, North Carolina (both 62%); Visalia, California (58%); Yuma, Arizona (57%); and McAllen, Texas (56%).

•This will be an increasingly important question for local leaders, says Ross. “What does it mean when almost two-thirds of the jobs in your region are low wage?”



**Minorities are disproportionately impacted** by low-wage work. Per the study, 54% of black workers and 66% of Hispanic workers are low wage, compared to 37% of white workers.

**What to watch:** Polarization in the job market is projected to get worse. At the same time, low-paying jobs in the retail and restaurant industries are among those with the highest automation potential. Says Ross: “The question of these low-wage jobs disappearing or changing means we have to think about how to support these workers. I think, as a coun-

try, we are terrible at doing that.”

**Related**

**The Great Escape To The Freelance World**



Some freelancers can pull in more than \$100 an hour for management consulting, programming or graphic design. Others struggle to make much more than \$10 an hour, beholden to “gig work” platforms like Uber or TaskRabbit.

**Why it matters:** Being one's own boss, with the flexibility it brings, can be lucrative for people who can differentiate themselves from competitors. For the rest, it can be quicksand.

**The big picture:** Freelance work makes up nearly 5% of U.S. GDP, according to a new study commissioned by Upwork, a site for high-earning freelancers to find jobs. And more people than ever — 28.5 million people, or half the freelance workforce — say it's a long-term plan.

•Freelancers who are “significantly better than average” at their jobs tend to do well, says Stephane Kasriel, Upwork's CEO. “Stronger pros can really dictate their terms.”

•Gig work apps capitalized on this dream to attract millions to their platforms: Work whenever you want to make some spending money on the side, they promised.



**But for those without a rare or stand-out skill,** reality hasn't quite panned out that way.

•“People turn to this work, but it's not as lucrative as they think it's going to be,” says Alexandra Ravenelle, a UNC professor who interviewed dozens of workers for her recent book, “Hustle and Gig.”

•“I'm finding a considerable number of workers end up turning to gig work, they think, for the short term — and they're still doing it 4 years later,” Ravenelle says. There's no time to network or send out resumes when you're spending every working moment hunting for the next job.

**The bottom line:** “Given that being in the traditional workforce typically comes with benefits and protections, I think most workers would be better off being there rather than having to constantly hustle for the next gig,” says Ravenelle. (Courtesy axios.com)

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