

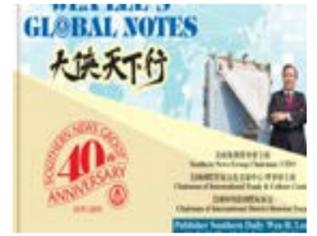


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Southern DAILY

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Incoming WTO head warns 'vaccine nationalism' could slow pandemic recovery



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The World Trade Organization's incoming chief on Monday warned against "vaccine nationalism" that would slow progress in ending the COVID-19 pandemic and could erode economic growth for all countries - rich and poor.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told Reuters her top priority was to ensure the WTO does more to address the pandemic, saying members should accelerate efforts to lift export restrictions slowing trade in needed medicines and supplies.

The former Nigerian finance minister and senior World Bank executive was appointed on Monday in a consensus process and starts her new job on March 1.

"The WTO can contribute so much more to helping stop the pandemic," Okonjo-Iweala said in an interview at her home in a suburb of Washington.

"No one is safe until everyone is safe. Vaccine nationalism at this time just will not pay, because the variants are coming. If other countries are not immunized, it will just be a blow back," she said. "It's unconscionable that people will be dying elsewhere, waiting in a queue, when we have the technology."

Okonjo-Iweala said studies showed that the global economy would lose \$9 trillion in potential output if poor countries were unable to get their populations vaccinated quickly, and about half of the impact would be borne by rich countries.

"Both on a human health basis, as well as an economic basis, being nationalistic at this time is very costly to the international community," she said.

"A very top priority for me would be to make sure that prior to the very important ministerial conference ... that we come to solutions as to how the WTO can make vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics accessible in an equitable and affordable fashion to all countries, particularly to poor countries,"

Okonjo-Iweala said she was heartened by the Biden administration's contribution to the World Health Organization effort to ensure broader distribution of vaccines, and what she called a "fantastic" conversation with trade advisers in the U.S. Trade Representative's office.

"I think our interests and priorities are aligned. They want to bring the WTO back to (its) purpose," she said. "It's about people. It's about inclusivity. It's about decent work for ordinary people," she said.

She said she shared the Biden administration's concerns about the need to reform the WTO's Appellate Body, but said that would not be a quick or easy process.

"This is the jewel in the crown of the WTO, and we really need to restore it," she said. The dispute settlement body has been paralyzed since last year after the administration of former U.S. President Donald Trump refused to approve the appointment of more judges.

Okonjo-Iweala said there were clearly differences among members, but progress was possible, especially given the shift in tone and approach of the Biden administration.

"I'm not daunted. I see a way forward," she said. "With the U.S. administration being willing to engage ... I think the way of working to try and get a solution will be different."

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

02/17/2021

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

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Winter Storm Slams The U.S.

Below freezing temperatures are affecting more than 200 million people from Texas to the east coast.

The heaviest snow in Texas and Houston fell early Monday. It set a record that had stood for 150 years.

The whole city of Houston and surrounding Harris County was almost totally abandoned. Roads are still very dangerous to drive and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner has urged all people to stay at home.

In Port Arthur, Texas, the U.S. and world's largest oil refinery was shut down as freezing weather gripped the entire state of Texas. At least five major airports were shut down because of the frigid weather.

In Houston, more than 1.5 million residents were without power. In the city of Galveston, 90% of the residents were without power and the city is currently under a state of disaster.

The City of Houston is rushing to open



more warming facilities for the homeless people amid frigid winter temperatures.

This is the first time ever in Texas that we have faced a winter storm with so much snow and low temperatures.

Almost one hundred years ago when Texas discovered the black gold of oil, a lot of people from the eastern U.S. came to Texas looking for their fortune. There is an Oil Museum on the Lamar University campus where I attended in the early 1970's. The museum recorded how the pioneers came to Texas to build this

great state and eventually we had three native sons who became U.S. presidents and served our nation.

We are suffering so much in this corona-

virus pandemic already. We all hope this untimely winter storm will be gone soon. May God bless our nation



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

California Has Now Confirmed Two Cases Of The South African Strain

U.K. Scientist Says New COVID Variant Could 'Sweep The World'



California Gov. Gavin Newsom watches as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is prepared. (J. Hong/Agence France-Presse/Getty Images)

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

A senior U.K. scientist warned Thursday that the variant of the coronavirus-borne illness COVID-19 that first emerged there and is far more infectious than the original virus could "sweep the world" and complicate the effort to contain the pandemic. In an interview with the BBC's Newscast podcast, Professor Sharon Peacock, head of the U.K.'s genetic surveillance program, said the new variant has already swept across the U.K. and will probably spread widely across the globe. The news comes as California Gov. Gavin Newsom confirmed that the variant that first emerged in South Africa has now been detected in two cases in the Golden State. That variant worries experts as it is also highly contagious and appears more resistant to the vaccines that have been granted emergency use authorization in the U.S. and elsewhere. Earlier this week, South Africa said it would stop using the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca PLC AZN, +3.19% AZN, -0.60% and Oxford University because it seemed less effective in dealing with the strain, and on Wednesday, officials said they would start giving front-line health care workers the John-

son & Johnson JNJ, +0.31% vaccine instead. That vaccine has not yet received emergency use authorization — an application for an EUA has been submitted to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration — but there are high hopes for it as it is a one-dose regimen, unlike the other authorized vaccines, which require two jabs, weeks apart.



The World Health Organization weighed in on the AstraZeneca vaccine on Thursday, and said it was "highly effective and safe" even if it less effective in dealing with the South Africa variant. "The AZD1222 vaccine against COVID-19 has an efficacy of 63.09% against symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection," said the WHO's Strate-

gic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) in a statement. "Longer dose intervals within the 8 to 12 weeks range are associated with greater vaccine efficacy." AstraZeneca, which reported its full-year earnings on Thursday, said it was fixing problems with the manufacturing of its vaccine and expects to roughly double monthly production to 200 million doses by April, as it seeks to move past a rocky start to the shot's rollout, as Dow Jones Newswires reported. Last year, AstraZeneca stumbled in communicating clinical-trial results and more recently, suffered a shortfall in doses pledged to the European Union. Chief Executive Pascal Soriot and other executives said they were working out production kinks and would meet targets to deliver more than 400 million doses to rich and poor countries in coming months. That follows green lights in the U.K., Europe and beyond for the vaccine's use, which isn't approved yet for U.S. use. The company also said it would take six to nine months to create modified version of the vaccine to target new variants. In the meantime, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention vaccine tracker is now showing that as of 6.00 a.m. Wednesday, 44.8 million vaccines jabs had been administered and about 66 million doses delivered to states. The tracker shows that 33.8 million people have received one or more doses, equal to about 10% of the population. The U.S. added another 94,855 new COVID cases on Wednesday, according to a New York Times tracker, and at least 3,252 people died. Cases are continue to fall and have averaged 104,554 new cases a day in the past week, down 36% from the average two weeks ago. There was bad news for California, which on Wednesday surpassed New York as the state with the most COVID deaths, according to the Times. Los Angeles is temporarily closing five vaccination sites, because of a shortage of vaccines, the paper reported.



Related U.S. COVID Record • The U.S. could have avoided 40% of the deaths it has suffered from COVID-19 if rates were in line with other

high-income members of the G-7 nations, a Lancet commission reported Thursday, after examining the track record of former President Donald Trump. Trump "brought misfortune to the USA and the planet" during his four years in office, the commission concluded, but it also noted that U.S. public health infrastructure was in bad shape as the country entered the pandemic. "Although his effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act failed, he weakened its coverage and increased the number of uninsured people by 2.3 million, even before the mass dislocation of the COVID-19 pandemic, and has accelerated the privatization of government health programs," said the report. The U.S. leads the world by case numbers, at 27.4 million, according to data aggregated by Johns Hopkins University, or about a quarter of the global tally. It has by far the most fatalities, at 471,765, or about a fifth of the global total. The second highest case tally is India, with 10.9 million, or less than half the U.S. total. Brazil has the second highest death toll at 234,850, also less than half the U.S. number. Wear Masks • Federal health officials again reminded Americans to continue to wear masks even as the number of new cases and hospitalizations is on the decline since a peak in early January, MarketWatch's Jaimy Lee reported. A report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday found that wearing two masks (such as a surgical mask and a cloth masks together) and ensuring a medical mask fits tightly against the face helped prevent exposure to particles in one experiment. The CDC recommends that masks "have two or more layers, completely cover your nose and mouth, and fit snugly against your walls and the side of your face."



New Task Force On Health Equity • President Joe Biden created a new task force focused on health equity and COVID-19. He tapped 12 experts, who are expected to issue a number of recommendations about the nation's COVID-19 response and recovery. Back in December, MarketWatch spoke with Dr. James Hildreth, CEO of Meharry College, one of four historically black medical schools in the U.S., and a member of Biden's new COVID-19 Health Eq-

uity Task Force. Read the full interview. Employers Can Require Workers To Take Vaccine • Employers in the U.S. may be allowed to require workers to take a COVID-19 vaccine, but a new survey suggests most aren't going the mandatory route just yet, MarketWatch's Meera Jagannathan reported. Just 0.5% of companies currently mandate coronavirus vaccination for all employees, and only 6% plan to mandate it for all workers once vaccines are readily available and/or fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, according to the survey of 1,802 C-suite executives, HR professionals and in-house lawyers from a range of industries conducted by the employment-law firm Littler. Another 3% said they plan to mandate vaccination only for certain workers, such as those in customer-facing roles. Also: Target, Tractor Supply join list of companies paying workers to get COVID-19 vaccine Texas Doctor Charged • A Texas doctor who inoculated 10 people with doses of vaccine that were about to expire rather than let them go to waste has been fired and charged with theft, the New York Times reported. Dr. Hasan Gokal made house calls and directed people to his house, including strangers, in an effort to make the doses matter. His final patient was his own wife, who suffers from a pulmonary disease. The doses in each vial of the Moderna Inc. MRNA, +0.16% vaccine are only viable for six hours after the seal is broken, making it urgent that they are administered before expiring.



Latest Tallies The global tally for confirmed cases of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 climbed above 107.4 million on Thursday, while the death toll rose above 2.35 million. Brazil has the second highest death toll at 234,850 and is third by cases at 9.7 million. India is second worldwide in cases with 10.9 million, and now fourth in deaths at 155,360. Mexico has the third highest death toll at 169,670 and 13th highest case tally at 1.9 million. The U.K. has 3.9 million cases and 115,070 deaths, the highest in Europe and fifth highest in the world. China, where the virus was first discovered late last year, has had 100,515 confirmed cases and 4,827 deaths, according to its official numbers. (Courtesy https://www.marketwatch.com/)

Bill Gates warns that manufacturing could challenge climate goals

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Bill Gates exudes optimism in discussing the world's ability to tackle climate change - until he hits on manufacturing. About that, he is worried. There is currently no way to make steel or cement without releasing climate-warming emissions. Yet, neither governments nor investors are looking hard to solve that problem, Gates said.

"That's the sector that bothers me the most," Gates said in a video interview with Reuters ahead of the publication this week of his book, "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster."

The software-developer-turned-philanthropist has invested some \$2 billion toward the development of clean technologies. But those investments are mostly in electricity generation and storage.

Manufacturing - especially in the cheap construction staples steel and cement - accounts for roughly a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. That makes manufacturing more polluting than the power or transportation sectors, which receive far more attention in policies and investments. And the manufacturing sector is set to grow, as the global population climbs and countries further develop.

"People still need basic shelter, certainly in developing countries," said Gates, co-founder of Microsoft Corp. "It's unlikely we'll stop building buildings."

Gates plans to push for more research and innovation at the U.N. climate conference in Glasgow in November. "The idea is to get innovation, including R&D, onto the agenda ... not just looking at the easy stuff." During the 2015 U.N. climate talks in Paris, Gates helped to launch a global initiative called Mission Innovation along with U.S. President Barack Obama, France's President Francois Hollande and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to link national governments with the private sector in pursuing and sharing clean technology. We need "total coordination, and in fact some overlap is a very good thing to have," Gates told Reuters. But he said there should be diversity in the solutions being sought



so governments do not end up duplicating efforts. Right now, for example, "they're doing a lot of green hydrogen products," Gates said. "But who's doing the hard stuff?" Some manufacturing plants may be able to lower their emissions by plugging into an electricity grid run on renewable energy. But that will not solve all emissions from steel-

and cement-making, both processes that release carbon dioxide as a byproduct. In the United States, it hasn't helped to have energy policy yo-yo between presidential administrations, he said. "This stop-start approach, that's too risky for the private sector." On a personal note, Gates says in his

book that, after years of dismissing activists' calls to divest from fossil fuels, he sold his direct holdings in oil and gas companies in 2019. The Gates Foundation's endowment did the same - but not because Gates became convinced that divestment would push companies toward clean energy.

美南傳媒最新電視節目



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三個女人 一台戲
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美南大咖談 (5:30-6:30)
主持人: Sky 董, 段娜



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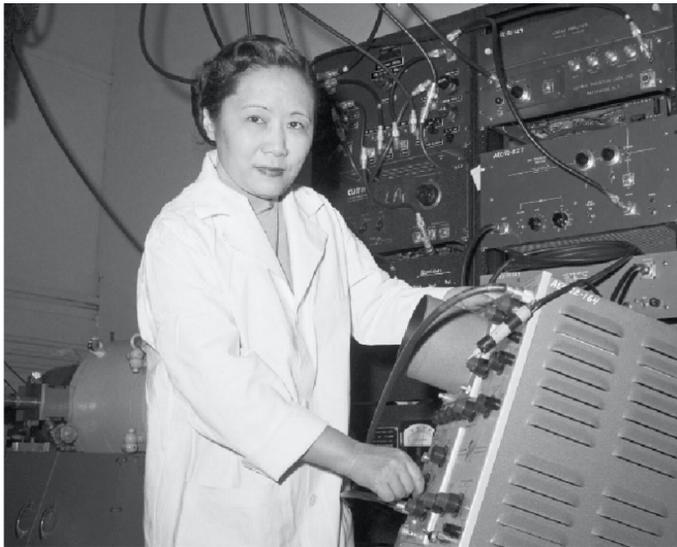


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New U.S. Postage Stamp Honors Chien-Shiung Wu, Trailblazing Nuclear Physicist



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 Jiangsu 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.

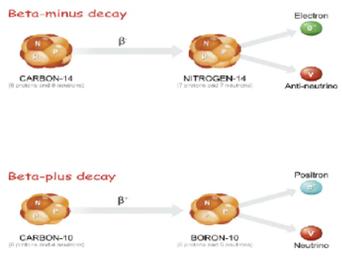
In her graduate research, Wu worked closely with nuclear scientist Ernest Lawrence, who had won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1939, and Emilio Segrè, who went on to win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1959. She studied the electromagnetic radiation produced when charged particles decelerate, as well as 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

conservation 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. She also proved the quantum phenomenon relevant to a pair of entangled photons.

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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