

Chinese Firm  
Is Key Maker  
Of U.S. Drugs

Targeted by Congress,  
It Has Crucial Role

By CHRISTINA JEWETT

A Chinese company targeted by members of Congress over potential ties to the Chinese government makes blockbuster drugs for the American market that have been hailed as advances in the treatment of cancers, obesity and debilitating illnesses like cystic fibrosis.

WuXi AppTec is one of several companies that lawmakers have identified as potential threats to the security of individual Americans' genetic information and U.S. intellectual property. A Senate committee approved a bill in March that aides say is intended to push U.S. companies away from doing business with them.

But lawmakers discussing the bill in the Senate and the House have said almost nothing in hearings about the vast scope of work that WuXi does for the U.S. biotech and pharmaceutical industries — and patients. A New York Times review of hundreds of pages of records worldwide shows that WuXi is heavily embedded in the U.S. medicine chest, making some or all of the main ingredients for multibillion-dollar therapies that are highly sought to treat cancers like some types of leukemia and lymphoma as well as obesity and H.I.V.

The congressional spotlight on the company has rattled the pharmaceutical industry, which is already struggling with widespread drug shortages now at a 20-year high. Some biotech executives have pushed back, trying to impress on Congress that a sudden decoupling could take some drugs out of the pipeline for years.

WuXi AppTec and an affiliated company, WuXi Biologics grew rapidly, offering services to major U.S. drugmakers that were seeking to shed costs and had shifted most manufacturing overseas in the last several decades.

WuXi companies developed a reputation for low-cost and reliable work by thousands of chemists who could create new molecules and operate complex equipment to make them in bulk. By one

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JEFFERSON SIEGEL FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Donald J. Trump smirked and chuckled in court on Monday, but also briefly appeared to fall asleep.

First Criminal Trial of a Former President Begins

This article is by **Jonah E. Bromwich, Ben Prottess, Maggie Haberman and Kate Christobek.**

After years of investigation and weeks of delay, the criminal case known as the People of the State of New York vs. Donald J. Trump went to trial Monday, with hundreds of citizens summoned to potentially join a jury that will decide the fate of the first American president to face prosecution.

But the ritual of choosing the jury got off to a slow start as more than half of the first group of 96 potential jurors raised their hands to say they could not be fair to Mr. Trump, demonstrating the challenges of picking an impartial panel in a city where the defendant is widely loathed. The judge immediately excused them.

One prospective juror, a woman

In New York Jury Pool,  
a Nation’s Divisions  
Are on Display

in her 30s, was heard outside the courtroom saying, “I just couldn’t do it.”

The prospective jurors, who represented a cross-section of Manhattanites of various ages and demographics, filed past Mr. Trump and into the rows of a dingy courtroom. Some strained their necks for a glance at the former president. He stood and turned after the judge introduced him as the defendant, flashing them a tight-lipped smile.

The judge, Juan M. Merchan, welcomed the prospective jurors to his courtroom, and began to de-

scribe the case, which was brought by the Manhattan district attorney’s office and accused Mr. Trump of falsifying records to cover up a sex scandal. He is facing 34 felony counts and, if convicted, could face up to four years in prison.

The trial was born from a long-running investigation that began when Mr. Trump was still president. He was a target of Manhattan prosecutors in fits and starts over five years, spanning the terms of two district attorneys and multiple grand juries. Not until last March did the current district attorney, Alvin L. Bragg, secure an indictment.

And the case only went to trial after a three-week postponement. In recent days, Mr. Trump continued to stall — as he does in all of his legal cases — but Justice Mer-

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Deal’s Demise  
Gave Tehran  
Opportunity

Nuclear Program Adds  
to Peril of the Moment

By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON — When Iran agreed to a deal in 2015 that would require it to surrender 97 percent of the uranium it could use to make nuclear bombs, Russia and China worked alongside the United States and Europe to get the pact done.

The Russians even took Iran’s nuclear fuel, for a hefty fee, prompting celebratory declarations that President Vladimir V. Putin could cooperate with the West on critical security issues and help constrain a disruptive regime in a volatile region.

A lot has changed in the subsequent nine years. China and Russia are now more aligned with Iran’s “Axis of Resistance” to an American-led order, along with the likes of North Korea. When President Biden gathered the leaders of six nations for a video call from the White House on Sunday to plot a common strategy for de-escalating the crisis between Israel and Iran, there was no chance of getting anyone from Beijing or Moscow on the screen.

The disappearance of that unified front is one of the many factors that make this moment seem “particularly dangerous,” said Vali Nasr, an Iranian-born professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, “maybe the most dangerous in decades.”

But it is hardly the only one. President Donald J. Trump’s decision to pull out of the Obama-era nuclear deal triggered a predictable counterreaction from Tehran, and after a long pause, Iran resumed enriching uranium — some to near-bomb-grade quality. Today it is far closer to being able to produce bomb-grade material, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, than it was when the accord was in effect. Iran has consistently denied that it intends to build a weapon but has recently begun hinting at the need to bolster its “deterrent” against nuclear-armed adversaries.

Tehran has surged ahead with its ballistic missile program, and several months before some of those weapons were unleashed on Israel this weekend, all the remaining United Nations prohibitions expired. Iran has not only emerged as Russia’s most dependable foreign supplier of military drones, but it has also

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ISRAEL DEBATES  
PUNCHING BACK  
FOR IRAN ATTACK

ALLIES URGE RESTRAINT

Netanyahu Weighs Firm  
Response That Won’t  
Alienate U.S.

This article is by **Cassandra Vinograd, Isabel Kershner and Michael Levenson.**

Israel’s war cabinet on Monday met to weigh possible responses to Iran’s missile and drone attack over the weekend, as the United States, Britain and other allies strongly urged Israel to show restraint and sought to de-escalate tensions between the two regional powers.

Some far-right members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government called for a swift and forceful retaliation in response to Iran.

An Israeli official briefed on the cabinet discussions, speaking anonymously in order to talk



ARASH KHAMOOSHI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Showing support in Tehran for the weekend strikes on Israel.

about security matters, said several options were being considered, ranging from diplomacy to an imminent strike, but gave no further details. There was no immediate public statement by the ministers, or by the Israeli prime minister.

“We are weighing our steps,” Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi, the Israeli military chief of staff, told Israeli soldiers on Monday in televised remarks during a visit to an Israeli air base. “The launching of so many missiles, cruise missiles and drones toward Israeli territory will be responded to.”

Mr. Netanyahu faces a delicate calculation: how to respond to Iran in order not to look weak, while trying to avoid alienating the Biden administration and other allies already impatient with Israel’s prosecution of the war in Gaza.

While the United States, Britain

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Japan’s Cold, Hard Cash Is Growing on the Himalayan Hillsides

By **BHADRA SHARMA and ALEX TRAVELLI**

PUWAMAJHUWA, Nepal — The views are spectacular in this corner of eastern Nepal, between the world’s highest mountains and the tea estates of India’s Darjeeling district, where rare orchids grow and red pandas play on the lush hillsides.

But life can be tough. Wild animals destroyed the corn and potato crops of Pasang Sherpa, a farmer born near Mount Everest. He gave up on those plants a dozen years ago and resorted to raising one that seemed to have little value: argeli, an evergreen, yellow-flowering shrub found wild in the Himalayas. Farmers grew it for fencing or firewood.

Mr. Sherpa had no idea that bark stripped from his argeli would one day turn into pure money — the outgrowth of an unusual trade in which one of the poorest pockets of Asia supplies a primary ingredient for the economy in one of the richest.

Japan’s currency is printed on special paper that can no longer be sourced at home. The Japanese love their old-fashioned yen notes, and this year they need mountains of fresh ones, so Mr. Sherpa and his neighbors have a lucrative reason to hang on to their hillsides.

“I hadn’t thought these raw materials would be exported to Japan or that I would make money from



UMA BISTA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

A worker in impoverished Nepal drying argeli bark, which is used to make Japanese yen notes.

this plant,” Mr. Sherpa said. “I’m now quite happy. This success came from nowhere, it grew up from my courtyard.”

Headquartered 2,860 miles away in Osaka, Kanpou Incorporated produces paper used by the Japanese government for official purposes. One of Kanpou’s charitable programs had been scouting

the foothills of the Himalayas since the 1990s. It went there to help local farmers dig wells. Its agents eventually stumbled onto a solution for a Japanese problem.

Japan’s supply of mitsumata, the traditional paper used to print its bank notes, was running low. The paper starts with woody pulp from plants of the Thymelaeaceae

family, which grow at high altitude with moderate sunshine and good drainage — tea-growing terrain. Shrinking rural populations and climate change were driving Japan’s farmers to abandon their labor-intensive plots.

Kanpou’s president at the time knew that mitsumata had its ori-

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Speaker Says Funds for Ukraine  
And Israel Will Finally Get Vote

This article is by **Catie Edmondson, Kayla Guo and Carl Hulse.**

WASHINGTON — Speaker Mike Johnson on Monday said he planned this week to advance a long-stalled national security spending package to aid Israel, Ukraine and other American allies, along with a separate bill aimed at mollifying conservatives who have been vehemently opposed to backing Kyiv.

Mr. Johnson’s announcement, coming after he has agonized for weeks over whether and how to advance an infusion of critical aid to Ukraine amid stiff Republican resistance, was the first concrete indication that he had settled on a path forward. It came days after Iran launched a large aerial attack on Israel, amplifying calls for Congress to move quickly to approve the pending aid bill.

Emerging from a meeting in

which he briefed G.O.P. lawmakers on his plan, Mr. Johnson said he would cobble together a legislative package that roughly mirrors the \$95 billion aid bill the Senate passed two months ago but that is broken down into three pieces. Lawmakers would vote separately on a bill providing money for Israel, one allocating funding for Ukraine and a third with aid for Taiwan and other allies. They would cast a fourth vote on a separate measure containing other policies popular among Republicans.

“We know that the world is watching us to see how we react,” Mr. Johnson told reporters. “We have terrorists and tyrants and terrible leaders around the world like Putin and Xi and in Iran, and they’re watching to see if America will stand up for its allies and our interests around the globe — and

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**Tesla to Cut 10% of Employees**

Along with the departure of two senior executives, the layoffs added to signs of turmoil at the automaker. PAGE B1

**Intelligence Without Measure**

Which A.I. system writes the best computer code or generates the most realistic image? Who knows? PAGE B1

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**A Global Coral Crisis**

Rising sea temperatures around the planet have caused a bleaching event that is expected to be the most extensive on record. PAGE A9

**Seeking Answers for Stabbing**

In Australia, five of the six people killed at a mall were women. Many said that spoke to a larger problem. PAGE A10

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**A Biennale Collaboration**

From Japan, Tadao Ando designed an exhibition for Zeng Fanzhi, the Beijing-based painter, in Venice. PAGE C1



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**Comfortable in a Green Jacket**

The Masters was a four-way tie with 12 holes to go on Sunday. Only Scottie Scheffler kept his composure. PAGE B6

**At 13, Ready to Go Pro**

McKenna Whittham scored in a recent game in Colombia. She could be the youngest N.W.S.L. player ever. PAGE B9

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**Housing Deal in New York**

The agreement between the governor and legislators could clear the way for the construction of hundreds of thousands of homes and make it harder for landlords to evict renters. PAGE A20

**Rosier Views of Trump Years**

A new poll shows that Americans now remember his term more positively, a common phenomenon for former presidents. But some memories of his divisiveness remain. PAGE A13

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**David French** PAGE A18



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**Trying to Save Koalas**

To protect the animals, scientists are experimenting with vaccine implants, probiotics, tree-planting drones and solar-powered tracking tags. PAGE D4

