

Ottawa partners with Huawei to fund research at universities

Despite security concerns, federal agency collaborating with Chinese tech giant

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The federal government is partnering with Huawei to sponsor leading-edge computer and electrical engineering research at Canadian universities, a move critics say threatens this country's national security and economic interests.

The National Sciences and Engineering Research Council, a federal agency, is collaborating with the Canadian arm of Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. to fund the

studies. Top universities in the United States and Britain have shunned further research money from Huawei over intellectual-property and national-security concerns.

The federally funded council is putting up \$4.8-million for research partnerships that include Huawei. The technology giant would not divulge its contribution but would only say it is "greater than \$4.8-million."

Jim Balsillie, former co-chief executive of Research In Motion and founder of the Centre for International Governance In-

novation, said he considers it astonishing that Ottawa would put up money to help Huawei obtain advanced technology that will serve to benefit China.

"All these areas of research are for strategic digital infrastructure that serve as the nervous system for today's economy and security," he said.

"It boggles the mind that in 2021 we continue to use taxpayer funds to advance China's priorities at the expense of our economy, security and Five Eyes partnership."

■ HUAWEI, A15

Spread of variants sparks fears of another COVID-19 wave

ERIN ANDERSEN
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More contagious variants of COVID-19 have now been found in every province, leading to outbreaks in some remote communities and raising concerns about a resurgence of the coronavirus as many parts of the country move ahead with loosening restrictions.

At least four provinces now have variant cases that are linked to community contact – and not travel – including seven probable cases in Pauingassi First Nation, a remote community in eastern Manitoba. In Newfoundland, in-person voting for the provincial election was cancelled less than 12 hours before polls would have opened on Saturday, following a dramatic spike in cases – all linked to the B.1.1.7 variant originating in Britain. This weekend, Prince Edward Island became the last province to report a case, with the announcement that a patient diagnosed Feb. 4 who had travelled internationally had tested positive for the British variant.

The rising presence of "variants of concern" prompted Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Theresa Tam, to urge the country to stay vigilant to prevent the epidemic from accelerating and becoming much harder to control.

Concerns about the variants has prompted Quebec to consider a delay on lifting more restrictions until after spring break in early March, according to Premier François Legault.

■ VARIANTS, A15

MYANMAR



Supporters of ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi protest Sunday in Yangon against the coup staged Feb. 1 by the country's military. THE NEW YORK TIMES

'THIS IS THE TIME TO SPEAK OUT'

Diverse ethnic groups stand united against a military coup, but some are pushing for bigger change

KYAW HSAN HLAING YANGON, MYANMAR
EMILY FISHBEIN FALMOUTH, MASS.

In the wake of a military coup, the Myanmar public has shown a fiercely unified front in opposing the new regime and restoring the civilian government. But protests look markedly different between areas dominated by the Bamar majority ethnic group and the seven ethnic states that line the country's borderlands.

At protests in predominantly Bamar areas, including the urban centres of Yangon and Mandalay, elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi's portrait adorns banners, signboards and T-shirts. Demonstrators chant her name, and

many wear red, the colour of her National League for Democracy party.

In ethnic states and other areas with large non-Bamar populations, however, many demonstrators are marching in black. "The black is to show the darkness and sorrow of the coup," said Ko Lucas, an ethnic Kachin living in the Kachin State capital, Myitkyina. "This protest and public demonstration are not only for those supporting the NLD party, but also for anyone against the military coup and dictatorship."

"I don't want [my children] to grow up with fear and oppression. This is the time to speak out and go against the culture of dictatorship," he added.

■ MYANMAR, A7

Biden wants to move on after Senate acquits Trump

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WASHINGTON

The U.S. Senate acquittal of Donald Trump over the deadly storming of the Capitol building opens the door for him to stage a comeback while his successor is hoping to turn the page.

President Joe Biden declared that the country would learn from the threat to its political system to ensure that such violence never happens again. Mr. Biden is also hoping his administration and Congress can now focus on pandemic relief, immigration and his cabinet appointments.

"This sad chapter in our history has reminded us that democracy is fragile," he said in a statement. "Each of us has a duty and responsibility as Americans, and especially as leaders, to defend the truth and to defeat the lies."

But Mr. Trump, unencumbered by the prohibition on seeking office that a conviction might have brought, says he will be back. The trial confirmed the grip he still holds on the Republican legislative caucus.

As the dust settled after Mr. Trump's historic second impeachment trial, it was unclear whether the country could step back from the brink of political strife, or if a dangerous new precedent for presidential behaviour had been set.

Mr. Trump himself was unrepentant, saying he would soon launch the next phase of his political career.

■ CAPITOL, A8

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