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Meeting Venue

Helen Keller Society
Pinelands

Meeting Time

17h45 for 18h15

Face book page

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Town Facebook

Chartered 6th October 1992

**10th July
20th Edition**

Editor:

Tanya Stone
Secretary
Rotary Club of Pinelands



Dear fellow Rotarians, family and friends

I hope everyone is well and healthy.

On behalf of all Pinelands Rotary Club members, we wish all new Presidents a wonderful Rotary year!

Bellville RC's Induction Ceremony is still to take place on the 14th July with Pam Rawbone as new President for the Club. Best wishes for your year at the helm, Pam. See you on Tuesday.

Pinelands RC's Induction took place on Monday for our in-coming President Peter Sharples, a wonderful evening, which included celebrating Peter's 60th birthday.

I have attached to this email, Pres Peter's Induction speech, together with a hilarious speech, which pays homage to PDG David Holtzhausen.

Have a lovely weekend!
Keep safe and take care.

Tanya

Rotary



District
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The first ever

Rotaract  **VIRTUAL
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Pinelands Rotary Members

Birthday's Celebrated up to now for July



President Peter Sharples

60th

5th July



Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak situation 10th JULY 2020

Statistics from Worldometer and WHO on COVID-19

PLEASE NOTE: Figures are time of publish and fluctuate constantly

12,602,234
Confirmed cases
Updated: 10th July

561,717
Confirmed deaths
Updated: 10th July

7,316,005
Recovered
Updated: 10th July

UPDATE



Friday
10 July 2020

South Africa now has **250,687** confirmed cases.
South African statistics from Worldometer and Department of Health SA
on COVID-19

PLEASE NOTE: STATISTICS ARE TIME OF PUBLICATION

250,687
Positive Cases Identified
Updated: 10th July

3,860
Deaths
Updated: 10th July

118,232
Recovered
Updated: July

UPDATE AFRICA



10th July 2020

Africa now has **523,782** confirmed cases.

523,782

Positive Cases Identified

Updated: 10th July

12,245

Deaths

Updated: 10th July

254,583

Recovered

Updated: 10th July

NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA



Important things happening in South Africa today

Staff Writer
BusinessTech

Here's what is happening in and affecting South Africa today:

Coronavirus: Global Covid-19 infections have increased to 12 million reported cases since the start of the year, with the death toll at 550,000. In South Africa, the number have continued to rise rapidly, now at 238,339 confirmed with 3,720 deaths. There have been 113,061 recoveries to date, leaving the country with a balance of 121,558 active cases.

Vaccine: Africa could have a Covid-19 vaccine in the first quarter of 2021 if human trials underway in South Africa succeed, says Shabir Madhi, professor of vaccinology at University of Witwatersrand who is leading the South African trial. Out of the 19 potential vaccines being tried out, the most positive outcome would be if even two succeed. Trials will depend on 2,000 volunteers aged 18-65 years who will be monitored for 12 months after vaccination to assess its efficacy. Early results could be seen by November or December.

[Reuters]

Contradictory: Chair of the Covid-19 ministerial advisory committee, Prof Salim Abdool Karim says that while many of the actions currently being taken seem contradictory, South Africans need to learn how to live around the virus. Risks involved with children returning to school, restaurants being reopened and life moving towards some semblance of normalcy are all factored in, and the number of Covid-19 cases are in line with predictions. However, smoking is still not on – given the “increased health risks”, he said.

[TimesLive]

Joburg tariffs: The City of Joburg has narrowly avoided potentially being placed under administration, having now tabled its budget after delays due the hung council. However, while good news for leadership, residents will face a pinch, with rates and taxes now confirmed to be rising. Property rates tariffs will be increased by 4%, while water tariffs will increase by 6.6% and electricity tariffs will go up by 6.23%. The city said the increases are necessary to avoid an economic crisis in the region. [EWN]

SAA appeal: The Labour Appeal Court has affirmed that SAA cannot retrench employees without first engaging in a S189 consultation process and tabling a business rescue plan before doing so. This is another blow to the failed airline's business rescue practitioners and their bid to salvage the business. The entire process has been hampered by delays due to Covid-19, as well as the group being unable to find consensus between stakeholders, including unions and government. [ENCA]

Markets: South Africa's rand firmed against the dollar on Thursday thanks to a rally in riskier assets globally even as poor manufacturing data at home highlighted the blow to the economy from a coronavirus lockdown. The rand largely ignored data showing South Africa's manufacturing output fell 49.4% year on year in April, reflecting the impact of a nationwide lockdown on the recession-hit economy. On Friday the rand was at R16.98 to the dollar, R21.25 to the pound and R19.03 to the euro. Commentary by Reuters. [XE]

Jobs bloodbath: New data from the CCMA shows that a jobs bloodbath is underway in South Africa, with the group dealing with over 1,800 retrenchment cases, which affect tens of thousands of workers. The retail sector is being hardest hit, with over 23,000 jobs on the line, while around 15,000 private transport workers are also being affected by retrenchment processes. Meanwhile, the hotel industry could see almost 11,000 jobs lost. In the three months April to June, the CCMA has seen an increase of 156% in cases.

[Mail & Guardian]

Tobacco delay: Government has delayed the BATSA tobacco sales case by 6 weeks over “scheduling complications” – a vague reason that the tobacco giant described as ‘inexplicable’. This delay will lead to a continued loss in tax revenue, the group argues, adding R1.4 billion in lost taxes on top of what has already been lost due to the prolonged ban on tobacco sales. The group said that ever since the allowing of tobacco sales was announced, and then rescinded days later, it has been trying to engage with government, but has received no reply. [Moneyweb]

Price hike likely: South Africans may be facing electricity price hikes again, after energy regulator Nersa lost its court battle with power utility Eskom over how much the group is able to recover in lost income. Nersa had initially allowed Eskom to recover R33 billion through tariff increases over three years, but Eskom argued in court that this was incorrect, as it Nersa's calculations included promised government bailouts tied to its restructuring. Nersa will now have to recalculate the amounts Eskom can recover.

[Reuters]

WHO warning: The World Health Organisation has warned that the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic has yet to come, noting that despite some countries showing progress in fighting the virus, and a global scale, infections are accelerating. Six months in, the virus has infected over 10.1 million people, and killed over 500,000. Positively, more than half (5.6 million) have recovered. However, the WHO said that there is no quick fix, and countries will have to continue working hard to handle the pandemic “for the long haul”. [ENCA]

Admin issues: The threat of being placed into administration hangs over the head of the City of Joburg, as the municipality failed to pass a budget in time for the new financial year. A municipality cannot spend any money without an approved budget, as it would be recorded as irregular expenditure. The delay is due to the need for party consultations which has been hampered by Covid-19. The council is a hung municipality led by an ANC-coalition, with no single party majority. [TimesLive]

MORE...

Epicentre: Gauteng has now become the new epicentre for the coronavirus in South Africa, having shot past the Western Cape in the number of infections. The latest data shows infections in the province are past 75,000, with over 53,000 of them being currently active. 3,000 people are recovering in hospitals around the province, but this comes amid warnings from doctors and healthcare workers that the hospitals are under severe pressure, and there are fears of a bed shortage. [\[EWN\]](#)

Reaching peak: Health minister Dr Zweli Mkhize says that South Africa is heading towards its peak, based on the outbreak modelling used by government. He has urged South Africans to continue following regulations and guidelines, which have been established to protect people from the virus and to prevent it spreading. Studies have shown that compliance levels are a key factor in the effectiveness of any Covid-19 strategy. [\[ENCA\]](#)

Dining in: South African restaurants are taking government to court over what they call 'absurd' alcohol and social distancing restrictions. Restaurants were allowed to open for sit-down dining this month, however, they have been prohibited from selling alcohol to patrons. Industry representatives want any establishment with a valid liquor licence to be able to sell it. Three months of lockdown left many restaurants on the brink of collapse, and blocking alcohol sales has led to a massive revenue hit. [\[TimesLive\]](#)

Artificial criminals: Justice Project South Africa head Howard Dembovsky says that over 22,000 South Africans could be "artificial criminals" after paying admission of guilt fines for contravening lockdown regulations. These are people who broke lockdown rules and paid a fine to avoid taking the matter to court – and in the process got a criminal record. Dembovsky echoed sentiments from the Department of Justice that people should not pay these fines if they believe the charge to be unfair. [\[MyBroadband\]](#)

Markets: Markets continue to seesaw, flipping between risk-on and risk-off at the blink of an eye. Gold eased from nine-year highs on Thursday, assisting emerging market currencies to recover some ground after weakening earlier in the week. On Thursday the rand was at R16.92 to the dollar, R21.38 to the pound and R19,24 to the euro. Commentary by Peregrine Treasury Solutions. [\[XE\]](#)

Western Cape Premier Alan Winde tests positive for Covid-19

BY ARON HYMAN
Times Live



Western Cape premier Alan Winde tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday.

He said he was at a higher risk of developing more serious illness because he is older than 55 and has type-2 diabetes. "I received a positive test result for Covid-19 this morning, and I am in self-isolation at home for 14 days," Winde said in a statement.

"On Sunday, I started to develop mild flu-like symptoms. As I am diabetic (type 2) and over 55 years of age, I know I am at a higher risk of developing a more serious illness. I therefore went to be tested to determine the cause of the symptoms on Monday."

He said he had stayed at home since he started feeling sick and felt as though he had a cold.

"However, given my risk category, I will be carefully monitoring my health to make sure that any change is picked up quickly."

He said he would still be conducting meetings to co-ordinate the Western Cape's Covid-19 response.

"The Western Cape has been working around the clock to ready our health care system for the increase in cases expected over this time, and we will not let our foot off the pedal. The fight continues," said Winde.

He was in the process of contacting people he had been in contact with over the three days before he developed symptoms.

"Close contacts must self-quarantine. This means that you must stay at home and not come into contact with other people," said Winde.

Winde will host his weekly digital press conference on Thursday when he said he would answer more questions.

"I will also use the opportunity to share medical expertise on diabetes as a high-risk category during Covid-19. As I am diabetic, this is something very close to my heart," said Winde.

He said he was also looking forward to meeting President Cyril Ramaphosa online during the scheduled President's Coordinating Council meeting on Thursday afternoon.

"My message to the people of the Western Cape at this time is to take Covid-19 seriously. Anyone can get it. So, please keep yourself safe, and your loved ones safe," he said.

"Follow the five golden rules at all times, including wearing a cloth mask, cleaning surfaces regularly and washing or sanitising your hands often. And, please be kind, and compassionate at all times," said Winde.

He also wished all residents who have tested positive for Covid-19 "strength and a speedy recovery".

Premier of Gauteng tests positive for COVID-19

By Reuters



Gauteng, South Africa's most populous province, said on Friday he had tested positive for COVID-19, as new confirmed infections in the country hit a record high.

Provincial leader David Makhura revealed his infection a day after his health department said six members of its "COVID-19 War Room" had contracted the virus. Makhura and the six officials will self-isolate for two weeks.

"Given the fact that I only have mild symptoms, I will continue to ensure that the Provincial Executive Council and Provincial Coronavirus Command Council respond adequately to weather the storm of the pandemic," Makhura said in a statement. South Africa's confirmed coronavirus infections have been accelerating in recent weeks as lockdown restrictions are eased. Cases rose by 13,000 to 238,339 on Thursday, the biggest single-day rise since the outbreak began.

Gauteng, which includes Johannesburg and the capital Pretoria, is now the epicentre with nearly 82,000 cases. Two other provincial premiers, of Western Cape and the North West province, have tested positive for the virus.

Johannesburg, considered the continent's centre for finance and commerce, attracts hundreds of thousands of job seekers and migrants yearly. (Reporting by Mfuneko Toyana Editing by Olivia Kumwenda-Mtambo and Peter Graff)

Flooding in Cape Town as first of three storms hits SA

BY ARON HYMAN
TimesLive



Waves batter the coastline near Mouille Point in Cape Town on Thursday as the first of three cold fronts to lash SA at the weekend made landfall.

Sea rescuers have already responded to three emergency incidents along the Western Cape coastline as the first of three cold fronts made landfall in the province on Thursday.

With a second cold front expected to arrive on Friday afternoon, National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) spokesperson Craig Lambinon warned the public that lulls between storms may give the false impression that the coastlines are safe.

Thursday's front brought heavy rains and Cape Town reported flooding at several informal settlements in Khayelitsha, Philippi, Wallacedene, Mfuleni and Delft.

"The transport department is providing sand and milling and the informal settlement management department will provide flood kits," said the city's disaster risk management spokesperson Chantel Alexander.

"Roadways are flooded across the city, notably in Tokai, Ravensmead, Kuils River and Mitchells Plain. Transport (department) is clearing roadways. Trees have been uprooted in Kloof Street in Clifton," she said.

The storm also caused power outages in Philippi, Browns Farm, Nyanga, Gugulethu, Grassy Park, and Parkwood. Alexander said the city's electricity department was working on restoring electricity.

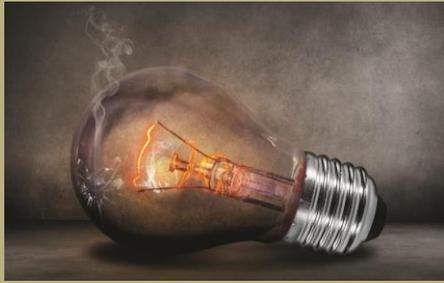
After Friday's cold front, which is expected to bring snow to large parts of the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal, another front is expected to make landfall on Monday.

The SA Weather Service tweeted that municipalities in the Eastern Cape could expect snow of up to 15cm.

[READ FURTHER](#)

Load-shedding will begin today

By Newcastle Advertiser
SA Government



Residents have been cautioned that load-shedding may continue through the weekend.

Residents can expect Stage 2 load-shedding from today. Eskom has announced that it will begin implementing Stage 2 load-shedding today (July 10).

According to the power utility, there has been an increase in generation unit breakdowns, which have exceeded 3 000MW of capacity, and said it was regrettable this decision had to be taken. "Eskom is working hard to return as many of these generation units to service," read a statement released by its Media Desk.

Five generation units were apparently taken off the grid between last night and this morning and a breakdown at the Matimba power station resulted in the need for load-shedding.

"Two units at the Arnot power station, as well as a unit each at Kendal, Tutuka and Majuba were taken off the grid. These removed more than 3 000MW of capacity from the system and the delayed return to service of a generation unit at the Duvha power station has also added significant pressure to the system."

Eskom has urged residents to continue reducing electricity usage in order to help minimise load-shedding and has cautioned the constrained supply situation may persist through the weekend. "We request the public to reduce electricity usage between 4pm and 10pm in order to assist us in limiting the incidence of load-shedding. With your help, Eskom can again recover from this much quicker."

Head of Communications for Newcastle Municipality, Mlungisi Khumalo has confirmed the schedule for Newcastle would remain the same as before.

SA vaccine trial shocked by how many people already had Covid-19

BY GRAEME HOSKEN
TimesLive

'We did not anticipate high number of asymptomatic people, which shows how extensive infection rate is'



Two weeks ago, Nomisa Mlaba was the first South African nurse to administer a trial vaccine against Covid-19 in SA.

Almost a fifth of the 474 South Africans screened for SA's Covid-19 vaccination trial were excluded from participation due to underlying conditions, including untreated hypertension, a lead researcher told Times Select.

Sub-investigator Clare Cutland said of that number, 202 had been enrolled in the trial and vaccinated to date. She said 35 of the 162 patients enrolled by Monday (21%) tested positive for Covid-19 before receiving the vaccine.

"All of them were asymptomatic on the day of their [nasal] sample collection. Global studies are revealing that many people infected with Covid-19 are either asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic." "Because of the high numbers of asymptomatic Covid-19 cases enrolled in the trial to date, it means one out of every five participants will have to be excluded from certain planned analyses, which could affect the power of the study."

She said to avoid this, more participants would need to be enrolled. Cutland, who is also a scientific coordinator at Wits University's African Leadership in Vaccinology Expertise, said this was not anticipated.

"It reflects how extensive the infection rate really is in communities."

Cutland said because of how many people were infected, but asymptomatic, the trial's protocol had to be amended. This included restructuring screening protocols. She said trial sites were now testing people during screening for past or current Covid-19 infections.

"We do blood tests for antibodies indicating past infections and nasal swabs, which show current infections. Anyone who has been positive will not be eligible for the trial."

The participants already enrolled into the trial before this protocol amendment, who were found to be positive on the day of vaccination or who had been infected before vaccination, would remain on the trial, Cutland said. "However, their data will not be used for some of the analyses." "Going forward, those who test positive at the time of screening, or who are found to have been positive before screening, will be excluded from the trial."

[READ FURTHER](#)

What to expect in South Africa heading to the end of 2020 – including a possible cabinet reshuffle: analysts

By Staff Writer
BusinessTech



While support for President Ramaphosa appears to be at recent-highs, the real test is likely in the next three months as focus shifts to risks of localised lockdowns, wage negotiations, cost-cutting measures and narrowing room for stimulus.

This is the view of analysts at Bank of America (BofA) which held a recent conference with local and foreign investors about the challenges currently facing the country. The group forecast a 10.3% recession this year for South Africa, with a main fiscal deficit of 14%. It also expects debt to remain on an upward trajectory, even with some cost-cutting measures factored in. It added that growth and inflation are likely to remain on the downside to justify room for more monetary easing, but it noted that pace could slow as the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) assesses risks.

Support for Ramaphosa

One of the key focuses of the call was the country's political backdrop and how easy it will be for government to introduce much-needed reforms.

"Latest polls suggest approval ratings for President Ramaphosa have increased towards 80%, with strong backing after initial lockdown measures were announced at end-March," BofA said.

"This has waned slightly since Q2, as stricter enforcement of Covid-19 measures weighed on sentiment. Support among the African National Congress (ANC) executive is now likely over 60% from 50% margins after 2017 elective conference," it said.

The group noted that push-back against the bailout of South African Airways (SAA) signals scope for downsizing of other state-owned enterprises (SOEs), but Eskom discussions still remain complex and will likely be deferred into 2021.

BofA said that unions are also likely to be politically weaker amid rising unemployment and lower cohesion.

"This suggests scope for cabinet changes in one to two months, as President Ramaphosa attempts to further strengthen his support base.

"This is, however, likely to be a balancing act with high political costs in removing core ANC members. We, therefore, do not anticipate an acceleration in reforms in the event of a limited reshuffle," BofA said.

[READ MORE](#)

Watch: Inside a coronavirus ICU unit in South Africa

By Staff Writer
BusinessTech



Private health group Melomed has published a new video highlighting what it is like to work inside one of South Africa's Covid-19 ICU wards.

The video follows Cape Town specialist physician Dr Pieter Roelofse as part of his daily work at the Belville Melomed Hospital.

The footage details the Personal protective equipment (PPE) Dr Roelofse is required to wear as well as the strict hygiene protocols he has to follow.

Dr Roelofse also speaks on what it is like to deal with the coronavirus and shows how he successfully intubated a patient. You can watch the full video below.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Alarm as attacks on ambulances in Cape Town continue

By Okuhle Hlathi
IOL



Cape Town – Health officials and unions have expressed concern over attacks on Emergency Management Services (EMS) personnel that have continued unabated, even during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the latest incident, an ambulance en route to attend to a patient in Parkwood was stoned in Blackbird Avenue on Monday, damaging the van's sliding door window.

EMS spokesperson Deanna Bessick said no one was injured and the incident was reported to the Grassy Park police station. "There were no serious injuries and there was no patient on board at the time of the incident. The male and female paramedics who were in the vehicle at the time of the attack were traumatised and received counselling," she said.

[READ MORE](#)

These are the 10 Cape suburbs with the most Covid-19 cases

By Mwangi Githahu
Cape Argus News



Cape Town - Gugulethu continues to be the leading suburb in the Western Cape with regard to Covid-19 cases, according to the latest monthly round up on the provincial dashboard.

With 1 859 cases recorded by June 26 when the survey was completed, Gugulethu – which falls under the Klipfontein Health District – was 371 cases ahead of Khayelitsha, which was second with 1 488 cases.

The provincial dashboard showed the other suburbs in the top 10 are: Philippi with 944 cases; Nyanga (931); Leiden (866); Langa (803); Delft (739); Mfuleni (725); Harare (535); and Delft South (502).

The DA's provincial spokesperson on health Wendy Philander said: "The provincial cabinet approved a hotspot strategy to fight Covid-19, which involves the co-ordination of various departments for a unified yet flexible response during this crisis.

"It allows the government to delve into areas of high cases where people live and not only points of origination and addresses a wide variety of factors that lead to the spread in any particular area.

"Our provincial government has been implementing the strategy long enough to ensure we offer the best possible response to Covid-19 in the top-10 hotspots.

"As we approach the extended peak I welcome the provincial government's comprehensive response and wish to encourage residents to use public quarantine facilities to limit the spread and keep their loved ones safe. Along with the launch of the Brackengate Intermediate Care Facility and Hospital of Hope at the CTICC, the hotspot strategy also removes pressure of acute and/or local healthcare facilities to cope with the demand for care.

"The launch of the provincial bed-bureau last week further boosts efficiency in the provision of care."

Living in fear: The plight of educators with comorbidities

By Ayanda Mthethwa
Daily Maverick



Almost half of educators in South Africa report having at least one comorbidity, posing a serious challenge to the resumption of classes. Daily Maverick spoke to one Limpopo school principal with comorbidities who described his fears as he waits for the department of education to approve his application to work from home.

A 59-year-old school principal from Limpopo, who asked not to be named, told Daily Maverick he's been waiting since 12 June for the provincial department of education to approve his application to work from home.

"I submitted my medical report and supporting documents three days after I returned to school over the fear that my conditions put me at high risk of contracting the virus," he said.

The principal, who has been an educator for 35 years, lives with two chronic illnesses – type 2 diabetes and hypertension – both of which have been flagged as high-risk illnesses by the department of education.

He is one of the many educators in South Africa whose health, because of underlying conditions, is more at risk now with schools having reopened and more grades being phased in.

A survey conducted by teacher unions in conjunction with the Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit (RMPRU) and the Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Unit (VPD) of the Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation found that of the 130,655 respondents that completed the survey, 49.8% reported having at least one comorbid condition.

"The majority was hypertension, asthma and diabetes. The remaining 46% reported multiple morbidities, while 5,567 individuals reported chronic lung disease," the survey noted. The survey also found that the prevalence of comorbidities in educators increased with age.

A concession agreement entered into by the department of education, teacher unions and the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC), which contains procedures to be followed when dealing with educators with comorbidities, permits teachers to stay at home while they wait for approval.

However, the Limpopo principal continued to report to work until Monday 6 July. Last week, he told Daily Maverick about his concerns.

"They [district officials] said I must come to work until they approve the application. My concern is that I can get... [the virus] while I am waiting for that process. I don't even know how long it will take."

[READ FURTHER](#)

'We're holding Covid-19 tests for hospital patients': Prof Abdool Karim explains why

BY JESSICA LEVITT
TimesLive



Prof Salim Abdool Karim says SA is facing a shortage of Covid-19 test kits.

"We have to protect tests for those people in hospital."

That's what the chair of the Covid-19 ministerial advisory committee, Prof Salim Abdool Karim, said health-care workers and facilities will focus on to ensure those in need are prioritised. He was speaking to [Jacaranda's Martin Bester](#), who asked about the testing irregularities reported by many.

Abdool Karim admitted the single biggest challenge is that "we just can't buy enough tests".

"It's not because we don't have the money or anything. It's just that the whole world is trying to buy the same test kits we are trying to buy. Suppliers can only supply us a limited number."

He said around 35,000 tests are being conducted daily, but SA would like to double that number.

Abdool Karim said the influx of people testing is large and there are backlogs. He said because of the backlogs, patients have "to wait a long time" before they get their results, which is "futile." The professor explained that the testing strategy has changed to focus on patients in hospitals.

"Now we're saying to people, we don't have tests. We have to protect those for people in hospital. If you are exposed and you are concerned you may have the disease, we aren't going to test you, because most likely when we test people like that, they are negative. Instead we say to people quarantine for 14 days."

Positive coronavirus cases have surged across SA in recent weeks, with Abdool Karim and health minister Dr Zweli Mkhize saying the country is fast approaching the eye of the storm. In Gauteng alone, positive cases have increased by 183% in two weeks, and the death toll by 246% during the same period.

Big win for restaurants as judge orders insurer to cover lockdown losses

By Edward-John Bottomley
Business Insider SA



After being unable to do business for months, restaurants, bars, hotels and guesthouses are demanding that their insurers pay out business interruption claims for the financial harm they suffered while being under lockdown. Some business interruption policies include cover for contagious diseases.

However, some big insurance companies, like Santam and HCI, are hesitant to pay out, claiming that the income losses stem from the government-induced lockdown, and not from the disease itself. Some insurers are willing to pay out for localised outbreaks of Covid-19, such as the forced closure of a restaurant due to coronavirus cases, but don't want to pay out for the general loss of income due to the lockdown.

A restaurant in the northern suburbs of Cape Town, Café Chameleon, brought legal action against Guardrisk, a specialist insurance provider owned by MMI Holdings. Café Chameleon has been forced to close its business in lockdown, and suffered huge financial losses. It is now struggling to pay employee salaries. It says that Guardrisk should settle its claim because it was insured for business interruption coverage if there was an outbreak of a "notifiable disease" - the type of disease outbreak that authorities need to be notified of, such as Covid-19 or smallpox.

But the insurer argues that losses stemming from the national lockdown didn't fall under any clauses insuring companies against infectious diseases - it was the lockdown that caused the damage, not the disease. It also argued that if they did have to pay out for general Covid-19 losses "it may have the potential to destabilise the global and the South African insurance market".

Judge Andre le Grange, however, was not convinced. In fact, he said that "the gloomy predictions of industry collapse are...nothing more than speculation".

And even if insurers did receive a flood of claims, that's no defence for renegeing on a contract. "It cannot be a defence for an insurers to say that it must be excused from honouring its contractual obligations because its business has unexpectedly incurred greater debt than had been expected," the judge found.

[READ FURTHER](#)

Seven things you might not have known about the late icon Mary Twala

By Nomvelo Masango
TimesLive



As SA mourns the passing of veteran actress Mary Twala, she is remembered for her talent and the great passion she had for her craft.

In honour of a life well lived, here are seven things you might not have known about this national treasure:

1. TALENT RUNS IN HER FAMILY

Twala was married to the late actor and director Ndaba “Mshefane” Mhlongo. Together, they were blessed with a son, Somizi Mhlongo, who is a talented choreographer, actor and presenter. If this doesn’t scream “talented family”, we don’t know what does.

2. SHE WAS CONNECTED TO HER LOVE UNTIL THE VERY END

Mam’ Mary, as she was affectionately known, passed away on July 4 at the age of 80 at Park Lane Hospital in Johannesburg. This date was the birthday of her late husband.

3. HER CAREER SPANNED MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY

Twala was cast in her first role after her older sister took her to an audition in 1963. Directors and producers soon fell in love with Mam’ Mary’s talent and work ethic and she went on to have a career spanning 57 years.

Apart from her roles in some of Mzansi’s best soaps including *Yizo Yizo*, the veteran actress also appeared in numerous stage plays and films including *Taxi to Soweto* and *Mapantsula*.

Her final appearance on the big screen was in the upcoming indie movie *This is Not a Burial, It’s a Resurrection*, which has won several international awards.

4. SHE AND SOMIZI APPEARED IN THE SAME MOVIE

One of Twala’s most memorable roles was playing the titular character’s grandmother in *Sarafina!* — a 1992 movie which also starred her son, Somizi.

Somizi was cast as Fire, a student leader who played a key role in the Soweto uprising, which the plot of the film centres on.

5. SHE STARRED IN SEASON ONE OF *GENERATIONS*

For many years, *Generations* was one of Mzansi’s most-loved soaps and Twala appeared during its very first season in 1994. She played a guest role which she executed with the utmost excellence.

6. SHE WAS A MUCH-LAUDED ACTRESS

Throughout her career, Mam’ Mary received recognition for her craft and won various awards.

In 2015, she won a Golden Horn for Best Actress in a TV Comedy at the South African Film and Television Awards for her role as MaKhumbu in *Skwizas*.

In 2011, her role as MaDolly on *Hopeville* got her nominated for a Best Supporting Actress award at the sixth Africa Movie Academy Awards.

In 2018, the Mbokodo Awards, which honours women in the arts, saluted her with a Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2019, she received The Standard Bank Top Women Lifetime Achiever Award.

7. SHE RECEIVED A NATIONAL ORDER

In 2019, the veteran actress was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga in silver by President Cyril Ramaphosa. According to [The Presidency’s website](#), she was given this honour for “her excellent contribution to the performing arts and for creatively raising awareness on women’s health issues through storytelling”. A note on the website adds, “[Twala’s] sense of humour and humility on and off stage has endeared her to the nation at large”.



Somizi and his mother, late veteran actress Mary Twala

End of an era as Media24 plans cull of iconic titles

By Ray Mahlaka
Daily Maverick



Media24 is considering the closure of five magazines and more than three newspapers. It joins a growing list of publishing companies that have either permanently closed their entire operations or hived off media titles, including Associated Media Publishing and Caxton.

South Africa's magazine and newspaper publishing industry has become another casualty of Covid-19, with the crippling pandemic pushing several well-loved and iconic titles into extinction. On Tuesday 7 July, Media24, one of SA's biggest publishing companies, announced that it is considering the closure of five magazines and more than two newspapers, and taking print publications to digital-only platforms.

This restructuring process could see nearly 660 job losses across Media24's magazine and newspaper publishing division, adding to SA's already worrying jobs bloodbath across many sectors of the economy.

These potential job losses represent more than 20% of the total staff complement of 2,971 throughout the division. Consultations on job cuts with staff will begin on Tuesday.

Media24 joins a growing list of publishing companies that have either permanently closed their operations or hived off media titles, including Associated Media Publishing (owners of Cosmopolitan, House & Leisure and Good Housekeeping) and Caxton, which recently withdrew from magazine publishing and associated businesses.

The publishing industry has a long value chain that includes newspaper and magazine production, printing, and distribution. Media24's division that includes the production and distribution of magazines and newspapers is big, as it contributed 60% to the company's total group revenue for its financial year ended 31 March 2020.

The possible closure and restructuring of magazines and newspapers could negatively impact on Media24's financial position, considering the size of the division in the group. But Media24 said the possible closure of some magazine and newspaper titles is aimed at "protecting the sustainability and longevity of still the bulk of the print portfolios."

The restructuring of Media24's newspapers, magazine, and distribution is bad news for Caxton and Novus, the main printers of the company's media titles. Caxton and Novus will print fewer volumes of magazines and newspapers due to the potential closures, charging Media24 far less than previously.

[READ MORE](#)

SA drive-in cinema comeback stunted by government

By Aimee Pace
Cape {town}etc



Eager movie fans who have been looking forward to the long-awaited return of drive-in cinemas in South Africa are out of luck, as a number of drive-in cinemas have been shut down just hours before kicking off due to government regulations.

Capetonians have been eagerly awaiting the opening of the [Mother City Drive-in](#) and the Galileo drive-in theatre. The new entertainment offerings will not be able to go ahead as planned as government is treating them as an event or gathering rather than a cinema, which is allowed under Level 3.

"Mother City Drive-in along with multiple other SME's are trying to create work for the industry & a safe environment for the public. We understand that events and mass gatherings are high risk in the current climate. We are not asking for those to be permitted, instead we ask for special dispensation and consideration be given to drive-in events that are by nature very different to normal mass gatherings," says Lyle Masters from Mother City Drive-In.

"Our key goal is for government to look at specific elements relating to our concept as the entertainment and hospitality industry needs relief. There is absolutely no relief right now or in the immediate future for arts & culture. We need authorities to understand and engage with us in order to stimulate relief in some way, shape or form, not only for industry people but also for the general public." Despite drive-in cinemas being safer than going grocery shopping or even visiting the casino – two things that are allowed under lockdown Level 3 – this entertainment form is receiving push back from government.

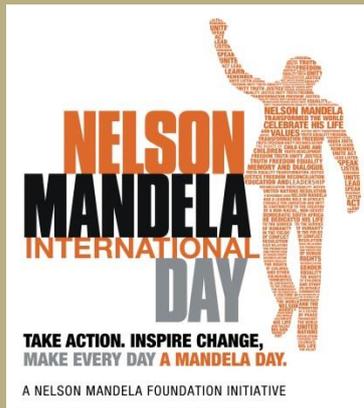
"Although we have support from public, ministers and relevant ruling bodies across the country, government right now has no specific category for Drive-in based concepts and therefore places us in an event category. With the current regulations and restrictions, we are battling to get a risk grading from SAPS. Drive-ins have become a safe form of entertainment all around the world without incident. We are one of the few cities that cannot get permission because of said limitations, as illogical as they seem," adds Masters.

Mother City Drive-In has launched a petition that locals can sign to show their support for the cause. [Sign the petition to allow drive-in cinemas here.](#) [The Galileo Open Air Cinema](#) announced on [their Facebook page](#) on July 4 that authorities had stepped in at the last minute to halt their first show that was planned to take place at Spier Wine Farm that evening.

"The matter is long and complicated, involving many officials at SAPS, Stellenbosch Municipality, Cape Town Municipality, Wesgro and the WC Government. We cannot explain all that went on behind the scenes as it's been a long and tedious process that we started in early April, but suffice to say that we had all our ducks in a row and had been given the clear, only to battle it out last minute on interpretations of certain laws," said the cinema company on their social media pages.

MANDELA DAY 2020

18th July 2020



In 2020, the essence of Mandela Day – take action, inspire change, and make every day a Mandela Day – is more important than ever before.

Communities across the world are affected by the spread of Covid-19, which has hit every economy, causing new social and economic challenges and exacerbating old ones.

But, there is hope. On a scale never seen before, individuals and groups are finding ways to help those in need of support. **You can join us.**

We call on you to **be an active citizen in your community**, individually or as part of one of the millions of groups getting together to start initiatives around delivering food parcels, making masks and protective gear, teaching online or making donations towards these efforts.

Mandela Day is celebrated on 18 July every year. In 2020, it will be the day we share the successes we have achieved and the lessons we have learned as we battle this pandemic, and its effect on those less fortunate than ourselves.

We call on you to **contribute to the Each1Feed1 campaign**, join a community initiative or start your own. **And, most of all, stay safe.**

[**JOIN THE MANDELA DAY GLOBAL NETWORK**](#)

[**DONATE**](#)

What is the Mandela Day Global Network?

The Mandela Day strategy introduces systems for organisations to globally participate to advance the cause of Mandela Day.

The Mandela Day Global Network is a community of organisations, government, corporates and individuals that partner with the Foundation to drive Mandela Day and pursue its objectives. It is a base for the strategic partnerships of organisations with common goals aimed at globally coordinating efforts, sharing information and linking the needs to resources.

Join the Mandela Day Global Network

You already give your time to the many Mandela Day causes, now join the Mandela Day Global Network.

[**Join Now**](#)

Donations go a long way towards ensuring Mandela Day plans are actually put into action. Please join us.

[**Donate Now**](#)

JOIN OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD
#ACTIONAGAINSTPOVERTY

[Take action against poverty today](#)

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Mandela Day Focus Areas and Goals

EDUCATION & LITERACY



GOAL 1

Provision of quality education for all children.

GOAL 2

All children in Early Childhood Development (ECD) to have access to learning resources for development.

SANITATION



GOAL 7

Sanitation that is safe in every school.

GOAL 8

Enable access of safe sanitation to all communities to.

FOOD AND NUTRITION



GOAL 3

Reduce hunger in families through the provision of nutritious meals.

GOAL 4

Eliminate malnutrition and stunting in young children.

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP



GOAL 9

Dedicate more resources to supporting poverty eradication projects.

GOAL 10

Encourage public participation and activist voices towards the eradication of poverty and inequality.

SHELTER

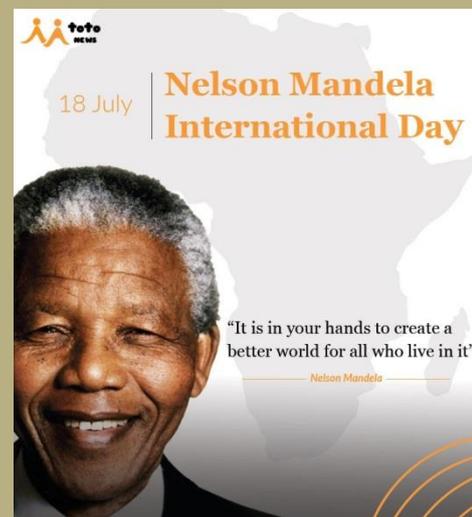


GOAL 5

Provide safe shelter for families to live and thrive in.

GOAL 6

Eliminate homelessness.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE GLOBE



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY & MEDICINE

Have countries flattened the curve?

Graphs by John Hopkins University & Medicine

Click on: **CASE TRACKER**

[Outbreak evolution for the current 10 most affected countries](#)

LATEST NEWSFLASHES

By Zaheena Rasheed, Farah Najjar & Arwa Ibrahim
Aljazeera

Hong Kong will close all schools from Monday after the territory reported a spike in locally transmitted COVID-19 infections, the city's education minister said.

Italy has banned entry to people coming from 13 countries that it said presented an excessive rate of COVID-19 infections.

Syria: The first coronavirus case has been confirmed in northwest Syria, aid workers have said.

Russia registered 172,914 deaths in May, up by 18,375 or 11.9 percent from the same month the previous year, data from the state statistics service Rosstat showed. This included 12,452 deaths of people suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, Rosstat data showed. Of these, COVID-19 was registered as the primary cause of death in 7,444 cases.

UK deaths from confirmed COVID-19 cases rise by 48 to 44,650. The United Kingdom's death toll from confirmed cases of COVID-19 rose to 44,650, up 48 on the previous day, the government said.

China suspends imports of Ecuador shrimps on coronavirus risk. China's customs authority said it was suspending imports from three shrimp producers in Ecuador after detecting the new coronavirus in recent shipments. It said samples taken from shipments from Industrial Pesquera Santa Priscila SA, Empacreci SA and Empacadora Del Pacifico Sociedad Anonima Edpacif had produced six positive results. However, tests on the frozen shrimp and inner packaging were negative.

WHO advance team on way to China to set up probe into virus origin. An advance team from the World Health Organization (WHO) has left for China to organise an investigation into the origins of the coronavirus, a spokeswoman said. The two WHO experts, specialists in animal science and epidemiology, will work with Chinese scientists to determine the scope and itinerary of the investigation, WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told a UN briefing.

"They are gone, they are in the air now, they are the advance party to work out the scope," she said. The WHO will have no role in an independent panel, announced on Thursday, to review the global handling of pandemic, Harris said, adding: "From now on it is completely hands off".

Finland objects to EU council's recovery plan

Finland expressed reservations to a revised budget proposal by European Council President Charles Michel, and the massive COVID-19 recovery fund plan being debated at a special meeting next week. Michel presented an update to a proposal for a 750-billion-euro pandemic recovery fund on Friday in the hope of winning over more frugal member states. However, Michel did not cede ground on the main point of contention: whether aid from the recovery fund should take the form of grants or loans.

Britain will set out its position on the European Union coronavirus vaccine scheme later on Friday, a spokesman for Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, adding any decision would be based on what is deemed to be in the country's interests.

EU says UK's refusal to join vaccine scheme not to affect talks with drugmakers. The European Commission said that a possible decision by the United Kingdom not to join an EU scheme to buy potential COVID-19 vaccines up front will not affect ongoing talks the bloc is carrying out with several drugmakers.

On Thursday, British newspaper The Telegraph reported that the UK government had decided not to join the EU scheme because of concerns there could be costly delays in securing the shots.

"The fact that the UK has apparently said they would not join up to whatever contract we are able to negotiate with producers is definitely not something that is going to influence our own negotiations with the producers," the EU executive's leading spokesman told a news conference.

Norway will lift travel restrictions to and from more than 20 European countries from July 15, including France, Germany and Britain as well as some provinces of neighbouring Sweden, the government said. Norway, which is not a member of the European Union but belongs to the passport-free Schengen travel zone, currently has some of Europe's strictest limitations on travel due to the pandemic.

US Arizona Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Arizona surpassed 116,000 on Friday, July 10, and the number of deaths attributed to COVID-19 reached 2,082 after an increase of 44 from the previous day. Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Arizona now stand at 116,892, increasing 4,221 from the previous day, according to the [Arizona Department of Health Services](#).

Britain's coronavirus quarantine rules end for many destinations. Quarantine measures for those travelling to Britain from around 70 countries and overseas territories, including France and Italy, no longer apply from Friday in a boost to the ailing aviation and travel industries hit by COVID-19. Those arriving from higher risk countries will still have to self-quarantine for 14 days but many popular destinations are now exempt, meaning millions of Britons are able to take summer holidays without having to stay at home when they return. The boss of Heathrow, Britain's biggest airport, welcomed the move but said more was needed to facilitate travel from other low-risk countries and areas.

"There are some important long-haul markets that aren't included, places like Canada and Singapore, which are low-risk, and we'd like to see those being included in the next review," John Holland-Kaye told Sky News. "We also need to think about how are we going to connect some of our really important trading partners such as the United States, which are high risk as a nation but some parts of the country are low risk."

Hong Kong cases stay high for third day.

Hong Kong reported 38 new cases, edging down from Thursday's 42 but broadly in line with a sharp increase that the city has registered over the past three days. Amid concerns of a renewed community spread it had reported mostly imported cases for months, authorities said 32 of the new cases were locally transmitted, little changed from Thursday's 34.

The total number of cases in the global financial hub since late January stands at 1,404, of whom seven have died.

Hong Kong to suspend all schools due to spike in cases

Hong Kong's Education Bureau announced the suspension of all schools from Monday after a spike in locally transmitted coronavirus cases that has fuelled fears of a renewed community spread in the city.

Bulgarian Football Union (BFU) may delay the start of the next domestic season, scheduled for July 24, after coronavirus infections at several clubs surged, its medical commission said.

More than half of top-flight clubs as well as second-tier teams have been hit by the virus, with Chernomorets Varna reporting 16 cases and Cup winners Lokomotiv Plovdiv nine.

"The medical commission made a proposal for the championship to start one or two weeks later than planned," commission secretary Mihail Iliev told Reuters news agency. "We believe it's a reasonable step in view of the complicated epidemiological situation."

Iliev, a former Bulgarian national team doctor, said the BFU's executive committee would take the final decision in coming days.

Indonesia reported 1,611 new coronavirus cases, bringing the total count to 72,347, its health ministry said.

Deaths related to COVID-19 rose by 52, taking fatalities to 3,469, ministry official Achmad Yurianto told a televised news briefing. There are 33,529 people who have recovered.

India sees more local coronavirus lockdowns as cases near 800,000 India reported a record 26,506 new coronavirus cases as authorities re-imposed lockdowns in its most populous state and in an industrial hub, home to automakers, drug factories and brewers. The new cases pushed India's tally to nearly 800,000 cases, the world's third-biggest outbreak, behind only the United States and Brazil in confirmed infections.

There have been more than 21,000 deaths in India since the first case was detected there in January, federal health ministry data showed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, anxious to jump-start an economy crippled by the epidemic and put millions of people back to work, in early June eased an initial lockdown of the 1.3 billion population imposed in March. But rising new flare-ups of the virus has been forcing some major industrial towns and states to impose localised restrictions.

Russia's death toll from the coronavirus edged past 11,000, as the country reported 174 new deaths in the past 24 hours.

The country's coronavirus crisis response centre reported 6,635 new cases, bringing its nationwide tally of infections to 713,936, the world's fourth highest caseload. The death toll now stands at 11,017. Russia says 489,068 people have recovered.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said that if the coronavirus situation in the Central Asian country does not improve by the end of its second lockdown, it would raise questions about the cabinet's ability to work in its current composition.

Tokayev said the government would allocate an additional 150bn tenge (\$363m) towards combating the outbreak and urged the central bank to lower its inflation target to 8.0-8.5 percent from 9.0-11.0 percent this year.

Vietnam says 31 million workers impacted by pandemic, risk of rising unemployment. The economic fallout from the pandemic has negatively impacted about 31 million workers in Vietnam, with 900,000 out of work and nearly 18 million people receiving less income than before, a government agency said.

If solutions to drive business activity were not immediately implemented, there could be 5 million more people out of work by the end of the year, the General Statistics Office (GSO) said. The country's economy has suffered, with second quarter growth at its slowest pace in at least 30 years due to the impact of the pandemic, putting the government's 2020 economic targets well out of reach.

"Workers are being negatively impacted by being laid off or having had their working hours reduced. The number of affected workers will continue to climb in the upcoming quarters," the GSO said in a statement. "Urban unemployment rate in the second quarter hit the highest in 10 years, at 4.46 percent mostly because of the social distancing measure in April."

Africa must adopt 'aggressive approach' against COVID-19

By Aljazeera

As cases increase by 24 percent in a week, top health official urges countries to increase testing and mask use.



A nurse at Nairobi's Kenyatta National Hospital participates in a Zumba aerobic fitness programme as a way of helping them to cope with working situations during the pandemic

African countries need to urgently ramp up their efforts to control the spread of the coronavirus, a regional disease control body has said, as the number of confirmed cases in the continent exceeded half a million.

The call on Thursday by John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) came as he warned new infections across Africa rose by 24 percent in the past week.

"The pandemic is gaining full momentum," he told a virtual news conference from Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, urging countries to increase testing and the use of face masks.

"We must adopt an aggressive and bold approach: #maskonallfaces, ramp up Test, Trace, and Treat, strengthen community response. This will save lives and save (the) economy," he added on Twitter.

Of the 512,039 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the continent, 71 percent have been reported in just five countries: South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana and Algeria.

A shortage of reliable data afflicts many African countries, and some governments have been reluctant to acknowledge epidemics or to expose crumbling health systems to outside scrutiny.

Other nations are too poor or conflict-ridden to carry out significant testing.

Meanwhile, countries are moving ahead with plans to gradually lift lockdown restrictions in a bid to revive their economies. On Monday, Kenya [announced](#) the easing of movement restrictions despite being aware that opening up too quickly could lead to a spike in new cases.

Governments on Thursday also launched the Consortium for COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trial (CONCVACT).

The goal of the initiative is to secure more than 10 late-stage vaccine clinical trials "by bringing together global vaccine developers and funders, as well as African organizations that facilitate clinical trials", according to Africa CDC.

CONCVACT is being implemented as part of the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 endorsed by African Ministers of Health in February.

US reaches 3m confirmed Covid-19 cases as Pence pushes for schools to reopen – as it happened

By Maanvi Singh, Martin Pengelly, Joan E Greve and Martin Belam
The Guardian



Here is a wrap of US news

- **The number of US cases of coronavirus has surpassed 3m.** The country has confirmed far more cases than any other country in the world and now accounts for about a quarter of global cases.
- **The US vice-president, Mike Pence, urged schools to reopen despite the pandemic,** echoing comments from **Trump**. During a White House coronavirus task force briefing at the US department of education, Pence said, "It's time for us to get our kids back to school." But many school officials are expressing doubts about their ability to safely reopen their doors.
- **Trump threatened to withhold funding from schools that don't reopen.** The president also criticized the school reopening guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as "very tough" and "expensive".
- **The supreme court sided with the Trump administration in a birth control case.** In a 7-2 decision written by the conservative justice **Clarence Thomas**, the court ruled that the administration was allowed to expand exemptions to private employers seeking to opt out of the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive coverage mandate.
- **Lt Col Alexander Vindman, a key witness in the Trump impeachment inquiry, announced he was retiring from the US army.** Vindman's lawyer said he made the decision to retire after more than 21 years of service because the White House had launched a "campaign of bullying, intimidation, and retaliation" against him.
- **Six taskforces designed to unify the Democratic party after a contentious primary have submitted policy recommendations to Joe Biden.** They pushing the Biden to adopt more ambitious proposals on issues from climate change to criminal justice reform.
- **Trump met with the Mexican president, Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador.** The two leaders touted the US-Mexico-Canada trade deal, and exchanged praise despite Trump's track record of denigrating Mexican immigrants and threatening the country with tariffs.
- **The supreme court says a grand jury can see Trump's taxes** Donald Trump's longstanding efforts to keep his personal financial affairs a secret have been dealt a setback, after the supreme court ruled a Manhattan [grand jury could have access to the president's tax returns](#). Trump reacted angrily to the ruling, despite a separate decision by the court that means he will not have to turn over his financial records to Congress. It remains unlikely any of his tax records will become public before November's election.

Still, says Lloyd Green, the court's 7-2 decision – for which sided with liberal justices – is a huge [blow to Trump's belief that he's above the law](#).

Brazil's President Bolsonaro vetoes COVID-19 aid for Indigenous

By JAIR BOLSONARO
Aljazeera



Veto denies Brazil's 850,000 Indigenous 'minimum necessary for survival' in pandemic, advocacy group says.

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro has vetoed provisions of a law that obligated the federal government to provide drinking water, disinfectants and a guarantee of hospital beds to Indigenous communities amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The president's office on Wednesday said those provisions in the law, approved by Congress, were "against the public interest" and "unconstitutional", by creating expenses for the federal government without new sources of revenue to cover them.

Brazil's Indigenous population of roughly 850,000 is more vulnerable to COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, as they live in remote areas with little access to healthcare systems and because their communal lifestyle rules out social distancing.

Bolsonaro vetoed 16 parts of the law on efforts to address the coronavirus threat to Brazil's Indigenous population, but still allowed for provisions on adequate testing, ambulance services and medical equipment.

"The vetoes deny the minimum necessary for the survival of these communities," Brazilian Indigenous advocacy group Instituto Socioambiental (ISA) said in a statement.

"The vetoes reveal that the president's plan is not to have a plan," it said.

ISA called on Congress to overturn the vetoes, which it can do with sufficient votes.

The president also vetoed funding for the states and local governments with emergency plans for Indigenous communities, as well as provisions to help give them more information on the new coronavirus, including greater internet access.

On the campaign trail, Bolsonaro swore not to designate any more land for Indigenous reserves. The right-wing populist has sought to assimilate Indigenous peoples by calling for commercial farming and mining to be introduced on their reserves, saying it will raise them out of poverty.

Bolsonaro has [tested positive](#) for the coronavirus, which he has previously dismissed as "a little flu", and said he was doing well on Wednesday.

Brazilian President Tests Positive for Coronavirus



Jair Bolsonaro previously downplayed risks posed by coronavirus, once telling supporters because of his history of athleticism, he would not worry if he became infected.

Brazilian President Bolsonaro 'Doing Very Well' Despite Coronavirus Diagnosis

By VOA News



Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro says he is "doing very well" one day after testing positive for coronavirus.

Bolsonaro tested positive for the disease on Tuesday after spending the weekend in close proximity with government officials, including a mask-free attendance at an Independence Day celebration at the U.S. Embassy.

"Be assured that for you the chance of something more serious is close to zero," Bolsonaro assured citizens during the announcement of his illness on Tuesday.

[READ FURTHER](#)

Ivory Coast Prime Minister Dies After Cabinet Meeting

By Ruth Maclean
The New York Times



Amadou Gon Coulibaly had just returned to the West African country from France, where he had been receiving treatment for a heart condition.

DAKAR, Senegal — The prime minister of Ivory Coast, a candidate for president in a coming election, died suddenly, the country's president announced on Wednesday.

The death of Prime Minister Amadou Gon Coulibaly, 61, cast uncertainty on the West African country's presidential election in three months, in which he was to be the ruling party's candidate. The cause of death was not immediately clear.

He died following a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday afternoon, soon after having returned from France, where he had spent two months receiving medical treatment for a heart condition.

The president, Alassane Ouattara, 78, paid tribute to the colleague he called "my little brother, my son," in a [message](#) praising his devotion and loyalty, posted on Twitter on Wednesday evening. Mr. Coulibaly was the candidate the president had picked after deciding not to run for a third term as president.

"He embodied this young generation of Ivorians of great skill and extreme loyalty to the nation," the president wrote.

Mr. Coulibaly was Mr. Ouattara's right-hand man. He previously served as minister of agriculture under Laurent Gbagbo, the former president who was tried and, last year, [acquitted of crimes against humanity](#) by the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Mr. Gbagbo's refusal to give up power when he lost an election in 2010 to Mr. Ouattara led to a civil war in which thousands died.

In part because he belonged to a powerful family from Ivory Coast's north, Mr. Coulibaly was instrumental in gaining popular support in the region for the party Mr. Ouattara came to lead, the Rally of the Republicans (R.D.R. by its French acronym).

"He was the president's most loyal collaborator," said Dr. Arthur Banga, a historian at the University of Cocody in Abidjan, the capital of Ivory Coast.

Kanye West, his career, politics and now presidential bid

By ALJAZEERA NEWS



American rapper Kanye West will run for United States president as an independent in November on a Republican-leaning, pro-Black religious platform, West said in a newly published interview.

In a four-hour, rambling interview with Forbes magazine excerpted on Wednesday, the billionaire entertainer said he no longer supports President Donald Trump and will mount his own campaign for president.

"God just gave me the clarity and said it's time," said Kanye who started a brush fire on the internet around the Fourth of July holiday by declaring to his 29.6 million followers on Twitter that he intends to run for president.

His campaign slogan will be "Kanye West YES" and he will run as an independent under the heading of the "Birthday Party", West told Forbes. If it were not for Trump, West would run as a Republican.

"Trump is the closest president we've had in years to allowing God to still be part of the conversation," West said but that the country is a "big mess" now.

"I don't like that I caught wind that he hid in the bunker," West said of Trump.

The Secret Service escorted the president and his family to a secure bunker under the White House on May 29 during clashes with protesters against the police killing of George Floyd.

Ending police brutality is one of West's top policy goals, he told Forbes. He's against the death penalty, is anti-abortion, is "extremely cautious" about vaccines, wants to return prayer to public schools and has acknowledged that he is a political novice.

West said he was sick from the coronavirus in February.

West's first supporters are his wife Kim Kardashian-West and Elon Musk, who he said has been encouraging him to run for president for years. His running mate will be Michelle Tidball, a preacher from Wyoming, according to Forbes.

West criticised Democrats and Joe Biden for taking Black voters for granted.

"A lot of times, just like political parties they feel all Blacks have to be Democrat," West told Forbes.

"This man, Joe Biden, said if you don't vote for me, then you are not Black. Well, act like we didn't hear that? We act like didn't hear that man say that? That man said that," West said.

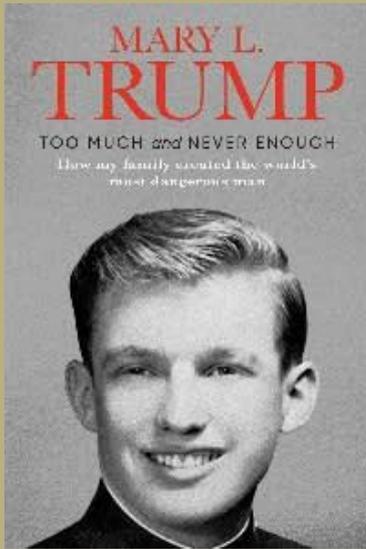
In an appearance in May on a radio show popular with African Americans, the former vice president had suggested Blacks who vote for Trump "ain't Black". The comment created outrage and Biden apologised.

"That is a form of racism and White supremacy and white control to say that all Black people need to be Democrat," West said, adding he would have no problem splitting the Black vote in November's election.

[READ FURTHER](#)

'Too Much and Never Enough' the scathing new Trump memoir

By Edward Luce
The Financial Times



The president's niece rakes over abuse, greed and neglect in a bid to explain his psyche Donald Trump with his late father Fred, a New York property developer, in the mid-1990s.

Americans wonder if Mary Trump — niece of the US president and author of this bleak family memoir — shares any personality traits with her uncle. Since she is a highly literate, gay clinical psychologist, the answer would appear to be no. But her motives (money? revenge?) could be in question.

As the daughter of Donald Trump's late older brother Freddie, who died an alcoholic at the age of 42, Mary Trump, along with her brother Fred Trump III, was famously cut out of their grandfather's will. After a bitter fight, the four surviving siblings, and their offspring, cut Mary and her brother a meagre deal that included a non-disclosure agreement about the family.

The Trump family is still petitioning the courts to withdraw Too Much and Never Enough. It may be a bit late for that.

Mary's story begins long before she was born, in the 1930s household ruled by Fred Trump, the paterfamilias, and his Scottish-born wife Mary Anne Trump. Fred, who was a developer and landlord of New York outer borough housing, had no interest in his children.

The source for much of Mary's account is Maryanne, the first of his children, and the US president's older sister. The children were variously bullied and neglected by their father, whom Mary describes as a sociopath. Their often bed-ridden mother was hardly present. With an eight-year age gap, the young Donald took note of his older brother's humiliation. The lesson he drew was never to be needy. Hence the title. The children received no love and too much fear. "The role that fear played in his [Donald's] childhood and the role it plays now can't be overstated," Mary writes. The role that fear played in his [Donald's] childhood and the role it plays now can't be overstated Mary Trump The only self-made one among them was Mary's father, an airline pilot who briefly worked for TWA. He was never forgiven for leaving the family business.

[READ MORE](#)

France: Bus driver dies after 'attack over face masks' in Bayonne

By BBC News



The wife of Philippe Monguillot, Veronique Monguillot (centre), holds a portrait of her husband during a protest march

A bus driver has died in France, five days after he was attacked by passengers who reportedly refused to wear face masks, his family says.

Philippe Monguillot, aged 59, had been left brain dead after the assault in the south-western city of Bayonne. "We decided to let him go," his daughter Marie told AFP news agency, saying doctors had agreed.

Two men in their 20s were arrested and charged with attempted murder after the assault late on Sunday.

Two other men were charged with failing to help a person in danger while a fifth man was charged with attempting to hide a suspect.

Mr Monguillot was set upon after he reportedly asked three of the men to put on face masks and also tried to check another man's ticket.

Face masks are mandatory on public transport in France.

The mayor of Bayonne condemned the "barbaric act", local media report.

On Wednesday, thousands of people took part in a protest march in the city. Regional bus services were severely disrupted as drivers refused to work following the incident.



SPORTS NEWS AROUND THE GLOBE

This is what you can expect when you return to gym

By Viwe Ndongeni-Ntlebi
IOL



The world around us has changed, and everyone, including gyms needs to adapt to these changes.

Two of South Africa's most popular gym groups - Planet Fitness and Virgin Active - say they are ready to reopen their doors having ensured that all safety measures have been put in place. These gyms have made changes so that fitness lovers can return to their workouts in an environment where hygiene is a priority.

Virgin Active has illustrated how the new process will be, from arrival to the training. On arrival, the gym says members will receive a digital temperature screening, a quick and effective method to confirm if someone has a fever and might be unwell. Members will be asked to scan their own card for access and Virgin Active team members will conduct a short questionnaire about any symptoms a member may have.

The gym has asked that in the interest of member safety, only members under the age of 60 years may train. Members are required to keep on their face mask while working out, as will the Virgin Active team.

Some of the health club's facilities remain closed to ensure the health and safety of all members. These include Club V, internet stations, squash courts, saunas and steam rooms. There are grid lines, marked in the change rooms, on the gym floor and in the studios.

Good hand hygiene is an effective measure in keeping viruses at bay. Hand sanitiser is available at the entrance to all clubs and in various locations on the gym floor as a convenient and effective line of defense in addition to regular hand washing for 20 seconds. And while clubs are indoors, each has fresh, filtered air circulating on high frequency for increased ventilation.

[READ FURTHER](#)

Liverpool skipper Henderson ruled out for season, says Klopp

By Reuters



Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson has been ruled out of the rest of the Premier League champions' campaign after the midfielder sustained a knee injury in their midweek win at Brighton & Hove Albion, manager Juergen Klopp said on Friday.

Klopp was forced to withdraw Henderson 10 minutes from fulltime in the 3-1 win after a collision with Yves Bissouma but the German said the 30-year-old does not require surgery. "It is the best possible of the bad news. He does not need surgery," Klopp told reporters in a virtual news conference. "He will not play again this season. I'm pretty positive he will be with us for the new season, he is a quick healer.

"We all felt for him, awful moment. We knew immediately. Hendo is an animal he fights for everything. He deals well with pain but in this moment, he knew something had happened. It was a complete mood killer.

"The boys were happy with the result but then the boys realised Hendo was hurt. No surgery needed is the good news. He will lift the trophy, he deserves to lift the trophy."

Liverpool, who are on 92 points with four games remaining, are on course to break Manchester City's record haul of 100 points and face Burnley on Saturday.

There's resistance to real, authentic change in SA cricket, says Prince

By Sports Reporter
IOL



CAPE TOWN - Social media has exploded over the past two days since former South African cricketers Rudi Steyn, Pat Symcox and Boeta Dippenaar lashed out at Proteas fast bowler Lungi Ngidi for wanting the national team to collectively address the Black Lives Matter movement.

Former Proteas batsman Ashwell Prince, who has routinely been outspoken about inequality in the South African game ever since his playing days has now unequivocally expressed his views on social media.

Prince called for "tough honest uncomfortable conversation" and believes "the system is broken for some time in our beloved SA". The 43-year-old stated that "transformation has always been met with resistance" and that he would "love to see an integrated society".

The current Cape Cobras coach also remembers an incident in Australia where the black players in the Proteas team were being racially abused by supporters on the boundary.

When the incident was communicated to the Proteas' team management, it was downplayed and the players were told "it's not the majority" and continue playing.

"The system is broken and has been for some time in our beloved SA, both in society and in sport. We return from isolation and we say to the world, "look at us, we're back, oh by the way, there's still no black people who can play the game, but we brought a few along," Prince said on Twitter.

"Just to come see though, not partake. BECAUSE WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW, how it's played, coached, managed, governed, broadcast, how to strategize, Captain etc etc. And if we're the only ones who know how to do these things, guess what! We secure all the OPPORTUNITIES!

"For this generation and the next and the next.... And so ever since day 1, this Narrative had to be driven and protected, and any form of TRANSFORMATION has been met with RESISTANCE. REAL AUTHENTIC CHANGE, INCLUSIVITY, NON-RACISLISM has never been able to establish itself.

"Black player drinks too much on a flight, it's all over the media. White player urinates over the balcony of a team hotel, with several onlookers, it's swept under the carpet. It's not my intention to attach names and tarnish people's reputations. We just want EQUALITY!"

Prince says black players have often been blamed when the Proteas don't do well in a bilateral series or at World Cups.

[READ MORE](#)

Caster Semenya, Wayde van Niekerk picked in prelim SA world champs team

By Ashfak Mohamed
IOL



Despite a controversial IAAF ruling and a long-term injury respectively, South African superstars Caster Semenya and Wayde van Niekerk have both been included in the national preliminary squad for the world championships in September.

Semenya is still fighting the IAAF regulations for female classification for events from the 400m to the mile, although she gained a valuable victory last week.

The Swiss Federal Supreme Court ruled that the Court for Arbitration for Sport's finding in favour of the IAAF be suspended until Semenya's appeal is heard in full.

That means she is free to compete in any event until a final decision is made by the Swiss court.

The 800m Olympic champion is scheduled to run on Tuesday night, though, in a 2 000m event near Paris, while she is down for a 3 000m at the Prefontaine Classic in California on 30 June.

Athletics South Africa announced on Monday that Semenya was included in the world championship team for the 800m, pending the outcome of her appeal.



Wayde Van Niekerk, who missed last season due to a knee injury, is set to make his return to the track on 20-21 July in London, at a Diamond League event, the Anniversary Games.

Van Niekerk has been listed for the 400m and 4x400m relay for the world champs in Doha, Qatar, but he will have to gain approval from the Athletics SA board.

A number of other top athletes such as sprinters Henricho Bruinjies and Clarence Munyai are also in the same boat.

A further list of previous heavyweight competitors are being monitored to see if they can still qualify, including javelin star Sunette Viljoen and 400m hurdler Wenda Nel.

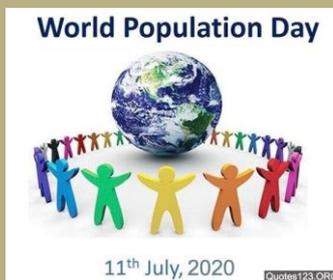
ENVIRONMENTAL News and Articles



July 2020

Plastic-Free Month

11th July 2020 – WORLD POPULATION DAY



Theme of World Population Day 2020:

The theme this year is based on safeguarding the health and rights of women and girls around the world especially during the time of COVID-19 pandemic. A recent UNFPA research highlighted that if the lockdown continues for 6 months, and there is major disruption to health services, then 47 million women in low and middle-income countries might not have access to modern contraceptives. This would in turn lead to 7 million unintended pregnancies. Apart from that, it could see a rise in gender-based violence, female genital mutilation and child marriages.

History of World Population Day:

The day came about in 1989 when it was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme. It was inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day on July 11, 1987, the approximate date on which the world's population reached five billion people. The United Nations General Assembly decided to continue observing the day through its resolution 45/216 of December 1990.

Significance of World Population Day:

The day is significant because it highlights the problems of overpopulation, raises awareness about the effects of overpopulation on the environment and development. It also talks about the health problems faced by child bearing women and the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights.

Too much of anything is not good for health, and the same applies to our planet Earth where population is concerned. A population is defined as being the number of organisms of the same species living in a particular area with the capability to interbreed. In this case we are talking about the number of human beings who stay in a city or town, region, country or world. As we mark World Population Day 2020 on July 11, we take a look at what the day is all about and how it came into being.

As per reports, there were an estimated 7.8 billion people living on Earth as of March 2020, and with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the number is expected to rise due to unplanned pregnancies. Population size fluctuates at differing rates in differing regions, and Asia is the most populous continent, with China and India together constituting about 36 per cent of the world's population. With such a huge population, problems are bound to arise.



Algae turn Italian Alps pink, prompting concerns over melting

Agence France-Presse
The Guardian

Pink snow observed on parts of the Presena glacier believed to be caused by plant that makes the ice darker, causing it to melt faster



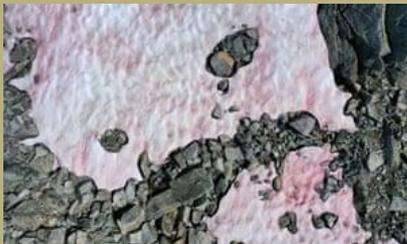
An aerial picture taken above the Presena glacier near Pellizzano, shows pink coloured snow

Scientists in [Italy](#) are investigating the mysterious appearance of pink glacial ice in the Alps, caused by algae that accelerate the effects of climate change.

There is debate about where the algae come from, but Biagio Di Mauro of Italy's National Research Council said the pink snow observed on parts of the Presena glacier is likely caused by the same plant found in Greenland.

"The alga is not dangerous, it is a natural phenomenon that occurs during the spring and summer periods in the middle latitudes but also at the Poles," said Di Mauro, who had previously studied the algae at the Morteratsch glacier in Switzerland.

The plant, known as *Ancylonema nordenskiöldii*, is present in Greenland's so-called Dark Zone, where the ice is also melting. Normally ice reflects more than 80% of the sun's radiation back into the atmosphere, but as algae appear, they darken the ice so that it absorbs the heat and melts more quickly.



More algae appear as the ice melts more rapidly, giving them vital water and air and adding red hues to the white ice at the Passo Gavia, altitude 2,618 metres (8,590 feet).

"Everything that darkens the snow causes it to melt because it accelerates the absorption of radiation," said Di Mauro. "We are trying to quantify the effect of other phenomena besides the human one on the overheating of the Earth," said Di Mauro, noting that the presence of hikers and ski lifts could also have an impact on the algae.

Tourists at the glacier lament the impact of climate change. "Overheating of the planet is a problem, the last thing we needed was algae," said tourist Marta Durante. "Unfortunately we are doing irreversible damage. We are already at the point of no return, I think."

Elisa Pongini from Florence said she felt the Earth was "giving us back everything we have done to it".

"2020 is a special year: terrible things have happened," she said. "In my opinion, atmospheric phenomena are worsening. [Climate change](#) is increasingly evident."

Spreading rock dust on fields could remove vast amounts of CO2 from air

By Damian Carrington
Environment editor
The Guardian



Crushed basalt is applied to an arable field in Norfolk as part of the research programme of the Leverhulme Centre for Climate Change Mitigation.

It may be best near-term way to remove CO2, say scientists, but cutting fossil fuel use remains critical

Spreading rock dust on farmland could suck billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide from the air every year, according to the first detailed global analysis of the technique.

The chemical reactions that degrade the rock particles lock the greenhouse gas into carbonates within months, and some scientists say this approach may be the best near-term way of removing CO2 from the atmosphere.

The researchers are clear that cutting the fossil fuel burning that releases CO2 is the most important action needed to tackle the climate emergency. But climate scientists also agree that, in addition, massive amounts of CO2 need to be removed from the air to meet the Paris agreement goals of keeping global temperature rise below 2C.

The rock dust approach, called enhanced rock weathering (ERW), has several advantages, the researchers say. First, many farmers already add limestone dust to soils to reduce acidification, and adding other rock dust improves fertility and crop yields, meaning application could be routine and desirable.

Basalt is the best rock for capturing CO2, and many mines already produce dust as a byproduct, so stockpiles already exist. The researchers also found that the world's biggest polluters, China, the US and India, have the greatest potential for ERW, as they have large areas of cropland and relatively warm weather, which speeds up the chemical reactions.

The analysis, [published in the journal Nature](#), estimates that treating about half of farmland could capture 2bn tonnes of CO2 each year, equivalent to the combined emissions of Germany and Japan. The cost depends on local labour rates and varies from \$80 per tonne in India to \$160 in the US, and is in line with the \$100-150 carbon price forecast by the World Bank for 2050, the date by which emissions must reach net zero to avoid catastrophic climate breakdown.

"CO2 drawdown strategies that can scale up and are compatible with existing land uses are urgently required to combat climate change, alongside deep emissions cuts," said Prof David Beerling, of the University of Sheffield, a lead author of the study. "ERW is a straightforward, practical approach."

Prof Jim Hansen, of Columbia University in the US and one of the research team, said: "Much of this carbonate will eventually [wash into] the ocean, ending up as limestone on the ocean floor.

[READ FURTHER](#)

People are planting tiny urban forests to boost biodiversity and fight climate change

By Alex Thornton
Senior Writer
World Economic Forum



Inspired by a Japanese botanist, these mixed-species copses can absorb more carbon than conifer forests.

- Miniature urban forests planted using a method invented by a Japanese botanist in the 1970s are growing in popularity.
- Dense copses bursting with biodiversity can thrive in areas the size of a tennis court.
- Known as 'Miyawaki' forests, the trees grow more quickly and absorb more CO₂ than plantations grown for timber.

How much space do you think you need to grow a forest?

If your answer is bigger than a couple of tennis courts, think again. [Miniature forests are springing up](#) on patches of land in urban areas around the world, often [planted by local community groups](#) using a method inspired by Japanese temples.

The idea is simple – take brownfield sites, plant them densely with a wide variety of native seedlings, and let them grow with minimal intervention. The result, [according to the method's proponents](#), is complex ecosystems perfectly suited to local conditions that improve biodiversity, grow quickly and absorb more CO₂.

The Miyawaki method

The method is based on the work of Japanese botanist [Akira Miyawaki](#). He found that protected areas around temples, shrines and cemeteries in Japan contained a huge variety of native vegetation that co-existed to produce resilient and diverse ecosystems. This contrasted with the conifer forests – non-indigenous trees grown for timber – that dominated the landscape.

His work developed into the [Miyawaki method](#) – an approach that prioritizes the natural development of forests using native species. Miyawaki forests can grow into [mature ecosystems in just 20 years](#) – astonishingly fast when compared to the 200 years it can take a forest to regenerate on its own. They act as oases for biodiversity, supporting up to 20 times as many species as non-native, managed forests.

Local pollinators such as butterflies and bees, beetles, snails and amphibians are among the animals that thrive with a greater diversity of food and shelter.

Greening urban spaces worldwide

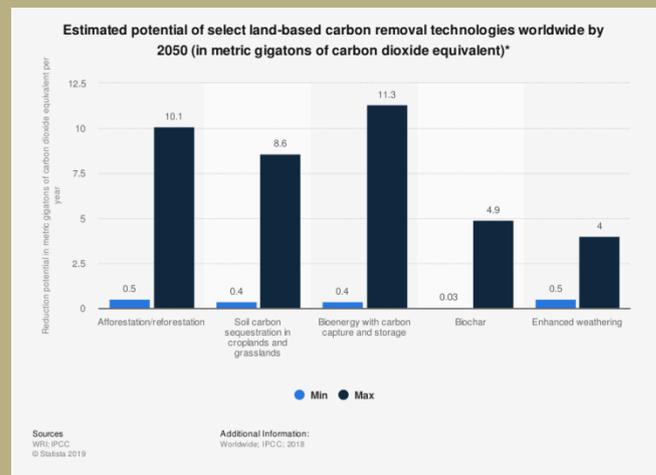
The popularity of Miyawaki forests is growing, with initiatives in India, the Amazon, and Europe. Projects like Urban Forests in Belgium and France, and Tiny Forest in the Netherlands, are bringing together volunteers to transform small patches of wasteland.

Urban forests bring many benefits to communities beyond their impact on biodiversity. Green spaces can help to improve people's mental health, reduce the harmful effects of air pollution, and even counter the phenomenon of heat islands in cities, where expanses of concrete and asphalt raise temperatures unnaturally high.

Carbon sinks

But it is the potential for helping to combat climate change that makes Miyawaki forests a particularly attractive option for many environmentalists. Reforestation is a key part of strategies to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5°C, with initiatives like the [Bonn Challenge](#), [Trillion Trees Vision](#) and the [World Economic Forum's 1t.org](#) project setting ambitious targets.

It's estimated that new or restored forests could remove up to 10 gigatons of C₂O equivalent by 2050.



However, not all forests are equally effective in sequestering carbon. Mature forests of native trees soak up much more CO₂ than the monoculture plantations that make up many reforestation projects. As scientists learn more about the role of other factors, such as carbon in the soil, it is increasingly clear that planting the right kind of trees matters as much as the number.

Conservation groups stress that Miyawaki forests should not be seen as an alternative to protecting existing native forests. Small, unconnected wooded areas can never replace the large tracts of forest that are vital to so many species, and that remain under threat from commercial plantations and slash-and-burn farming. But if you have a patch of wasteland in your local community that is sitting idle, a Miyawaki forest could be one way of doing your bit to help the environment.

Dover clifftops 'buzzing with wildlife' after National Trust takeover

By Steven Morris
The Guardian

Restoration work and wet winter have led to an explosion of colour and an increase in birds



Poppies atop the white cliffs of Dover.

A well known piece of the British landscape that had become depleted of flora and fauna because of years of intensive farming is alive with wildflowers, butterflies and birds this summer.

Since the National Trust [acquired fields](#) on top of the white cliffs of Dover two and half years ago after a £1m national appeal championed by Dame Vera Lynn, it has worked to restore the area to rich grassland.

The charity is excited at the results, reporting an increase in birds including skylarks, corn buntings, partridges and meadow pipits. Peregrine falcons are benefiting from an increase in wild pigeons, a main source of prey.

Fields have been vivid with poppies, ox-eye daisies and buttercups, and staff hope the new habitat will in time support chalkland butterfly species such as the adonis blue and the dingy skipper, as well as continuing to provide a home for more common marbled whites and red admirals.

The fields are part of a 178-acre plot that [the trust bought in 2017](#). It immediately set about reversing the effect of 70 years of intensive agriculture that began after the second world war. In 2018, barley was sown to remove some of the nutrients from the well-fertilised soil, preparing it for a wildflower and grass mix. Typically, chalk grassland wildflowers prefer a low-nutrient soil to thrive.

A “bumblebird” seed mix, which includes cereals, brassicas and wildflowers, was sown last autumn to provide birds with a supply of food through the winter, and a range of nectar-rich plants for pollinators in the summer. The wet winter that followed helped create an explosion of colour.

Virginia Portman, the general manager at the white cliffs for the trust, said: “After many decades of intensive farming, it’s fantastic to see this stretch of the cliffs buzzing with wildlife again.

“The cliffs hold an incredibly special place in our country’s history, but they’re also important for nature as much of the habitat we have here, chalk grassland, is increasingly rare in the UK.

“To see the fields returning to their natural state, covered in poppies and ringing with the sound of skylarks, is really heartening. It’s a tribute to everyone who supported our campaign and helped us buy back this landscape for the nation.”

The trust’s [2017 fundraising campaign](#) reached its target in just three weeks, its success credited in part to the support of Lynn, who died aged 103 last month.

The trust’s [2017 fundraising campaign](#) reached its target in just three weeks, its success credited in part to the support of Lynn, who died aged 103 last month.

Portman said: “The white cliffs of Dover will be forever intertwined with Dame Vera Lynn. Her music marked the start of the enduring emotional connection that people feel when they visit us here, and we’re so grateful for her support over the years. In helping us to save the land and restore it as a haven for wildlife, she has left a legacy for future generations to enjoy.”

Mark Love, who carries out surveys for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) in the area, said: “The quantity of skylarks, meadow pipits and corn buntings clearly enhanced by the changed land management is remarkable.”

WATCH: Predatory bird swoops off with 'shark-like fish' over beach

By IOL reporter

It was initially misidentified as a bald eagle, but a video shared online – according to expert opinion – showed a giant osprey with what appeared to be a shark-like fish suspended in its claws above beachgoers at South Carolina’s Myrtle Beach. The giant osprey had surprised the beachgoers, swooping into the ocean and fishing out what turned out to be a ladyfish after a furious debate on social media.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Kelly Burbage shared the video online on Friday and appealed for wildlife experts to name the fish and the bird.

“Eagle? Condor? Caught a shark in Myrtle Beach!” Burbage posted on Facebook.

“Looks like an osprey,” wrote one user. “This is crazy!” posted another.

The osprey is a large raptor, reaching more than 60cm in length and 180cm across its wings.

A Twitter account shared the same video on Tuesday, with close to 30 million people having seen the 25-second clip so far. The Tracking Sharks account post posed the question: “Anyone know what type of bird this is and is it holding a shark?”

Experts came to the conclusion that the so-called shark was a ladyfish and social media users agreed that the bird was an osprey, with one writing: “Definitely an osprey.”

Another person wrote, “This is a ladyfish indeed!”, while others debated whether or not the fish could have been a “small shark”, mackerel or bluefish.

A ladyfish is an elongated, slender fish with a compact oval cross section and large deeply forked tail or caudal fin with long, slender symmetrical lobes. The small head is pointed and both the mouth and eyes are quite large. The teeth are very small but quite sharp.

I Think A Squirrel Fell Off My Roof



This Squirrel Keeps Messing With My Cats



Have a great weekend!

Snuggle up, keep warm, stay safe, healthy and take care.

Till next time.... Tanya