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News Worth Knowing

The Daily Brief is taking a summer break from August 12 - August 23, and will be back on August 26.

Editor's note

The U.S. Treasury on Monday [designated China as a 'currency manipulator'](#), after Beijing allowed the yuan to plunge against the dollar in retaliation for the latest round of tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

It marks the sharpest escalation yet in the trade war between the two. In the inevitable deluge of commentary about what all of this means few will be thinking of Africa, but the continent's economies should be worried.

Back [in April the IMF warned](#) that an escalation in trade tensions, and tighter global financial conditions, could cut 2% off growth in sub-Saharan Africa - more than halving an already mediocre forecast of 3.5%. It will be surprising if the Fund sticks to this number.

Against the backdrop of stretched public finances across much of the continent, and a looming debt crisis, it's the last thing Africa needs. Economies like South Africa are already feeling the pain, with the [rand falling to a seven-week low](#) on Monday.

The escalating trade war will likely also fuel concerns about a [cold war-like showdown](#) between the U.S and China on the continent- raising the prospect of countries having to choose between 'East' or 'West'.

Let's hope it doesn't come to that, but the proverbial gloves are off between Washington and

Beijing, and that's bad news for Africa.

Today's picks

From the continent

Namibia has opened a new Chinese-built terminal at its biggest commercial port, which is expected to double annual container capacity to 750,000. The \$280m project was funded by the government, and the African Development Bank. **More:** [Fin24](#)

Nigeria-based Africa Finance Corporation and the African Export Import Bank have received approval for a \$200m credit facility to develop the Colluli Potash project in Eritrea. Jointly owned by Australian potash miner Danakali, and the Eritrean National Mining Corporation, Colluli is estimated to have reserves of 1.1bn tonnes. **More:** [Mining Review](#)

The Daily Stat

\$219m

The amount drinks giant Diageo has pledged to install renewable energy infrastructure in its breweries across Africa. **More:** [Bloomberg](#)

The Global Perspective

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization, World Bank, African Development Bank, and the International Fund for Agriculture Development have signed a cooperation agreement to tackle food insecurity in Africa. Hunger and malnutrition are rising on the continent due to factors including climate change and a failure to kick-start the agriculture sector. **More:**

[Anadolu Agency](#)

Texas-based oil exploration company Kosmos Energy has said it expects to sell its stake in the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim gas project off the coast of Senegal and Mauritania, following a final investment decision to develop the asset by oil major BP in December 2018. The field has estimated reserves of about 15tr cubic feet. **More:** [Reuters](#)
