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Institute for
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Alliance for
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Introducing another week of Future Trends — *tracking current global news stories that provide insight into the future.*

CONFLICT

Another border clash between Armenia and Azerbaijan leaves 6 Armenian soldiers dead. Armenia reported the killing of 6 of its soldiers. A [ceasefire](#) was declared after the six-week war between the nations.

Sudan military agrees to reinstate ousted prime minister and release government officials. Once [reappointed](#), Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok will lead an independent Cabinet. The UN, US, and others played "crucial roles" in crafting the agreement.

Wife of Mexican cartel boss captured.

Mexican security forces have [arrested](#) the wife of "El Mencho", the leader of the feared Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG). Rosalinda González is suspected of running the CJNG's finances.

COVID-19: Huge protests across Europe over new restrictions

[Tens of thousands](#) of people have been marching in Brussels and Vienna, to protest against anti-Covid measures. This comes after fresh protests in the Netherlands and many other cities.

Tensions escalate in the South China Sea. The spokesperson for the US Department of State declared that the US and the Philippines are allies. This statement was a [reaction](#) to recent frictions between the Philippines and China in this region.

DEVELOPMENT

Saudi Arabia is building the world's largest sea-based industrial site

The eight-sided city called [OXAGON](#) will float on the Red Sea and be run solely on clean energy.

Game changing rocket propulsion system developed. The [system](#) uses iodine and the entire propulsion system fits in a cube that is 10cm by 10cm. It is cheaper and allows for greater versatility.

NASA seeks ideas for a nuclear reactor on the moon

[NASA](#) put out a request for proposals for a fission power system. Proposals should meet a number of requirements including the unit being able to turn itself on and off without human help.

New law in Kenya allows refugees to work

[Kenyan President](#) signed a new law that will give a half-million refugees in the country an opportunity to earn a living, instead of depending on the aid agencies that assisted them for three decades.

In the West, assisted dying is rapidly becoming legal and accepted.

[Assisted dying](#) is now legal or decriminalised in at least a dozen countries, with legislation or court challenges pending in many others.

ECONOMICS

Shrinking labour force weighs on Russia's economic recovery

Unemployment is at a record low of [4.3%](#). Median wages are up 9%. The number of workers aged between 30 and 40 years old, will decline by 25% by 2030. The number of foreign-born workers is now 3 million, from a pre-pandemic 4.5 million.

BlackRock sees coal, oil power projects facing investment challenges. Although natural gas-fired power plant [projects](#) could find investors, coal and oil fired power stations would struggle, the CEO told an energy conference in Abu Dhabi.

Global remittances to set record in 2021 with Latin America jump

The money that foreigners globally send to their [home](#) countries is set to reach a record this year, fueled by transfers to Latin America, according to World Bank estimates.

US poised to release oil from reserve with other nations

The move, likely in [conjunction](#) with India, Japan and South Korea, would be an unprecedented effort by major oil consumers to tame prices after OPEC+ countries rebuffed US calls to significantly boost production.

Be ready for German inflation spike near 6%, Bundesbank says

German [inflation](#) has already hit a three-decade high of 4.6% in October. This is a prelude to an even faster surge in November.

POLITICS

Libya: Haftar announces run for president

[Libya's](#) eastern military chief Khalifa Haftar will run for president in a December 24 election also contested by a son of former dictator Moamer Gadhafi. He is one of the most controversial figures in Libya.

Britain outlaws Palestinian militant group Hamas. [Britain's](#) interior minister has banned the Palestinian militant group Hamas in a move that brings the UK's stance on Gaza's rulers in line with the US and EU.

Modi reverses decision on farm reforms. The [Indian](#) Prime Minister has agreed to farmers' demands that he scraps laws they say threaten their livelihoods. This happened after months of protests by farmers.

Peru PM sparks controversy with mining sector by committing to mine closures. A group of [four mines](#) will not be allowed any extensions of their operations. The mines were affected by community protests in recent weeks.

Congo president demands audit of mining registry to fight fraud. The move is an [escalation](#) of an ongoing review of deals struck by his predecessor Kabila, which includes a \$6 billion "infrastructure-for-minerals" deal with Chinese investors. Congo is the world's top producer of cobalt and Africa's biggest copper producer

Taliban to start paying overdue salaries of Afghan government workers. Thousands of [Afghan](#) government workers are owed at least three months of salary. The finance ministry says that in the last three months, they have generated income of about \$288 million.

SOCIAL

China, US to ease restrictions on each other's media workers

The US will issue one-year multiple-entry [visas](#) to Chinese media workers. China will reciprocate by granting equal treatment to US journalists once the US policies take effect.

Record number of people died due to opioid crisis in the US. Drug overdoses topped [100,000 fatalities](#) from April 2020 to 2021. Fentanyl, a drug 100 times more powerful than morphine, accounted for more than half of the deaths.

New Delhi suspends coal-fired plants and closes schools indefinitely amid ongoing air pollution. [The Commission for Air Quality](#) Management has also banned trucks carrying non-

essential goods and stopped construction in Delhi and its neighbouring cities. The air index is registering 499 out of 500.

Muslims should not use crypto, Indonesia clerical council says

[Indonesia's](#) top Islamic body has told Muslims in the country to steer clear of cryptocurrencies due to uncertainty and potential for losses.

Over one million Americans may have permanently lost the sense of smell from COVID-19. Up to [1.6 million](#) U.S. citizens have suffered a loss or alteration in their sense of smell that lasted more than six months.

PEACEBUILDING

[Yemeni political party leaders recently came together for an interparty dialogue in Helsinki.](#) [CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation](#) and [Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies](#) hosted the three-day meeting, which is part of a larger initiative aiming to support broader inclusion and participation in the peace process and the ensuing transitional period.

[Interaction](#) has released an updated toolkit on how CSO's and NGO's can understand and respond to disinformation. The [Disinformation Toolkit 2.0](#) includes resources, tools, examples, and recommendations for organizations and individuals confronting disinformation and its impact.

The Ghana-based company, [Ignitia](#), has developed a [model for making accurate highly local tropical weather forecasts](#), potentially allowing small farmers to use the forecasts to make more effective decisions. Forecasts are delivered via SMS to subscribers' phones. Ignitia is able to predict weather twice as accurately for tropical regions as global models, according to [Mercy Corps](#), which has invested in the company.

While a student at the University of Pennsylvania, **Katherine Sizov invented a [sensor that can determine the maturity of apples \(and potentially other produce\) in controlled atmosphere storage](#) and started [Strella Biotech](#) Company to market the sensors to farmers and retailers.** Use of the sensor could reduce food waste and resulting emissions, while also lowering the cost of production.