

October 5, 2021



Brought to you by



Institute for  
Economics  
& Peace



Alliance for  
Peacebuilding

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

---

## CONFLICT

**UN officials expelled from Ethiopia for 'meddling' in internal affairs after Tigray famine warning.** Ethiopia is [expelling seven senior United Nations officials](#), two days after the UN aid chief warned hundreds of thousands of people in the northern region of Tigray were likely experiencing famine due to a government blockade of aid.

**Ecuador to pardon thousands after 118 die in worst-ever prison riot.** Ecuador is planning to [pardon up to 2000 inmates](#) in order to relieve overcrowding at its detention centres. Ecuador has sent 3600 police and military reinforcements to prisons across the country to maintain order.

**Lawmakers allied to Uganda opposition leader charged with murder.** The [allegations against the MPs](#), members of Bobi Wine political party, a pop star-turned-politician and the leading opponent of President Yoweri Museveni, stem from a rash of killings in central Uganda that left at least 26 people dead.

**China ramps up escalation in Taiwan as 38 and then 39 warplanes enter defense zone.** China's [latest show of force](#) came after Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office issued an angry denunciation of Taipei's foreign minister calling his efforts to strengthen Taiwan's international relations as nothing but "shrilling and moaning" and "the buzzing of flies."

**Mali receives aircraft and weapons from Russia.** [Russia delivered](#) four helicopters, weapons and ammunition to Mali after Mali bought the helicopters in an agreement to support its armed forces in a battle with insurgents linked to the Islamic State group and al Qaeda.

---

## DEVELOPMENT

**Scientists develop tech to make waste into fertilizer.** Scientists from the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT) [have developed an innovative way](#) to convert keratin waste, mainly human hair, wool and poultry feathers into fertilizer and animal feeds.

**Poverty in Argentina reached 40.6 per cent in first half of 2021.** [Extreme poverty is also on the rise in Argentina](#), with 10.7 per cent of the population now classified as destitute. Argentina's economy has been in recession since 2018, but it was hit hard by the COVID pandemic.

**China pledged to be carbon-neutral by 2060.** President Xi Jinping [promised a "green revolution"](#) to reach 0 carbon emissions by 2060 during the UN General Assembly.

**Brazil's Petrobras to provide \$56 mln in cooking gas program for the poor.** Brazilian state-run oil company Petrobras [announced it will provide 300 million reais](#) (\$56.23 million) to a 15-month social program that aims to help low-income families to buy cooking gas.

**The world's longest under-sea electricity cable starts operating.** The [725km cable](#) connects Norway and the UK. Renewable power can be exported from the UK when wind generation is high and electricity demand low, or be imported from Norway when demand is high and wind generation low.

---

## SOCIAL

**CEOs with deeper voices get paid \$187,000 more than others.** After studying almost 800 male CEOs, professors from Duke and the University of California system concluded that CEOs on the deeper end of the vocal spectrum [are paid more in salary](#), than male CEOs on the upper end.

**How does the Nobel Peace Prize work?** The prize will be released on October 8th. The prize [should go to the person](#) who has done the most or best to advance fellowship among nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and the establishment and promotion of peace congresses.

**Afghanistan's Youth Scout program was authorised to continue by the Taliban.** The Taliban government [has allowed them to continue its work](#) to help rural girls and boys to have a better chance in life.

**China will not allow overseas fans to attend the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.** The International Olympic Committee [announced the decision](#) to only allow Chinese spectators after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics were celebrated with empty stadiums.

**Mexican President says Pandora Papers should spark investigations.** Several major news organizations [published details from a massive new leak](#) of financial documents showing heads of state, serving and former government officials, and business leaders with stashes of offshore wealth.

---

## ECONOMICS

**Myanmar currency drops 60% in weeks as economy tanks since February coup.** Myanmar's currency has [lost more than 60% of its value](#) since the beginning of September, driving up food and fuel prices in an economy that has tanked since a military coup eight months ago.

**Draghi's full-throttle Italy budget shows no return to EU limits.** Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi is [following through on his view](#) that the European Union's fiscal rules are "obsolete" with a budget that projects deficits well above the bloc's suspended ceiling for the foreseeable future.

**Venezuela subtracts six zeros from currency.** Venezuela on Friday [launched its second monetary overhaul in three years](#) by cutting six zeros from the Bolivar currency in response to hyperinflation, simplifying accounting but doing little to ease the South American nation's economic crisis.

**EU Court nullifies Morocco trade deals over Western Sahara issue.** The European Union's trade and fishing agreement with Morocco [has been cancelled by the European Union Court](#) because it was agreed without the consent of the West Sahara people. EU and Morocco have agreed to maintain healthy trade relations.

**India coal crisis brews as power demand surges, record global prices bite.** Over half of India's 135 coal-fired power plants [have fuel stocks of less than three days](#), government data shows, far short of federal guidelines recommending supplies of at least two weeks.

---

## POLITICS

**Hungary's Orban hits Czech campaign trail to back PM Babis.** Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban [backed his Czech counterpart](#) Andrej Babis' re-election bid on Wednesday, making a display of the close ties between the two central European leaders who have supported each other in disputes with the EU.

**Two Koreas to open cross-border telecom communications.** North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said that cross-border communication lines with South Korea [will be restored](#) in early October as part of efforts to improve chilled relations.

**Former French President Sarkozy sentenced to one year.** A French court [imposed a one-year sentence](#) after finding him guilty of illegal campaign financing for massive overspending on his 2012 re-election campaign. He will serve the sentence with electronic home detention.

**Haiti elections postponed indefinitely amid political crisis.** Haiti's prime minister [dismisses electoral administration members](#), again casting the vote's timeline into uncertainty.

**Macron to pitch greater EU role in Indo-Pacific after AUKUS crisis.** French President Emmanuel Macron [will tell his European peers](#) the AUKUS crisis could be an opportunity to make the case to the US that the EU can play a strategic role in the Indo-Pacific, French officials said.

**EU leaders to restate membership guarantee for Balkans at summit.** After weeks of disagreement over the wording of a summit declaration gathering of EU and Balkan leaders, envoys from the EU's 27 states [reached a deal](#) to reconfirm their unequivocal support for a European membership for the Balkan states.

---

## PEACEBUILDING

**Tribal leaders and influential women from tribal communities from across Yemen took part in a recent workshop to discuss how to enhance peacemaking efforts among the country's tribes.** The event was part of an EU-supported project led by [CMI](#) and the [Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies](#).

**A bipartisan group of US legislators has reintroduced a bill to establish the first formal commission in the US on Indian boarding schools.** The commission would investigate and document policies, assimilation practices, attempted termination of cultures and languages of indigenous peoples, and human rights violations that took place at hundreds of faith-run institutions, according to the monthly [Native American Legislative Update](#) published by the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

**The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) has issued a report outlining how Harvard University's divestment from fossil fuels can serve as a model for institutions globally.** Among other steps, IEEFA highlighted BlackRock's publication of a survey of funds that have already divested from fossil fuels, which found that post-divestment investment returns were either neutral or positive.

**Uniting for Action on the Maryland Economy** has begun a nine-month, non-partisan program that brings people together to build relationships, strengthen collaboration skills, explore different views, and work together to implement projects to strengthen the local economy in partnership with community organizations. The project is led by [Urban Rural Action](#), the [Washington County Chamber of Congress](#), the [Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#), and the [SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University](#).