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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

Thousands are fleeing into Sudan to escape deadly conflict in Ethiopia. More than 7,000 refugees from the Ethiopian region of Tigray [have entered Sudan](#). There are also many displaced people in Tigray as well as 96,000 Eritrean refugees. The federal army has since stepped up its military offensive, carrying out air strikes.

Azerbaijan's drones owned the battlefield in Nagorno-Karabakh and showed the future of warfare. Drone strikes provided a [huge advantage for Azerbaijan](#) in the 44-day war and offered the clearest evidence yet of how battlefields are being transformed by unmanned attack drones rolling off assembly lines around the world.

Mozambique police confirm dozens of villagers beheaded. The beheadings have been [blamed on a group of insurgents](#) known locally as al-Shabaab, which claims to have links with the Islamic State Terror group.

DEVELOPMENT

Multiple COVID-19 vaccines more than 90% effective. Russia's Sputnik V, Moderna and Pfizer have immunisation rates above 90%, however, the WHO expects vaccine doses to be very limited until the second half of 2021.

Measles deaths worldwide swell to their highest level in 23 years, says WHO and CDC. The global death toll [increased by 50% to 207,500](#) in 2019 compared to three years earlier. This is a stunning rise for a vaccine-preventable

disease and one that public health experts fear could grow as the coronavirus pandemic continues to disrupt immunization and detection efforts.

First test of Virgin's Hyperloop with passengers aboard – takes us closer to 30-minute floating commute from DC to NYC. After more than 400 tests, Richard Branson's Virgin Hyperloop, a levitating train of small passenger pods, just [made transportation history](#) as it completed its first run with people aboard.

Micromobility: French teenagers as young as 14 can zip around Paris in a small, car-like box named Ami. The [teeny tiny electric vehicle](#) is technically classed as a "light quadricycle," meaning it doesn't require a driver's license to operate.

The largest marine reserve in the Atlantic has been created. Governments and ecological organizations have created the [fourth-largest marine protected area](#) on Earth, and the largest in the Atlantic Ocean around the small archipelago of Tristan da Cunha.

ECONOMICS

Data shows economic activity crashes as virus resurges. Economic activity in a number of major advanced economies [dropped steeply](#) in the first weeks of November amid a stark rise in COVID-19 infections and expanding lockdown measures.

The US has approved the \$23BN arms sale to the UAE. The deal was promised to the UAE as part of their normalisation of ties with Israel. The deal includes [F-35 fighter jets](#), which will make the UAE and Israel the only countries in the Middle East to acquire them.

Asia-Pacific forms world's biggest trade bloc, US not a member. The members of ASEAN, including South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand signed a trade deal. The signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is the world's [largest free trade bloc](#) covering 30 percent of the global population.

SOCIAL

Turkmenistan leader unveils giant gold dog statue. Turkmenistan's president has bestowed his favourite dog breed with the highest honour - a [giant golden statue](#). It features an LED screen with video footage of the breed in various situations. Despite the grandeur of the statue, much of Turkmenistan's population is impoverished.

A chance to turn the tide on HIV infections in Sub-Saharan Africa. Researchers

from the HIV Prevention Trials Network believe a [breakthrough in the development](#) of a long-acting injection for HIV prevention. This could significantly reduce the risk of HIV acquisition.

One in five COVID-19 patients develop mental illness within 90 days. Anxiety, depression and insomnia were most [common among recovered](#) COVID-19 patients in the study who developed mental health problems. The researchers from Britain's Oxford University also found significantly higher risks of dementia, a brain impairment condition.

Parler 'free speech' app tops charts in wake of US election. Twitter alternative Parler has become the [most-downloaded app](#) in the United States as users flock to the self-styled "free speech" app after the US election. It follows a clampdown on the spread of election misinformation by Twitter and Facebook in recent days.

PEACEBUILDING

The international coalition [COVAX](#) is working to develop innovative and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines as well as diagnostics, and treatments. Launched in April by the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Commission and France, COVAX brings together governments, global health organizations, manufacturers, scientists, private sector, civil society and philanthropy. While potential vaccine suppliers have signed contracts with governments to provide them with vaccine, many are also in discussions with COVAX to distribute vaccines to low- and middle-income countries, [according to Moderna chairman Noubar Afeyan](#).

[Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed to a ceasefire, effective as of 10 November.](#) The deal ended the fighting but does not ensure a clear and stable peace. Azerbaijan has recaptured much of the territory it lost almost 30 years ago, but for many Armenians, it portends insecurity as there is no provision for safe evacuation of ethnic Armenians who want to leave the territory now under Azerbaijani control. A more sustainable settlement will require a deal in which refugees and IDPs are treated fairly and economic development benefits all involved.

[Conducive Space for Peace](#), [Peace Direct](#), and [Humanity United](#) have recently held an [online consultation to assess the impact of COVID-19](#) on local peacebuilding. Nearly 100 peacebuilders from 67 countries joined the discussion. **Participants identified major challenges posed by the pandemic**, including the exacerbation of some conflicts, reduced international funding, and the uneven availability of critical digital resources. At the same time, some expressed hope that the current crisis could catalyse change, providing an opportunity to shift leadership and resources to local peacebuilders and change the way the aid sector works.