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Institute for
Economics
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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

More coups have happened in 2021 than in the [previous five years combined](#) but still down on historical averages.

Taiwan confirms the presence of US troops on its soil. US armed forces personnel are in Taiwan to train with Taiwanese soldiers. President Tsai Ing-wen [said](#) “We have a wide range of cooperation with the US aiming at increasing our defense capability.”

Town in Ethiopian Amhara region captured by Tigrayan forces. Tigray People’s Liberation Front [have captured Dessie](#), a strategic town in the contested Amhara region.

Pakistani Islamist group [reaches deal with government](#), calls off future protest marches. The Tehrik-e-Labaik Pakistan wanted the release of jailed leader Saad Rizvi and the expulsion of France’s ambassador over caricatures depicting the Prophet Mohammad in a French satirical magazine. Details of the agreement are still to be released.

The World Bank has frozen economic aid to Sudan amid military takeover. The World Bank [has suspended its economic aid](#) to put pressure on the military that seized power. The African Union has also suspended Sudan’s membership over the coup.

DEVELOPMENT

India and the UK plan a [140-country solar gri](#). They aim to harness solar energy wherever the sun is shining as the earth completes its 24-hour rotation around its axis, and transporting the electricity generated to areas that need it.

India pledges to reach net zero by 2070. India, who is the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the United State, has committed to [reduce emissions to net zero by 2070](#).

Taliban government offers Afghans wheat for work. In a country where UN agencies estimate only 5% of households have enough to eat on a regular basis, the government is giving [10kg of unmilled wheat a day](#) to work on city infrastructure.

Nigeria officially launches digital currency. Africa's largest economy, Nigeria, [has introduced a digital currency](#), eNaira, making it the first in Africa and one of the first in the world.

SOCIAL

Israel moves ahead with thousands of settler homes despite US opposition. Israel [moved forward with plans](#) to build some 3,000 homes for Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank, defying the Biden administration's strongest criticism to date of such projects.

Japan start-up targets supercar users with hover-bike. A Japanese start-up hopes to persuade wealthy consumers to [swap their supercar for the \\$680,000 hover-bike](#) which went on sale on this week.

World faces shortage of syringes as COVID vaccine doses rise. African health officials and the UN are warning of a [looming shortage of up to 2 billion syringes](#) for mainly low and middle income countries as the supply of COVID-19 doses rises, and routine vaccinations could be affected, too.

Local police seized the largest drug cargo in South Asia. The cargo included more than [55 million methamphetamine tablets](#) and approximately 1.5 tonnes of crystal methamphetamine. The operation took place in Laos close to the Golden Triangle.

World reaches five million COVID-19 deaths. Despite 2020 being considered the year of the coronavirus pandemic, [60 percent of people who died from the disease did so in 2021](#).

ECONOMICS

China targets vegetable hoarders after spinach price more than doubles. Wholesale vegetable prices [surged 28% in the four weeks through Oct. 22](#). China's agriculture ministry pledged to crack down on vegetable hoarding and to ensure stable supply.

US GDP growth slows sharply in Q3 as consumer spending constricts. A wave of COVID-19 cases, surging inflation and ebbing federal financial lifelines [downshifted the pace of the US economic recovery in Q3](#).

EU and US [end clash over steel and aluminium](#), take aim at China's 'dirty' steel. The future EU-US arrangement will be a challenge for China, which produces more than half of the world's steel. The EU and US accuse China of creating overcapacity that is threatening the survival of their own steel industries.

G20 leaders endorse tax deal, pledge more vaccines for the poor. Leaders of the world's 20 biggest economies [endorsed a global minimum tax](#) aimed at stopping big business from hiding profits in tax havens, and also agreed to get more COVID vaccines to poorer nations.

Amazon struggles with decline in profit. The company is facing [labor shortages, high inflation, transportation and shipping costs, and disruptions in the supply chain](#). There are concerns about the high demand during the holiday season.

POLITICS

[US senators urge Biden to avoid India sanctions over Russian deal.](#) The proposed purchase of Russian air defence equipment has caused friction with the United States, which passed a law in 2017 under which any country engaged with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors could face sanctions.

Iran says nuclear talks with six powers to resume by end November. According to Iran's President the country's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, wants [results-oriented talks](#) aimed at bringing Tehran and Washington back into full compliance with the pact.

Japan's recently elected party makes unprecedented defence spending pledge. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) included a [goal of spending 2% of GDP](#)—about \$100 billion per annum—or more on the military for the first time in its policy platform.

Expert calls for Western governments to lift sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe. The UN special rapporteur Alena Douhan has [called for the western government sanctions to be eased](#). Douhan said that the sanctions have intensified social and economic challenges in Zimbabwe.

Indonesia sets 2024 deadline to move its new capital to Borneo. Southeast Asia's biggest economy plans to [move the capital from Jakarta to the East Kalimantan province](#).

PEACEBUILDING

The [UN's Race to Zero](#) is a global initiative that brings together businesses, cities, and investors to support "a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth," according to recent member [DAI](#). On the eve of COP26, the campaign represents 733 cities, 31 regions, 3,067 businesses, 173 large investors and 622 Institutions of Higher Education Institutions that are committed to achieving net zero by 2050.

At its recent online conference, [Build Peace](#) unveiled Phoenix, an open source social media analysis tool designed to meet the needs of mediators and peacebuilders. The tool was designed in partnership with [Datavaluepeople](#). [Conference sessions](#) on Phoenix and other topics are now available on YouTube. The conference co-sponsor, the [Bertha Centre](#) at the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business, is dedicated to advancing social innovation and entrepreneurship.

A new exhibit titled *Liberty* at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia seeks to tell a more inclusive story of the American Revolution, according to [PBS](#). The exhibit includes stories on the Oneida Nation's divisive decision to support the revolution, African-American poet Phillis Wheatley, and soldiers of color. Washington's army at Yorktown in 1781 may have been as much as 25 percent soldiers of color while some enslaved people of African descent fought for the British in exchange for their freedom. To make the exhibit more interactive, visiting children are given character cards, all figures are likenesses of living people, and there are real interpreters in costumes playing the roles of historical figures.

Under the rubric [#AtThePeaceTable, Conciliation Resources](#) is hosting a series of videos of interviews with members of Women Mediators across the Commonwealth about their mediation experiences and hopes for the future. Thus far, the videos feature host Magda Zenon of Cyprus, a development specialist in Cameroon, a mediator who works with young people in Bangladesh, and a campaigner who works with soldiers and community leaders in Sri Lanka.