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**Welcome to this week's Future Trends -** the must-read weekly briefing covering the changing face of global politics, economics, development, and conflict.

**Here's what you need to know this week:**

- Interpol can't do much more to stop abuse of red notices
- Islamic State claims responsibility for deadly Philippine bombing
- Geopolitical instability and a packed election calendar have strategists wary of 2024
- Senegal opens UN regional headquarters
- Endangered Sumatran rhinoceros born in Indonesian sanctuary

## POLITICS

**Interpol can't do much more to stop abuse of red notices, chief says.** Rights groups, legal experts and others have long said countries like Russia and China abuse the 'red notice system', where a country asks others to arrest a suspect, by using it to get political critics arrested abroad. Interpol says it has improved its system and checks all notices.

**Azerbaijan protests to Western envoys over support for arrested journalists.** Azerbaijan summoned the US, French and German envoys to protest at what it said were [illegal financial operations to support an investigative news outlet](#), three of whose staff were arrested last week.

**Key wins boost Indian PM Modi's re-election bid.** Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is poised to win three of the four key state elections in India ahead of next year's general elections. The BJP has a commanding [lead in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh](#).

**Vietnam reels from historic $12.4 billion corruption scandal.** The Ministry of Public Security alleged that [real estate developer Truong My Lan had embezzled $12.4 billion](#), the equivalent of more than 3% of the country's GDP.

**Former US ambassador arrested, accused as Cuban agent.** [Manuel Rocha](#), 73, was arrested in Miami on a criminal complaint. The Justice Department accuses Rocha of working to promote the Cuban government's interests.

## CONFLICT

**Islamic State claims responsibility for deadly Philippine bombing.** Islamic State militants claimed responsibility for a deadly [bombing at a Catholic Mass in the Philippines](#) that killed at least four people and injured 50. The attack was at a university gymnasium in Marawi, the southern city previously besieged by Islamist militants in 2017.

**Wife of Ukraine's military intelligence head hospitalised after suspected poisoning.** Marianna Budanova, wife of Ukraine's military intelligence unit chief, and advisor to Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko, and several other intelligence staff, were reportedly hospitalised suffering from [heavy metals poisoning](#).

**Sudanese general accuses UAE of supplying paramilitary RSF.** A top Sudanese general says the United Arab Emirates is sending supplies to the Rapid Support Forces, publicly [accusing the UAE for the first time of involvement in its war](#) with its powerful paramilitary rival.

**US warship responds to Houthi-claimed attacks on commercial ships in Red Sea.** A US Navy warship intervened after three commercial ships came under attack from drones and missiles in a [Red Sea assault](#) claimed by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

**Kyiv: Russia shot surrendering troops.** Ukraine's military said that new drone footage posted to social media shows Russian troops shooting surrendering Ukrainian soldiers. Ukraine's human rights ombudsman has condemned the events as a [war crime](#).

## ECONOMICS

**Geopolitical instability and a packed election calendar have strategists wary of 2024.** [Geopolitical risks will be the key threat to the economic outlook for 2024](#), as large-scale wars converge with pivotal elections across major global powers, according to a survey of 130 strategists.

**IMF keen to support Argentina, possibly through resilience trust.** The IMF says it's ready to support Argentina and the country could be a candidate to receive financing through its [Resilience and Sustainability Trust](#).

**$4 trillion valuation is now in sight for India's stock market.** A surge in investments by individual traders and foreign inflows have put [India's stock market](#), the world's fifth biggest, within striking distance of a $4 trillion valuation, while Mumbai now leads the world in the number of IPOs as new listings in China fall.

**China youths swap city for country amid jobs crisis.** As China's economy slows, young people are bearing the brunt of an [unemployment crisis](#) that's left one in five jobless.  In response, President Xi has stepped up calls for young people to help "revitalize the countryside".

**UK gets $14 billion investment for world's largest wind farm from RWE and UAE.** The joint investment [wind farm](#) is seen as a vote of confidence for the beleaguered industry. The agreement is between Germany's RWE and the UAE state-owned renewables company Masdar.

## DEVELOPMENT

**Senegal opens UN regional headquarters.** President Macky Sall inaugurated the headquarters for all [UN operations](#) in Senegal and the wider West and Central Africa regions.

**North Korea launches a rocket carrying its first spy satellite.** Russian President Putin offered Pyongyang help to build a satellite two months ago. South Korea suspended part of a [military agreement](#) signed with North Korea in 2018 following the launch.

**Farmers threaten to release 2 million dogs in South Korea.** With over 1,000 dog breeding farms in the country, the government's plan to ban consumption of dog meat by 2027 faces [strong opposition](#), with some protesting dog farmers arrested following scuffles with police.

**Venezuela claims large support for annexing oil-rich Guyana territory.** Venezuelan voters have overwhelmingly voted 'yes' in a referendum laying [claim to an oil-rich border region](#) administered by neighbouring Guyana.

**Global fossil fuels emissions to hit record high**. Global carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels are set to hit a record high this year, exacerbating climate change and more destructive extreme weather, scientists said in the [The Global Carbon Budget report](#) published at COP28.

## SOCIAL

**Endangered Sumatran rhinoceros born in Indonesian sanctuary.** A sanctuary in Indonesia is celebrating the birth of a critically endangered [Sumatran rhino](#) calf, a species with fewer than 50 animals left. This is the second born this year.

**EU court says public employees may be barred from wearing head scarf.** The top European Union court ruled that public authorities in member states can prohibit employees from wearing [signs of religious belief](#), such as an Islamic head scarf, in the latest decision on an issue that has divided Europe.

**Google geothermal electricity project could be a milestone for clean energy.** An advanced [geothermal project](#) funded and developed by Google has begun providing carbon-free electricity into the Nevada grid to power the company's data centres.

**NASA sends data over 10 million miles for the first time using a laser.** NASA's Deep Space Optical Communications experiment has succeeded in sending and receiving communications via [laser beam](#), and is now set to transform how spaceships communicate with each other and with Earth.

**Meta faces $600m lawsuit from Spanish media.** A group representing 83 Spanish media outlets has filed a collective lawsuit against Facebook owner Meta Platforms, citing its [use of personal data of users as unfair competition in the advertising market](#), in a case that could be replicated across the European Union.

## PEACEBUILDING

**Participants in the COP28 summit have pledged to take [major steps to reduce methane emissions.](#)** The US and EU have announced new regulations that will require companies to reduce methane emissions by 80 to 90 percent by 2030, while 50 oil and gas companies promised to reduce methane emissions to near zero by 2030. The companies have also agreed to monitor and report their emissions to an independent international third party that will be able to monitor 80 percent of the oil and gas infrastructure worldwide, multiple times a week, according to the [Environmental Defense Fund](#). [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#), the EDF, the [International Energy Agency](#), the [UN Environment Program's International Methane Emission Observatory](#), and [RMI](#) announced funding for setting up an accountability partnership. In addition, more than 100 countries have agreed to triple the construction of renewable energy and double energy efficiency by 2030.

After Hamas' attack on Israeli civilians on October 7th and Israel's invasion of Gaza, **Dartmouth University administrators and professors in the [Middle Eastern Studies and Jewish Studies programs together organized campus forums about the crisis,](#)** encouraging students to "vent, lament, and

ask tough questions."  Hundreds of students attended in person, more than 2,000 watched online. The discussions were facilitated by Senior Lecturer Ezzedine Fishere, a former Egyptian diplomat, and Visiting Professor Bernard Avishai, an American-Israeli journalist, who have been co-teaching a course on the "Politics of Israel and Palestine" for two years. Presumably as a result, Dartmouth has largely evaded the kinds of large demonstrations seen at other US universities, according to CBS' 60 minutes.

**The residents of Silverton, Colorado are acting to heal divisions between "oldtimers" and new millennial professionals** -- through discussions facilitated by the nonprofit [Community Builders](#). Over a year and a half, virtually every resident of Silverton participated in these conversations after controversies over housing construction, the Pledge of Allegiance and 4X4's led to threats against the mayor. Through the facilitated discussions, all sides realized they pretty much wanted the same thing -- to let the town grow slowly and keep it cohesive and self-supporting, and they drafted a new 10-year master plan for the town. The project was funded by the town, state and contributions to Community Builders from the Gates Family Foundation.

**The Rotary E-Club of Fusión Latina Distrito 4465 teamed up with the nonprofit [CEDEPAS Norte](#) to [help subsistence farmers in Peru's northern highlands.](#)** Last year the club delivered stainless steel presses and molds to open two cheese production facilities. A Rotary global grant of more than $50,000 helped pay for the equipment, training, management, and marketing.