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

CONFLICT

Failed coup attempt in Guinea-Bissau. Guinea-Bissau’s president, Umaro Cissoco Embalo has reported an unsuccessful coup attempt and is linking it to drug trafficking in the country. At least six people died in the attack.

Nigerian government identifies nearly 100 sponsors of terror groups. The government of Nigeria has identified 96 funders of terrorist groups Boko Haram and the Islamic State of West African Province. Forty-five were arrested and will soon be put on trial.
North Korea funding missile projects with stolen crypto. North Korean cyber-attacks have stolen millions of dollars worth of cryptocurrency to fund the country's missile programmes. Between 2020 and mid-2021 cyber-attackers stole more than $50m of digital assets.

Russian forces at 70% of level needed for full Ukraine invasion. In the last two weeks, the number of battalion tactical groups in the border region has risen to 83 from 60 and 14 more are in transit.

Saudi-backed Iran spies found guilty in Denmark. A Danish court has found three members of an Iranian opposition group guilty of spying for Saudi Arabia in Denmark. They were also found guilty of promoting terrorism by supporting its armed wing in Iran.

DEVELOPMENT

The Australian government announces a billion dollar plan for the Great Barrier Reef. This investment will provide funds for research, protect jobs, support local communities and related industries. Some experts have criticised the proposal as climate change commitments are also required.

The first patients treated with the revolutionary CAR T-cell therapy still have no cancer cells after 10 years. A new study by the University of Pennsylvania suggests that the revolutionary chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy is a cure for certain blood cancers.
The EU moves to label nuclear and gas as sustainable. The European Commission has decided that both types of energy can classify as sustainable investment if they meet certain criteria. Some member states are openly opposed to this.

World’s glaciers contain less ice than previously thought. The revised estimate reduces global sea level rise by 3 inches if all glaciers were to melt. If glaciers contain less ice, water will run out sooner than expected affecting crops dependent on seasonal melts.

Paralysed man with severed spine walks due to implant. It is the first time someone who has had a complete cut to their spinal cord has been able to walk freely. The researchers stress that it isn't a cure for spinal injury and that the technology is still too complicated to be used in everyday life.

ECONOMICS

African experts welcome China’s new $300 billion agreement. Chinese officials say the new partnership will see China establish special economic zones to accept more imports from Africa.

Meta threatens to shut down Facebook and Instagram in Europe. Meta said if it is unable to keep transferring user data back to the US, it would close its European operations. Negotiations between the EU and US have been stuck for months over data privacy fears.

Source: VOA News
Japan must quadruple foreign workers by 2040 to meet growth target. Japan needs about four times more foreign workers by 2040 to achieve the growth path the government has outlined in its economic forecast.

UN has millions in Afghanistan bank, but cannot use it. The UN has about $135 million in the bank in Afghanistan, but is unable to use it because the Taliban-run central bank cannot convert it to the Afghani currency.

Putin seeks to supply more natural gas to China amid global tensions. Putin has offered to supply China with 10 billion cubic metres of natural gas.

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POLITICS

Israeli president makes historic visit to UAE. Israel’s president has made his first ever visit to the United Arab Emirates.

South Korea paid Iran's delinquent UN dues to restore vote. Using Iranian bank funds freed from American sanctions, South Korea has paid Iran's $18 million in delinquent dues owed to the United Nations. The step was apparently approved by Washington.

Spain passes landmark labour reform. The new employment rules limit most temporary contracts to a maximum of three months and bring back collective bargaining with unions as the main way of negotiating pay and conditions.
ASEAN to exclude Myanmar foreign minister from meeting. Cambodia said a non-political representative from Myanmar is invited to attend a regional ministerial meeting later this month instead of the country's military-appointed foreign minister.

Peru PM confirms departure after four days on the job. Prime Minister Hector Valer confirmed that he is departing, following allegations that he beat his daughter and late wife, creating a new leadership vacuum in the Andean nation.

Tunisia: leading judicial body disbanded. Tunisia was thrown into further political turmoil after President Kais Saied said he was dissolving the country's main legal body. It is the latest in a series of moves which critics say are leading the country towards authoritarian rule.

SOCIAL

Happy music can predict stock market performance. Researchers found that when people listen to happy beats, the market is more likely to rise. The research involved Spotify, 40 nations, 58,000 songs and 500 billion plays.

Crows are putting humans to shame by picking up cigarette butts. Crows in Sweden are being trained to pick up cigarette butts that are littering the streets. A device rewards crows with a small amount of food for every butt they bin.

Ex-head of US LGBTQ Human Rights Campaign sues group, alleging racial discrimination. The black former president of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest
LGBTQ advocacy group in the United States, sued the organisation, accusing it of racial discrimination in his firing last year.

**Hundreds of Myanmar parents disown dissident children.** Every day for the last three months, an average of six or seven families in Myanmar have posted notices in the country’s state-owned newspapers cutting ties with sons, daughters, and grandchildren who have publicly opposed the ruling military junta.

**Nigeria’s Nollywood is Booming.** The Nigerian film industry, also popularly referred to as Nollywood, is prolific. 2019 saw a grand total of 700 films produced and censored.

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**PEACEBUILDING**

**Urban Rural Action** and **Lead for America** are launching **Uniting for Democracy (U4D)**, a non-partisan, 15-month program to bring Americans together to build relationships and work together to improve civic health in their communities. Participants will serve on teams of 5-8 people led by a young adult in their community completing two years of service with a local institution and guided by UR Action advisors.

The **International Civil Society Action Network** and the **Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership** are sharing their **She Builds Peace campaign kit.** The kit describes the background of the campaign, identifies ways to get involved, and provides links to key resources, including a digital kit and Frameworks for Action.

**Interpeace** and its partner **Indigo Côte d’Ivoire** have implemented the project **YPS in Practice**, which aims to foster the participation of the country’s youth as actors and leaders in peacebuilding activities. Funded by the **United Nations Peacebuilding Fund**, the project identified 40 young leaders from 7 community initiatives already active in their neighborhoods, trained and accompanied them in the strategic design and implementation of peacebuilding and political violence prevention projects.

**During the COVID-19 pandemic, San Francisco illustrator Wendy MacNaughton started teaching live drawing classes on Instagram**, with her partner as photographer. The first day, the program, **Draw Together**, had 12,000 viewers. Thus far, they have provided 72 live lessons, reached viewers from some 70 countries, and created a community where kids could share their pictures. With a grant from Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey, MacNaughton has created a studio, developed a curriculum and recorded 12 art lessons. Using small donations, she is providing art supplies for students in some schools without a robust art program, according to **PBS**.