

# SUMMARY OF RECENT MEDIA HEADLINES

July 2024

## Developing countries face worst debt crisis in history



RT july 22, 2024

**Synopsis:** Almost half of developing countries' budgets go to paying debts to creditors, absorbing, on

average, 41.5% of budget revenues, according to a new study by Norwegian Church Aid.

According to the report, 144 countries have difficulties in meeting debt service, which translates into a lack of investment in education, health and other social areas.

In 2020, the G20 launched the Common Framework mechanism, a plan designed to accelerate and simplify the debt relief process. However, as the study's authors state, the plan "has proven to be slow, offering little debt relief and no long-term solution for the few countries that have accepted it."

Paradoxically, previously, the Swiss bank UBS projected in its new annual report on global wealth that the number of millionaires around the world will have increased by 2028. It also mentioned that global wealth recorded a growth of 4.2% in 2023, after a 3% decrease recorded in 2022..

## A court ruling declares a river in Ecuador subject to rights



Climática.coop, july 8, 2024

**Synopsis:** The Machángara River runs through Ecuador's capital, Quito, and has become a garbage dump for the

city's more than two and a half million inhabitants who violate their rights.

This was ruled by a ruling, so now the river has legal protection and the authorities have the obligation to guarantee its health and well-being, ordering a specific decontamination plan to improve its condition and one for the recovery of the banks and the revegetation of degraded areas, which must be worked on together with civil society.

Several social movements, as well as the Kitu Kara People, filed the lawsuit in May alleging that, due to the pollution, several fundamental rights had been affected: the rights of nature, the right to water, to a healthy environment, to sanitation and health, and the right to the city.

## They warn that due to the cold wave in Argentina, millions of sheep are at risk



CNN 10 de julio de 2024

**Synopsis:** In Argentina, much of the country is under red and yellow level alerts due to low temperatures. In Buenos Aires, temperatures below zero have already been recorded for the first time in 13 years, while in the south of the country, intense snowfalls affect residents and livestock.



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## Peru - New images show an uncontacted indigenous people dangerously close to logging concessions



*Survival International, July 16, 2024*

**Synopsis:** Published images show dozens of indigenous people from an uncontacted people in the Peruvian Amazon just a few kilometers from several logging concessions, highlighting the urgent need to revoke all logging licenses in the area and recognize that the territory belongs to the Mashco Piro, the largest uncontacted indigenous people in the world according to Survival International.

In the past, the Yine, another indigenous people, have already reported that the Mashco Piro angrily reject the presence of loggers in their territory.

Several companies own logging concessions granted by the State over the territory of the Mashco Piro.

The company Canales Tahuamanu has built more than 200 km of roads for its trucks to extract wood.

The Peruvian Government recognized eight years ago that it is cutting down trees within the territory of the Mashco Piro.

Survival International director Caroline Pearce said: It is an ongoing humanitarian disaster: it is absolutely vital that the loggers are driven out and that the

Mashco Piro territory is adequately and definitively protected. FSC must cancel the certification of Canales Tahuamanu immediately.

Otherwise, they will demonstrate that their certification system is a sham."

## They mobilize in southern Peru against the Tía María mining project

SouthernPerú



#MineríaQueCreceContigo

*TeleSur, 07/05/2024*

**Synopsis:** Organizations, farmers and residents of Valle del Tambo, Peruvian province of Arequipa in southern Peru, mobilized against the Tía María mining project to extract copper, from the Peruvian mining company Southern.

Spokespeople for the movement stressed that they are not against industrial development, but they reject the project due to the risk of contamination of water, soil and air and that this will affect their main activity, agriculture, a source of livelihood for many families. and key to addressing food insecurity among traditionally excluded populations.

Organizations in the region have raised the possibility of revoking the mandate of the governor of Arequipa, Rohel Sánchez, for not speaking out against Southern's mining activity, as he did during his electoral campaign.

The fight to eliminate the aforementioned extractive project dates back a few

years. They began in 2009 and became violent in 2015, leaving seven dead and hundreds injured.

## Illegal mining devastated the equivalent of some 584 football fields on Brazilian indigenous lands in 2024



*Cuba Debate, July 15, 2024*

**Synopsis:** A study carried out by Greenpeace Brazil and reported this Monday by the newspaper Folha de S. Paulo, indicates that, between January and June of this year, mining devastated 417 hectares in the indigenous lands of Kayapó, Munduruku and Yanomami, which is equivalent to about 584 football fields.

One of the great demands of the indigenous peoples is "the total expulsion of illegal miners from their lands."

The Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the National Bank for Economic and Social Development allocated 58 million dollars to the Amazon Plan: Security and Sovereignty (AMAS), a project focused on intelligence actions to identify illegal activities in the area that includes the creation of an International Police Cooperation Center that will have agents from Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.



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## Tragic boat fire claims the lives of 40 migrants off the coast of Haiti



ONU-OIM Oficina Regional para Centroamérica, Norteamérica y El Caribe, July 19, 2024..

**Synopsis:** Extract from the statement. At least 40 migrants have died and several more have been injured after the boat carrying more than 80 people caught fire off the coast of Cap Haitien, which left for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The lack of economic opportunities, the collapse of the health system, the closure of schools and the absence of prospects push many to consider migration as the only way to survive.

"This devastating event shows the risks faced by boys, girls, women and men who migrate through irregular routes, and demonstrates the crucial need for safe and legal pathways for migration," said Grégoire Goodstein, IOM head of mission in the country. "Haiti's socioeconomic situation is dying. The extreme violence of recent months has only led Haitians to resort to even more desperate measures."

This year, neighboring countries have forcibly returned more than 86,000 migrants to Haiti. Many are unaccompanied children separated from their families, pregnant and lactating women, and return to Haiti in very vulnerable conditions, often with few resources.

## Schwarzenegger denounces bureaucracy and political inaction in the face of the climate crisis



Diario El Universal, 06/20/2024

**Synopsis:** Hollywood star and climate activist Arnold Schwarzenegger denounced that the world's governments "are not fulfilling their responsibilities" in the face of the climate crisis and accused them of allowing too much bureaucracy that prevents saving the planet and reiterated the need to "do whatever is necessary, even if it is un-

comfortable" to stop "the pollution that causes seven million deaths every year around the world."

He criticized that there are countries that paralyze the fight against climate change by requiring "too many permits" to build wind, solar or hydroelectric facilities. "Around the world, governments are allowing bureaucracy to impede the process."

## Flight simulators on clandestine runways and AI: the battle for indigenous lands in the Amazon is also technological

El País, July 25, 2024

**Synopsis:** The lives of nearly 30,000 Yanomami are suffering as illegal gold miners, or garimpeiros, move into their territory, taking advantage of technological advances to support their activities.

However, they are thwarted by efforts by inspection agencies and NGOs, who fight back using equally new technology, in what has become a technological battle between environmental preservation and destruction.



In March of this year, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples estimated that there were 7,000 active miners in the area. As a result, environmental destruction continues.



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## Drought, a global problem



STATISTA, June 17, 2024

Synopsis: This year's theme for World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was: "United for the land: Our legacy and our future."

According to a statement from the United Nations, "the equivalent of four football fields of healthy land is degraded every second, amounting to a total of 100 million hectares each year."

The 2023 Global Drought Snapshot, released by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), shows that more than 20 of the 102 nations reporting to the UNCCD have declared a drought emergency in the last two years.

## Why water consumption in Latin America will increase almost twice the world average



CNN, April 29, 2024

**Synopsis:** Mexico recorded its driest year in 2023, the Uruguayan government declared a water emergency due to the low levels of its water reserves, while water reservoirs in Chile, and in cities such as Bogotá and Mexico City, are dangerously close to running out without water.

Global demand for water has doubled since 1960 and available water resources are becoming increasingly scarce. Projections indicate that in 25 years, half of the world's population will live in areas of water scarcity.

In Latin America, water demand is expected to increase by 43% by the year 2050, as a consequence of population growth (and migratory flows), agricultural expansion and industrial activities, but on the other hand The amount of water available decreases as extreme temperature and drought events related to climate change increase, increasing inequalities and having a serious impact on nutrition, as food can become scarce and more expensive.

Last year alone, there was a loss of some crops close to 30% in Argentina and 80% in Peru. Scientific projections indicate that some countries will have shorter rainy seasons and, at the same time, rainfall will be more extreme and since aquifers and soils cannot absorb excess water, an important part of the water resource is lost.

Chile is the only country in the region that suffers from extreme water stress, according to an analysis by the World Resources Institute. Other countries most affected by water scarcity in the region are Mexico and Peru.

## Greek islands face water crisis as tourist season begins



CNN, July 24, 2024

**Synopsis:** Many of the Greek islands, known for their idyllic villages, rugged landscapes and sunny beaches, are facing an alarming level of water shortages, a problem that is set to worsen as the tourist season reaches its peak and the hot, dry weather continues.

Several of them have declared a state of emergency due to water shortages. Climate change is causing extreme weather events, such as very low rainfall and abnormally hot winters, with last year's being the warmest in the country since records began.

## This Italian holiday destination is turning away tourists because it runs out of water



CNN, July 6, 2024

**Synopsis:** Beneath the archaeological structures of Agrigento is an ancient aqueduct system that still captures water today, but it and others built in modern times are drying up to the point that small hotels and inns in the city and nearby coast are forced to reject tourists because they do not have enough water.



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reject tourists because they do not have enough water.

In February, Sicily began imposing water restrictions amid an unrelenting drought, which has affected both tourism and agriculture, two crucial sectors for Sicily's economy. Rationing is in effect for more than one million people in 93 communities.

## **In Spain: Drought 'suffocates' livestock with 39% more heads slaughtered in the province**



Castellón al día, July 29, 2024

**Synopsis:** The 25,283 cattle sent to the slaughterhouse in April 2024 in the Valencian Community exceeded by 38.65% the 18,235 slaughtered in the same month of the previous year, reports the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, causing the price of meat to fall.

It is the second consecutive year of drought, the aquifers have been completely depleted since last year, to the point that in some areas farmers have had to pay for the transport of water by truck. It has also affected pastures, making it necessary to resort to alternative sources of food for cattle. The increase in costs and the lower price significantly affect livestock farming.

Also the lack of rain will cause, according to some farmers, a drop of between 70 and 80% in olive production. Regarding almonds, a reduction in production of between 35 and 40% is expected

## **Earth just had its hottest day ever recorded. And it's only going to get hotter**



National Geographic, July 29, 2024

**Synopsis:** On July 22, the average global temperature exceeded 16°C, making it the hottest day ever recorded, according to data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service in Europe, which began measuring Earth's temperature in the 1940s. Studies of tree rings and ice cores suggest temperatures are rising to levels not seen in thousands of years.

Scientists also say heat that challenges the limits of human tolerance will become more frequent as the century progresses.

## **. Microplastics found in human penises for the first time**



CNN, June 20, 2024.

**Synopsis:** In a study published this Wednesday in IJIR: Your Sexual Medicine Journal, microplastics were found for the first time in human penises,

increasing concern about the proliferation of these tiny particles and their possible effects on health.

Microplastics are polymer fragments that can range from less than 5 millimeters to 1 micrometer. Any of them can invade individual cells and tissues of major organs, and there is increasing evidence of their presence in our body.

In a previous study in which evidence of microplastics had been found in the human heart.

The samples were taken from participants who had been diagnosed with erectile dysfunction. Bottled water contains thousands of nanoplastics so small they can invade the body's cells, according to a study. According to researcher Ramasamy, now that its presence has been confirmed, it is necessary to continue investigating its possible relationship with diseases such as erectile dysfunction.

Dr. Campen, regents professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, said: "Plastics generally do not react with our body's cells and chemicals, but they could physically alter the numerous processes that our body carries out to function normally, including functions related to erection and sperm production.

There are measures that can be taken to reduce exposure to microplastics, such as using stainless steel and glass containers, avoiding heating plastic foods or drinks in the microwave, and not putting plastic in the dishwasher, because the heat can cause chemicals to leak.



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## A little-known virus spreads and leaves dozens dead in India



*Diario El Universal, 07/22/2024*

**Synopsis:** The Times of India reported that the current outbreak of the Chikungunya virus has now left a total of 84 infected and 32 dead. This virus was first identified in 1965 in India. It causes acute encephalitis, especially in children under 15 years of age.

High fever, headache and vomiting are the most common symptoms and they usually appear suddenly. In severe cases, patients may fall into a coma. The infection can progress rapidly, so early detection and treatment are crucial. It is mainly transmitted through the bite of insect vectors, such as the sand fly. There is no specific vaccine or antiviral treatment for the disease.

## Fire tornadoes ravage California



*RT July 29, 2024*

**Synopsis:** The massive wildfire in California is spreading rapidly and has spread to more than 1,415 square ki-

lometers, destroying 134 structures so far.

The fire has generated multiple fire whirls and tornadoes, as well as large clouds of smoke, throwing ash over towns. A state of emergency has been declared in several counties, and in Butte County there are mandatory and recommended evacuations.

## COMING SOON: Táchira will be an exporter of coal to Europe and other places in the world



*La Iguana, 07/22/, 2024*

**Synopsis:** "Today the Simón Bolívar Mining Complex began production of coal, not only for Táchira and all of Venezuela, but soon, with the first-class technological machines that were installed, Táchira will be an exporter of coal to Europe and different places in the world," said Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

Mining is under the control of the Ministry of Popular Power for Ecological Mining Development.

## Scientists are underestimating future sea level rise



*Diario El Universal, 06/26/2024*

**Synopsis:** Scientists from the research organization British Antarctic Survey (BAS) and the University of Oxford in a study, published in the journal *Nature Geoscience*, revealed a process that is causing the melting of the Antarctic ice sheet, and that until now had been overlooked in scientific models used to predict future sea level rise.

It has been discovered that warm ocean waters can penetrate long stretches beneath the ice sheet at the so-called "grounding line", the area where ocean ice rests on the land mass, and form cavities, forcing the resulting liquid to flow into the ocean.

Scientists suggest that the increase in ocean temperature may lead to the surpassing of a "tipping point", from which ocean water penetrates unlimitedly under the ice sheet, through a melting process galloping.

## China's commercial artificial sun achieves major milestone



*RT, 06/24/2024*

**Synopsis:** Chinese commercial company Energy Singularity announced that HH70, the world's first high-temperature superconducting tokamak device, similar to an artificial sun, successfully produced its first plasma. "Controlled nuclear fusion is expected to provide humanity with a nearly infinite, clean and cheap energy source, and is considered the ultimate energy solution."



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## THIS TOTALLY 100% ELECTRIC PLANE FOR 90 PASSENGERS COULD FLY AT DISTANCES OF MORE THAN 800 KILOMETERS



CNN, julio 16, 2024

**Synopsis:** In an interview with CNN, Reynard de Vries, director of Design and Engineering of the Dutch start-up Elysian, expressed that the firm plans to build a scale model of an electric airplane, named E9X, in two or three years, and a prototype on a full scale in 2030.

The design is based on using the battery technology that already exists, which allows us to offer a totally electric plane, with a range of 805 kilometers, space for 90 passengers, with a 90% reduction in emissions and that aims to fly commercially. within a decade. It will have eight propeller engines and a wingspan of almost 42 meters and a thinner fuselage, which according to de Vries improves both structural and aerodynamic characteristics.

The batteries and landing gear will be placed in the wings, with folding tips, and not in the fuselage for greater lift. In addition, it will have a "backup power system" based on a gas turbine that can provide emergency power. The design is the result of collaboration with the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands.

Other companies are working on electric planes. The Anglo-American ZeroAvia, which successfully tested a 19-seat plane.

The Israeli Eviation, with its Alice electric plane for nine passengers, range of 463 km, expected for 2027.

The Swedish Heart Aerospace, working on the ES-30 electric plane for 30 passengers, with a range of 185 km fully electric, and more than 1,000 km, combined with traditional turbo-props.

### Eve, from Embraer, presents a prototype of a flying taxi that could enter service in 2026



El Economista.mx, July 21, 2024

**Synopsis:** Electric aircraft manufacturer Eve EVEX.N, controlled by Embraer EMBR3.SA, exhibited a full-scale prototype of its "flying taxi", an electric vertical take-off and landing plane. The final model will have capacity for four

passengers and a pilot, expected to enter service in 2026.

Eve hopes to fly the prototype later this year or early 2025.

After debuting on the NY Stock Exchange, they obtained investors for around 400 million dollars, among which are United Airlines UAL.O, BAE Systems BAES.L, Thales TCFP.PA, Rolls-Royce RR.L, Acciona ANA.MC and Bradesco BBI BBDC4.SA.

### The CATL electric plane will support a 2,000 km flight

**CATL**

China Daily, 06/25/2024

**Synopsis:** Contemporary Amperex Technology Co Ltd, the world's largest electric vehicle manufacturer, revealed that its 8-ton electric commercial aircraft, with a flight range of 2,000 to 3,000 kilometers, will be ready in 2027 or 2028, although it has already carried out test flights with a 4 ton civil aircraft. The company partnered with Commercial Aircraft Corporation, a Chinese state-owned aircraft manufacturer.

The company's condensed battery, which has an energy density of up to 500 Wh/kg, will be used in the cutting-edge aircraft. with a high level of security. Likewise, it was reported that CATL is developing a new generation of sodium ion batteries, hoping that it will have better performance in terms of cost, useful life and low temperature operation.



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## Musk predicts what future wars will be like



*Univiciencia, July 11, 2024*

**Synopsis:** American businessman Elon Musk has expressed hope that with the development of unmanned aerial vehicle technology, there will be fewer casualties in future wars. In his opinion, this means that "winning in casualties is irrelevant if the adversary has a much greater advantage in the production of drone units."

## Future world energy wars will be fought under the sea



*CNN, June 26, 2024*

**Synopsis** A group of entrepreneurs wants to build what would be the world's largest underwater energy interconnection between continents, linking Europe and North America with three pairs of high-voltage cables that would send renewable energy both east and west, taking advantage of the sun's journey through the sky and could send 6 gigawatts of energy in both directions at the speed of light.

Networks of green energy cables across the world's seabed transmit vast amounts of renewable energy between countries, forging new relationships that are reshaping the geopolitical map and moving some of the world's energy wars to the depths of the ocean.

There are already power cables between several countries in Europe, most of them allied neighbors. The United Kingdom is already connected to Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands and Denmark by sea. It also signed a solar and wind connection agreement with Morocco to take advantage of the North African country's many hours of sunshine and the strong trade winds that cross the equator.

Promoters believe it would counter Russia and China in the global energy war, which has found new frontiers under the sea, forcing nations to think carefully about who their allies should be in a rapidly changing geopolitical world.

## Scientists alarmed: US records first extinction due to rising sea levels



*Antena 3, July 16, 2024*

**Synopsis:** The Key Largo tree cactus has completely disappeared in the US, possibly the first local extinction caused by rising sea levels.

These cacti, initially thought to belong to the species *Pilosocereus Robinii*, were confirmed in 2019 by Alan Franck to be a unique species: *Pilosocereus Millspaughii* and found in various parts of the world, including Caribbean islands such as northern Cuba and parts of the Bahamas. Jennifer Possley of the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden warned that the Key Largo tree cactus could be an indicator of the future response of other coastal plants to climate change.

The cactus thrived in a low limestone area near the coast, surrounded by mangroves, with a layer of soil and organic matter that allowed it to grow. Storms and high tides eroded this material, indicating an increase in salinity levels, unfavorable for the cactus.

## Volkswagen will continue spending billions on its combustion engines



*MSN, June 2024*

The transition to electric vehicles is not going as planned for some manufacturers. Several of them are postponing their ambitious goals of becoming purely electric in the more or less near future.

Of the 180 billion euros allocated to the new generation of emission-free models, the German brand will now use a third to continue developing combustion engines. Chief Financial Officer Arno Antlitz reported that the company intends to spend around €60 billion to "maintain the competitiveness of our combustion cars", when initial plans included manufacturing and selling only electric cars in Europe from 2033.

On the other hand, Lamborghini believes the combustion engine could be saved by running on something other than fossil fuels, Bentley is exploring using almost carbon-neutral fuels, Crewe has delayed its goal of becoming exclusively electric by 2030 by three years, Ford no longer believes it can be fully electric in Europe by 2030 and Aston Martin will continue to make combustion engine cars for the next decade.