



Week: 15 – 21 January 2007

GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

You may not be interested in reality, but reality is interested in you.

Threat Summary

	<p>Inter-State Conflict. Iraq is NOT “winnable.” Anarchy in Somalia. White House delusional.</p> <p>Proliferation. Energy crisis, Pakistan-Iran axis, all suggest that proliferation will explode.</p> <p>Terrorism. Decentralization & revitalization are overwhelming clueless centralized governments.</p>
	<p>Poverty. Micro-finance and Open Money could put corporate lenders out of business within ten years.</p> <p>Environment. Colonialism gutted Africa, China does 100 years’ damage in 30, topic now mainstream.</p> <p>Civil War. Four civil wars in Africa, many others not being followed by the mainstream media.</p> <p>Genocide. Botswana courts restore homelands of Bushmen.</p> <p>Transnational Crime. Out of control, using military to train & spread, recruiting cyber-savvy youth.</p>
	<p>Infectious Disease. Wheat rust spreading, meningitis in Sudan, cholera in Angola, bird flu rising.</p>
	<p>Other Atrocities. Indonesian human trafficking moving to Tier 3. Legal redress goes up and down.</p>

Policy Summary

	<p>Diplomacy. US foreign policy has failed, and will continue to fail as long as Israel owns US Congress.</p> <p>Security. Centralized “No Fly” and other terrorism watchlist “solutions” are inept to ludicrous.</p> <p>Social Security. Crystal meth virtually an epidemic, undermining</p>
	<p>Immigration, ...</p> <p>Water. Salt pouring upstream in rivers, Macau drinking water has three times salt beyond notice-level.</p>
	<p>Debt ...</p> <p>Economy.</p> <p>Education. Congress fiddles with student loans, ignores abysmal industrial-era “schools as prisons.”</p> <p>Energy. Solar and wind energy beginning to take off. US losing access to oil, needs to adapt faster.</p> <p>Justice. Guantanamo & torture/rendition have undermined rule of law and disgraced America.</p>
	<p>Agriculture. ...</p> <p>Family. Catholic Church evicting families in Angola—more evidence it is not “family-friendly.”</p>

Major Player Summary

	<p>Iran. US planning *major* attack on Iran; Iran highly capable of counter-attacking. Cheney at fault.</p> <p>Venezuela. Nationalization of oil is “non-negotiable,” socialism & rule by decree on-going.</p>
	<p>Brazil. Largely self-sufficient in energy, their largest problem is gang crime within slum poverty.</p> <p>China. Anti-satellite weapon worked—China could selectively ruin US communications satellites.</p> <p>India. 3.8 million hectares of bio-tech crops exceed China’s 3.5M. Separatist violence continues.</p> <p>Indonesia. Abstained from UN Security Council vote against Myanmar (Burma).</p> <p>Wild Cards. Turkey gets 6 stealth submarines, Egypt launches spy satellite, Pakistan highly unstable.</p>
	<p>Russia. Regional air defense and overtures to former satellite states; Chechnya still a problem area.</p>

World Crises (extracted from **monthly** assessments by *International Crisis Group*)

↗ Alert	Lebanon
↘ Deteriorated	Basque Country (Spain), Bolivia, Egypt, Fiji, Iran, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia, Sudan, Turkmenistan
↗ Improved	Guinea

[International Crisis Group](http://www.icg.org)

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Threats		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Threats</i>
Poverty news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-finance is a key to alleviation of poverty in developing nations -- India announced it will "<i>try to facilitate varied models</i>". <p>A placard at the World Social Forum, planned to coincide with the Davos Forum, says "<i>Another world is possible, even for slum dwellers</i>". Doha proponents say that if the Round fails "<i>the inevitable response will be each for himself, and every continent will be the worse for it</i>".</p>	
Infectious Disease news list forecast	<p>↓ At least 1,000 people have died in one week in south Sudan from meningitis and another unknown disease similar to yellow fever. Measles deaths are down 60% in six years -- "<i>Our promise to cut measles deaths by half ... has been surpassed in just six years with Africa leading the way.</i>" In Indonesia, Jakarta's hospital facilities allocated to H5N1 [bird flu] is overwhelmed with patients -- the numbers are still smaller than road fatalities but the theoretical risk is high. A cholera outbreak in Angola has killed 2,760 -- although it can be treated easily, cholera is a major killer in developing countries through lack of clean water.</p> <p>The new strain of wheat rust discovered in 1999 <u>capable of destroying most disease-resistant wheat</u> is on the move and has already crossed the Red Sea from Africa.</p>	
Environment news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Telegraph</i> [UK] published a tutorial on carbon credits systems. <p>The recriminations for the colonial period strike another uncomfortable truth with Nigerian President Obasanjo attributing many of Africa's environmental problems to activities of other nations, past and present -- "<i>Many African nations ... suffered debilitating implications due to the activities of other nations.</i>"</p> <p>China's century of development in 30 years has cost a <u>century or more of environmental damage</u>.</p> <p>An object lesson in the delicate complexity of the biosphere -- 50 million tons of mineral dust blown each year from Bodélé Depression near Lake Chad in Africa keeps the mineral-starved Amazon alive.</p> <p>The EU has made climate change central to its foreign policy -- "<i>We need to act because we see that more and more natural catastrophes are coming.</i>"</p> <p>"Will Al Gore Melt?" asks the <i>National Center for Policy Analysis</i> - debate is now joined between the side of Action spear-headed by the former Next President Al Gore and the side of Reaction led by business interests. New Speaker Pelosi seeks to form a global warming committee -- "<i>I promise to do everything in my power to achieve energy independence ... and to stop global warming.</i>"</p> <p>The "Doomsday Clock" maintained by decades by the <i>Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists</i> has advanced the clock two minutes to 23:55 -- it's later than some think.</p>	
Inter-State Conflict news list forecast	<p>↓ The Israeli military chief has resigned -- "<i>Halutz, a former air force chief, came under criticism for relying heavily on aerial barrages in the first part of the war ...</i>"</p> <p>Women speakers at a conference in South Africa stress the key role women can play in peacekeeping operations throughout the world. <i>Boston Globe</i> listed Current peacekeeping missions in Africa</p> <p><i>The Telegraph</i> [UK broadsheet] says "Mogadishu slides towards anarchy" -- a thin line of Ethiopian soldiers is all that stands between the government and a 3,500-strong rump of Islamist fighters. Kenya is sending captured Islamist suspects back to</p>	

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	<p>Somalia; one report "had seen US troops on the ground in south Somalia working with Ethiopian forces hunting fugitive Islamists." In Somalia, <i>disarming the warlords</i> seems to be proceeding but what, if anything, will replace the Ethiopian forces is still unknown. An attack on the president's residence indicated not all fighting is over -- "gunfire and explosions were heard across the capital, the most spectacular violence since [the President] took up residence." Kenya says any peace plan at present for Somalia is "doomed" -- "Regional diplomats said it was unlikely African Union (AU) members would agree to send <i>peacekeepers</i> unless fighting halted." The EU warned the US that <i>bombing</i> will escalate Somalia violence -- "I repeat: the future of Somalia depends on <i>political solutions</i>." Eritrea warned the US that its involvement in Somalia would "incur dangerous consequences". The UN is contemplating <i>cutting</i> the <i>peacekeeping</i> force monitoring the stalled Ethiopia - Eritrea border dispute which predates the Somalia conflict.</p> <p>Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki says all he needs is the <i>arms</i> to secure the country; if armed properly "I think that within three to six months our need for American troops will dramatically go down". <i>Time</i> says it's time to "tell the truth about the surge" -- "After nearly four years of occupation, Iraqis have made up their minds they do not want to live together." <u>Iran has offered to train Iraqi troops -- "We are working for, not against, security in Iraq, because we know that insecurity justifies maintaining foreign troops in the country."</u> Vicious debates on Arab cable-TV after the Saddam execution has put the Sunni-Shi'ite seismic rift in the foreground.</p>
<p>Civil War news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ All seemed to be going well with Uganda peace-talks but now the rebels demand a new "unbiased" <i>mediation</i> team.</p> <p>Rebels have launched attacks in north-western Central African Republic, prompting concern that conflicts in adjoining Sudan and Chad could spill over.</p>
<p>Genocide news list forecast</p>	<p>↑ Following a court decision in Botswana against the government's eviction, Kalahari San "Bushmen" have started to return to their homeland.</p>
<p>Other Atrocities news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Colombian president Alvaro Uribe is amazed to hear that his troops pressured <i>voters</i> -- "It's the first time I've received news that the <i>paramilitaries</i> pressured people to vote for me". • Former Guatemalan dictator Efraín Ríos Montt is running for election -- if elected, he will have <i>immunity</i> from prosecution for past offences unless suspended from office by a court. • A second arrest warrant has been issued in Argentina for arrest in Spain of ex-President Isabel Perón -- "Many human rights activists say the <i>dirty war</i> violence began under Perón." • The rate of <i>human trafficking</i> in Indonesia is still high -- "As a result, Indonesia is threatened to be listed in Tier 3 by the US Department of State."
<p>Proliferation news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan is said to be building new <i>nuclear</i> facilities -- "Pakistan may intend to render operational a new <i>reprocessing facility</i>". A news report claims the King of Jordan wants his country to start a nuclear program, but the King is probably making a diplomatic point rather than announcing an initiative. The Cold War was "paradise" compared to modern threats says Russia's Defense Minister -- proliferation of WMD is a much greater threat than when "everything was predictable"

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	<p>and measured-out".</p> <p>Plans by Belarus to destroy millions of <i>land mines</i> have been delayed owing to a lack of funds.</p>
<p>Terrorism news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies [India] says <i>terrorism financing</i> is a subset of <i>money laundering</i> - examining what is specific to terrorism is the key to interdiction. Jamestown Foundation published a scholarly exploration of <i>decentralized jihad</i>. see Al-Suri's Doctrines for Decentralized Jihadi Training <p>Dutch security commentators observe the ever-increasing importance of the <i>internet</i> in online training for terrorists -- "<i>Spreading propaganda via internet is approached professionally, has a wide reach and relatively little counter-argument.</i>" A court heard that the London suicide bomb plot of 20050707 failed only due to good luck -- the bombs of hydrogen peroxide, acetone, acid and chapatti flour were not correctly made.</p> <p>As part of ongoing sweeps against the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt has remanded six <i>Islamists</i> in custody. A review of the <i>Islamists</i> bombings in 1998 (<i>Nairobi, Dar es Salaam</i>) and 2002 (<i>Kikambala</i>) - see Dark Secrets Behind Al Qaeda Terror Raids <i>Le Figaro</i> says the Algerian GSPC [<i>Salafi Group for Call and Combat</i>] has found a new reason for being -- the training of <i>jihad</i> professionals; trained jihadis are now fanning out across the <i>Maghreb</i> from Algeria.</p> <p>Some of the last remnants of the good old days of terrorism -- Germany's Red Army Brigade -- may soon be released from prison. The RCMP is taking seriously a series of terrorist threats from a <i>Quebec separatists</i>. The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister says the LTTE [<i>Tamil Tigers</i>] perfected the art of <i>suicide bombing</i> and transferred the technologies to <i>al-Qaeda</i>.</p>
<p>Transnational Crime news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key findings from the McAfee Virtual Criminology Report 2006 indicates organised crime elements are systematically recruiting youth with high-end <i>cyber</i> skills. see Changing face of cybercrime <p>The US says Colombia may be a "good model" for Afghanistan in its illicit <i>opium</i> industry -- "<i>I think those kinds of outreach programs by the Colombian government are good models for President Karzai to consider ...</i>"</p> <p>Mexico starts deporting <i>drug lords</i> to the US - "<i>Organized crime is getting out of control</i>" says Mexico's president. In Puerto Rico, authorities consider calling in the National Guard to confront <i>gun battles</i> between <i>drug gangs</i> that have caused a rash of killings. Capture by Colombian police of Eugenio Montoya, probable boss of the <i>Norte del Valle</i> group, ends a lengthy manhunt in which the US had offered a \$5m reward. Subsequently, police unearthed \$54M of <i>Norte de Valle</i> reserve <i>cash</i> and <i>gold ingots</i>. Jose Miguel Battle Sr, boss of "<i>The Corporation</i>" a Cuban-American <i>crime syndicate</i> that stretched from Florida to New York to <i>Latin America</i> was awarded a 20 year sentence for racketeering in a Miami federal court.</p> <p>Thailand's "<i>first legal wiretap</i>" has led to the bust of a Bangkok-based <i>heroin</i> ring - "<i>...trafficking organisation that processed drugs from Pakistan and Afghanistan through a storefront in Thailand has been busted...</i>"</p> <p>The FBI notes that significant numbers of <i>gang members</i> are joining the US military -- "<i>The military enlistment of gang members could ultimately lead to the worldwide expansion of U.S.-based gangs.</i>"</p>
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Policy		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Policy</i>
Agriculture news list forecast		• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
Debt news list forecast		• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
Diplomacy news list forecast		<p>↓ “<i>Bush’s foreign policy has failed</i>” says a UK minister -- a former Foreign Minister and anointed deputy leader of the ruling Labour party makes the highest-level and most scathing attack yet on US policy.</p> <p>In marshalling the Sunni Muslim world against Iran, the US risks unprecedented regional conflict.</p> <p>Whether asserting US interests or acting out of altruism in Somalia, “<i>in either case the US has done itself and the region no favour.</i>”</p> <p><i>Tehran Times</i> says the US is only feigning an interest in peace -- “<i>Lasting peace in the Middle East is unimaginable as long as the U.S. continues its bias toward Israel.”</i></p>
Economy news list forecast		• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
Education news list forecast		<p>• The new House has voted to reduce rates on student loans -- “<i>the action was only a small piece of what House Democrats hope to do to reduce the cost of higher education.</i>”</p> <p>The world is falling behind on the 2015 education goal -- “<i>we’re not going to come close to making ‘education for all’ by 2015.</i>”</p>
Energy news list forecast		<p>• Whether Turkmenistan’s oil and gas pipelines head “east” or “west” is of global strategic importance.</p> <p>The new Congress will probably see solar turn from an idea into an industry. BP is to build five US windfarms, in California, Colorado, North Dakota and Texas, that will deliver a total generation capacity of 550MW. Corn-based alcohol will ultimately be a wasteful, possible immoral, sidetrack -- but enzymes may save the day with cellulosic ethanol.</p> <p>The Cebu Declaration by 16 East Asian nations on energy security aims at expanded use of renewable energy and development of clean coal technologies. Australia and China announced a “partnership” for “clean coal” – but the handshake between one of the world’s biggest suppliers and one of the biggest users signifies nothing consequential.</p> <p>Venezuelan state oil firm PDVSA had talks with India’s Oil and Natural Gas Corp. to supply more oil to India.</p>
Family news list forecast		• According to Amnesty , the Catholic Church is involved in forced evictions in Angola -- “ <i>Disturbingly, many forced evictions in the last two years have been carried out apparently at the request of the Catholic Church.</i> ”
Immigration news list forecast		• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
Justice news list forecast		<p>↓ More UK legislators have said Guantanamo fails to meet basic British standards -- “<i>Washington risked undermining the Geneva Conventions by choosing unilaterally to interpret their terms and provisions ...</i>” The Pentagon issued rules for trials at Guantanamo -- the rules permit the admission of hearsay evidence, as well as</p>
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	<p><i>coerced</i> detainee statements that were obtained before Dec. 30, 2005.</p> <p>In the Libby trial the defense is searching for <i>jurors</i> who trust Vice President Cheney.</p>
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contrary to earlier statements, it was revealed a suspect in the UK 21 July bomb trial “had come in contact with police three times”, indicating inadequate case management. Following a review of UK critical infrastructure, armed <i>police</i> are now begin patrolling major <i>gas</i> plants. <p>In the face of much derision, the <i>No-Fly List</i> is being “checked for accuracy” and edited, but with no standard transliteration of <i>Arabic</i>, the US refusal to centralize systems, and routine incompetence, failure seems totally guaranteed. The Justice Department says it no longer needs to bypass FISA for <i>wire-tap</i> warrants because the approval process will now be quicker. The Civil Air Patrol is returning to its war-time homeland-defense roots in assisting with <i>air-space</i> drills. An <i>anti-missile</i> system has been tested on a <i>commercial airliner</i> -- “the problem is making the numbers work in the sense of figuring out who’s going to pay for it.”</p> <p>Although the US and other nations have researched “killer satellites” [rather <i>satellite killers</i>], there was widespread concern when China seemed to kill one of its own outdated satellite as a test. Beijing police have launched a new department dedicated to liaising with <i>foreign security forces</i> for the <i>Olympics</i>.</p> <p><i>Cell phone</i> links were suspended in the Moscow metro [subway] following alert of an attack on transport facilities.</p> <p>Israel has introduced a <i>pilot-specific</i> code system to thwart <i>hijacking</i> or <i>coercion</i> -- “planes without the ‘<i>Code Positive</i>’ system ... will be turned back from Israeli airspace on pain of being shot down.”</p>
<p>Social Security news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the UK, <i>crystal methadone</i> has been promoted from class “B” to a class “A” <i>drug</i>, recognizing that the dangerous stimulant often involved in violence and other crime is taking a foothold throughout much of the world.
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Salt</i> inflow into over-used <i>rivers</i> is forcing cities in south China to go upstream for water -- salt in Macau’s drinking water is three times the level at which people generally start to notice a salty taste.
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<p>Challengers see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Challengers</p>	
<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<p>↑ A new <i>gas reserve</i> off Brazil with 3M m³ production (which could reach 6M) will help Brazil in its current energy dispute with Bolivia.</p> <p>Two city buses were torched after authorities entered the <i>Mangueira</i> slum and killed at least three <i>drug gang</i> members.</p> <p>Brazil has already accumulated almost US\$1B <i>surplus</i> in <i>foreign trade</i> in 2007.</p>
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>Riot police</i> and villagers have again clashed after a popular protest against a government “<i>land grab</i>” -- “Scores of villagers, even elderly ones, were taken away by police after being beaten.” The latest report by Freedom House rates Chinese-occupied <i>Tibet</i> - along with <i>Chechnya</i> -- as the world’s least free. Over 90 million Chinese youth are growing up as <i>only children</i> -- in a society built on large extended</p>
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	<p>families, the future consequences for China are unknown.</p> <p>It seems China has destroyed its own aging Feng Yun 1C (FY-1C) polar orbit weather satellite in further testing of <i>anti-satellite</i> warfare. Israel is selling China key <i>water</i> and <i>defense</i> technologies.</p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Bangalore, Hindu fundamentalist <i>Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh</i> activists attacked Muslim properties two days after a Muslim protest on the Saddam hanging. Five more Maoists were killed in Chhattisgarh -- 48% of the casualties in Naxalite/Maoist insurgencies throughout India are in Chhattisgarh. The Maoists are "a major challenge to the Indian state". In one action, seven security forces personnel were killed in Chhattisgarh -- "<i>It was a well planned trap by the outlawed Maoist ultras.... rebels exploded a string of landmines that blew up four motorcycles.</i>" 50 companies of paramilitaries have now been sent in recent weeks to Assam to stem separatist violence. Four were arrested in Mumbai with 6.5kg of TNT -- "<i>This is the first time that TNT ... has been recovered from any person in such high quantity in the city.</i>" India's 3.8 million hectares under biotech [GM] crops exceeded China's 3.5 million hectares in 2006. India will manufacture engines for MIG-29 aircraft -- "The engines will be manufactured by <i>Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)</i> under license from the Russian government." The 17,000-tonne landing platform dock <i>USS Trenton</i> has now been handed over to India and commissioned as <i>INS Jalashva</i>. India is sending an all-women CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] peacekeeping team to Liberia, the first time an all-female peace-keeping contingent has been used. Hindus protest the proposed German bans on symbols such as the swastika, a propitious symbol which Hindus have owned for some 5,000 years.
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia has abstained from a UN Security Council vote on Myanmar. [China, Russia, South Africa voted against; Qatar, Congo also abstained.]
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ A former State Department officer says an attack on Iran is not just rhetoric -- "<i>I've seen some of the planning ... You're not talking about a surgical strike.</i>"; and all of this when a "grand bargain" of benefit to both nations is do-able. There was a claim that a diplomatic deal offered by Iran in 2003 very close to today's demands was rejected out-of-hand by the vice president -- "<i>as soon as it got to the vice president's office, the old mantra of 'We don't talk to evil' ... reasserted itself.</i>" Iran is about to conduct missile war games of its Zalzal and Fajr-5 missiles. Iran (and China) has been buying items such as some missile parts on the military surplus market -- "<i>It is no secret to defense experts that valuable technology can be found amid surplus scrap.</i>" Russian missiles have been delivered to Iran – heading off charges of being unhelpful, Russia says "<i>We have supplied the modern short-range anti-aircraft systems TOR-MI in accordance with our contracts.</i>"</p> <p>Government spokesman, Gholam Hussein Elham, said Iran has the goal of producing 10GW of nuclear electricity.</p>
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rump of Russian Communists hope to restore the glories of the former Soviet Union -- "<i>Without a union between Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and other brotherly republics ... we do not have a future.</i>"

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Russia has outlined plans for a CIS *regional air defense system* which would serve as a "prototype for similar coalition military structures in the *Caucasus* and *Central Asia*."

546 gunmen surrendered since *amnesty* was declared in **Chechnya** -- the Kremlin's offer of fair treatment for surrender was declared in July 2006 and expired on 15 January 2007. The success of the *Chechen amnesty* plan is contested -- "*The dueling statements highlighted the difficulties of precisely assessing the state of the insurgency in Chechnya.*"

Venezuela
news list|forecast

↓ President **Chavez** says "*Socialism isn't going to fall from the sky. We are going to understand it, work on it, plant it, sweat it.... Socialism is built on practice.*" The legislature will give Chavez some powers to rule by decree -- he needs "revolutionary laws" to enact sweeping political, economic and social changes. For Chavez, "*neoliberalism*" is now dead in Latin America and he (and others) are staking much in the unifying force of **Mercosur** as an energy and political grouping -- "*by strengthening a part, you strengthen the whole*".

Chavez is adamant on *state control* of the *petroleum* industry -- "*There's no possible negotiation We will have an effective majority control.*"

The head of the *Venezuelan Anti-Drug Bureau (ONA)* denies claims made by gang boss **Feris** that he has drug gang connections.

Wild Cards
news list|forecast

↓ **Turkey** is opening tenders for six *stealth submarines* with 12,500-nautical-mile submerged range. There have been further clashes between Turkish troops and **PKK** rebels -- sporadic minor clashes belie the fact that the *Turkish-Kurdish* issue is of momentous diplomatic importance in relation to **Iraq**.

Egypt has launched its first *spy satellite*, made in the **Ukraine**, from a site in **Kazakhstan** to monitor the Middle East.

India foresees an *East Asian trade community* rivaling the **EU**.

Afghan authorities say, within a day of capture, that Taliban actor **Abdul Haq** has confirmed all that Afghanistan (and others) have been saying about **Pakistan's** nefarious role in aiding the Taliban.

2,000 rally to condemn **Pakistan** government attempts to limit cross-border flow -- "*Don't divide us. Don't stop us from going to Afghanistan. Don't stop Afghans from coming here because they are our brothers and sisters.*" Claims that a strike on a ground target was made by a **US drone**, were denied by **Pakistan**, but "*getting watertight independent corroboration of anything that happens in Pakistan's tribal badlands is, however, a tall order.*" Even the urban middle class is attacking President **Musharraf** -- the *Pakistan Supreme Court Bar Association* says Musharraf can be prosecuted for *treason* under Article six for subverting the Constitution. In a remarkable counter-terrorism move, **Pakistan** authorities have demolished two *mosques* they saw as *security threats* overlooking a VIP route.

As unrest continues in **Bangladesh** during a *state of emergency* over 2,000 were arrested in 24-hours and five have now *died in custody* -- of one case, police said "He fell sick during interrogation ...". The main beneficiary from the failure of mainstream politics is likely to be an *extremist Islamist* fringe.

In **Thailand**, a team of 100 commandos arrested *military officers* and civilians in 18 locations -- the arrests may confirm the post-coup administration's suspicions that

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reactionary military elements were behind the New Year's Eve *bombings*.
 There are new signs` of *Islamic* discontent are apparent in the **Kyrgyz** and **Uzbek** portions of the *Ferghana Valley*, the heart of *Central Asia* -- "the political situation in Central Asia is conducive to the development of *radical Islam* in the region"
 [Analysis: This has a flow-on effect for **China**.]

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