

Week: 19 - 25 March 2007

GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

	Inter-State Conflict. Insurgent continue to enjoy arms US did not secure. Surge denounced re Iran. Proliferation. Russia proposes enrichment centres. Ton of radioactive materials hard to find.
	Poverty. World Bank reads C.K. Prahalad , finds \$5 trillion market among 5 billion poor. Infectious Disease. Drug-resistance increases; Indonesia leading de-privatization of health knowledge. Environment. Antarctic melting speeding up? US EPA down, White House tampered with data. Civil War. Congo, Somalia, Sudan, Nepal. Colombian prisoner exchange likely. Genocide. Two million displaced in Darfur, existing camps full, more camps needed. Transnational Crime. Mexico has an internal war between drug gangs and police. Police are losing.
	Other Atrocities. Two million displaced in Philippines from 2000 to 2006. Thais “disappearing.” Terrorism. Chlorine bombs are now standard. Children riders used to disguise incoming car bombs.

Policy Summary

	Diplomacy. US-Turkish relations strained by emergent independent Kurdistan. Security. US ramping up cyber-attacks at same time that US infrastructure software is full of holes. Society. One UK report finds alcohol and tobacco more dangerous than marijuana and Ecstasy.
	Education. Venezuela focusing on fundamental reform, US continues to dabble on edges of idiocy. Health. FDA attempts to limit influence of doctors on pharmaceutical payrolls (\$50K or more_). Immigration. Raids continue, border control next to non-existent, legislation still lacking. Water. Most water wasted and under-priced. Droughts getting worse. 10 most threatened rivers.
	Agriculture. See Poverty—poor nations joining together to demand end to subsidies by rich nations. Economy. Nothing major reported this week. Energy. Global natural gas cartel emergent. UK funding tidal energy. Two technical advances. Family. See Energy, Edwards calls for restoration of family farm. Pope calls for Christian conscience. Justice. US Attorney General hits new low, while adults object to Military Tribunals & Guantanamo.

Major Player Summary

	Iran. Captured 15 British marines, wooing South Africa, installing air defense systems.
	Venezuela. US rebukes Argentina for allowing free speech during Bush visit. Aid to area exceeds US.
	Brazil. 30,000 police across the country arrest 2,000 in largest police operation ever. China. Job market worsening, passing US in carbon emissions, installing US-China “hot phone.” India. Launching its first nuclear submarine—look for India and Venezuela to be sub-surface powers. Indonesia. Influential in Security Council vote on Iran, along with South Africa and Qatar.
	Wild Cards. India building road to Iran via Pakistan and Afghanistan. China-Pakistan deep sea port. Russia. Russia beating US in Latin America. US wants to emulate Russian genocide in Chechnya.

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

↗ Alert	Nigeria, Timor-Leste
↘ Deteriorated	Pakistan, Somalia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Yemen
↗ Improved	Burundi, North Korea

[International Crisis Group](#)

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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"> • Although self-rated <i>poverty</i> in the Philippines stands at 56%, the Arroyo administration says relief will <i>trickle down</i> if confidence in the <i>status quo</i> is maintained. The G-33 developing nations have met in Jakarta and decided to present a united front to affluent rich states to cut agricultural subsidies -- "<i>I feel we should be more confident of success as a result of this meeting in Jakarta.</i>" The World Bank says the world's four billion poor have \$5 trillion purchasing power -- perhaps the West will have a mind-shift when it sees two-thirds of the world as a coherent market crying out for services. [Four billion pennies can buy a lot.] India (and elsewhere) now needs a <i>qualitative</i> rather than <i>quantitative</i> leap in infrastructure if it is to feed its urban millions -- a standards-driven cold chain. 		
Infectious Disease news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Indonesia is leading the <i>world's poor nations</i> in challenging the West's desire to "<i>privatize knowledge</i>" for personal profit with products such as vaccines – Indonesia says this issue is a direct threat to global "harmony". Tuberculosis cases worldwide has leveled off, but the spread of highly-contagious drug-resistant TB continues. Also, a drug-resistant form of <i>the plague</i> has been identified -- one of humanity's oldest and most lethal enemies now makes a comeback in a form that cannot be contained by antibiotics. Japan has issued an emergency instruction on [20 Mar 2007] following reports of teenage suicides after Tamiflu vaccination. India says it would be particularly vulnerable to an outbreak of H5N1 – it is surrounded by small outbreaks. Scientists are working on a genetically-modified mosquito that can <u>not</u> carry the malaria parasite with the hope they will supplant disease-carrying breeds. [That's the plan.] 		
Environment news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Antarctic melting may be speeding up -- "<i>I feel that we're getting uncomfortably close to threshold</i>" says an Australian Marine and Atmospheric Research scientist. Separately, it is feared melting in the Arctic Sea may trigger a climate change cascade. [It's not just <i>inexorable change</i> that is the threat; it's the possibility of suddenly triggering a rapid and catastrophic avalanche of changes.] A former World Bank chief economist says affluent countries could [should] pay poorer nations to keep forests -- "<i>In the short term, up to \$15 billion extra a year should be set aside by richer nations to preserve forests ...</i>" Indicating that the same message is now reaching every corner of the world, a Clean Energy exhibition was held in the Uzbek capital. With impeccable timing, the EPA is now being starved to death by budget cuts. Congress sees more evidence that the White House "tampered" with climate data – the administration "<i>made about 300 edits to the reports, downplaying scientific certainty about the effects of climate change and minimizing the role of industry</i>". Former CIA director, John Deutch, in a report to the Trilateral Commission says the U.S. adopt a carbon emission control policy. 		
Inter-State Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Iraqi police have prevented a further chlorine attack following the recent one that debilitated hundreds. Following a tip to Iraqi National Police, a further large 		
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news list|forecast

weapons cache has been found in *Sadr City*. [Most weapons used by insurgents in recent years are those inexplicably not secured when Iraq was invaded.] **Logistics** are "the most significant shortcoming" for **Iraqi** forces, as well as legacy problems such as maintenance of 21 types of vehicles – Iraqi forces sometimes run out of **fuel** during a mission. A **Baghdad rocket attack** near enough the **UN Secretary General** to perturb him demonstrates again the insurgents' sophisticated sense of occasion. Continuing investigations confirm much money has been **wasted** in the name of **Iraq** redevelopment – more importantly, *hearts-and-minds* benefits have also been lost.

Iraq's Kurdish north is provocatively taking the posture of a sovereign state over regional **petroleum** resources.

A retired **Egyptian** Major-General says the **US** "surge" in **Iraq** is just a stalking-horse-- *US 'Surge' in Iraq Is To Prepare Attack on Iran*.

Afghan village **vigilantes** now guard their **schools** against **Islamists** -- "*Education has a special importance in Afghanistan, and that is what our enemies know.*"

Chad says **Sudan** has repeatedly **bombed** eastern border towns, breaking a **truce** -- "*two bombers had been pounding the settlements of Kariari and Gregui near the lawless eastern border with Sudan's Darfur region since Wednesday [20070321]*"

Civil War

news list|forecast

↓ In **DR Congo**, at least 150 killed have been killed in a renewed round of fighting in Kinshasa between government forces and those of defeated presidential candidate Jean-Pierre **Bemba**.

In **Somalia**, an *Ilyushin-76*, one of the largest cargo planes in the world, has been shot down on take-off from **Mogadishu**, killing eleven **Belarusian** nationals. Recalling the days of *Black Hawk Down*, angry **Mogadishu** residents burnt the bodies of government (or Ethiopian) soldiers and reportedly dragged them through the streets. Rebel **mortars** hit Mogadishu's port as **Ugandan African Union** tanks arrived. The **Somali** government says *al Qaeda* has named **Aden Hashi Ayro** as leader of the *al Qaeda* franchise in **Mogadishu**.

In **Sudan** there are reports of some of the pro-government **Janjaweed** defecting to the rebels -- "*The Janjaweed are realizing the only solution to Darfur's problems is to resist the government.*" The **UN** warns that aid infrastructure in **Darfur** is on the verge of collapse [Some four million people in Darfur have been caught in fighting between rebels, the government and the pro-government janjaweed militia.]

In **Nepal**, **Maoist** displayed the bodies of 25 slain activists in open trucks to protest their killing in Nepal's dangerous south.

With **US** support, **Colombia** seems likely to agree to exchange 61 high-profile **hostages** held in secret jungle camps for an unspecified number of **FARC** guerrillas in government prisons.

Genocide

news list|forecast

- The camps for *displaced persons* in **Sudan's Darfur** are "almost full" and **UN OCHA** needs to establish new camps urgently -- two million have been displaced by the conflict. In response to accusations of government involvement in Darfur *war crimes*, Sudan has unhelpfully ceased all cooperation with the **International Criminal Court**.

Other

Atrocities

news list|forecast

- Between 2000 and 2006, conflict in the southern **Philippines** has displaced nearly two million people."

Some facts 200 years after Britain's moves towards **abolition**, **slavery** is still doing

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	<p>well under other names in many places -- <i>Modern slavery - some key facts.</i></p> <p>Human Rights Watch has detailed 22 unresolved cases of “<i>disappeared</i>” persons in Thailand in which it said the evidence indicated strongly that <i>security forces</i> were responsible.”</p> <p>Mugabe’s doomed regime in Zimbabwe is using “<i>hit squads</i>” against opponents -- “<i>Chamisa’s skull was cracked by a group of eight men with a steel bar as he entered Harare International Airport ...</i>”</p> <p>The UK has decided, with immediate effect, to ban the use of <i>cluster bombs</i> with <u>dumb bomblets</u>.</p>
<p>Proliferation news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “How hard could it be to find hundreds of tons of radioactive nuclear material?” -- <i>Secrets of a Nuclear Sleuth.</i> <p>Nuclear talks with North Korea came and went, largely occupied with returning a <i>frozen</i> \$25M from Macau to North Korea.</p> <p>Russia again stresses the global strategic benefits of centralized well-secured <i>enrichment centers</i> obviating the need for countries [such as Iran] to enrich domestically.</p>
<p>Terrorism news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent Iraq chlorine bomb raises worries of a similar attack in the US -- “<i>poor security at the plants could lead to the theft of ingredients needed to build a bomb like the ones detonated in Iraq.</i>” <p>Bangladesh’s <i>Conference Of Ulemas</i> [religious leaders] propose <i>committees</i> in every <i>mosque</i> that will monitor <i>extremist</i> propensities.</p> <p>India’s Home Minister reminds everyone that <i>hawala</i> is a very important way illicit funds are moved, but the illicit use of normal <i>banking channels</i> should not be ignored.</p> <p>Iraqi insurgents seem to have crossed yet a further line of the despicable -- “<i>Insurgents in Iraq detonated an explosives-rigged vehicle with two children in the back seat after US soldiers let it through a Baghdad checkpoint...</i>”</p> <p>A <i>death sentence</i> has been handed down on the killer of a Pakistani Minister <u>one month</u> after the crime.</p> <p>Those being tried for the attempted “<i>bombing</i>” in London on 21 July 2005 say the bombs were <i>fakes</i> intended as an anti-war message. [The major ingredient was <i>flour.</i>]</p>
<p>Transnational Crime news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Colombia’s army chief is the most recent to be linked to <i>rightist militias</i> -- “<i>Montoya ... would be the highest-ranking Colombian officer implicated in a growing scandal.</i>”</p> <p>Colombia’s former <i>security chief</i> has been released on a technicality -- “<i>the court found that the prosecutor who had ordered Jorge Noguera’s arrest lacked the authority to do so.</i>”</p> <p>This year <i>police deaths</i> in Mexico have jumped 50% -- “<i>At least 61 police officers have been killed in Mexico since the year began.</i>” In Tabasco, <i>narco-gangs</i> are still rolling <i>decapitated heads</i> into police posts. Following recent attempts at law enforcement, <i>drug cartels</i> have declared war on the Mexican government -- “<i>experts doubt that the state can win.</i>”</p> <p>The brutal <i>murder</i> of three Salvadoran politicians by Guatemalan police who were subsequently murdered in <i>prison</i> begs several questions.</p>

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	<p><i>Drug traffickers</i> are said to routinely pay a “tax” of \$1,400 a pound to Venezuelan security forces to move <i>cocaine</i> through the terminals at <i>Maiquetia</i> airport.</p> <p>Panamanian police and USDEA seized the Panamanian flagged vessel in the Pacific near <i>Coiba</i> with <u>19.4 tonne</u> of <i>cocaine</i>.</p> <p>Congressman Ike Skelton suggests the \$4B “war on drugs” has had zero impact on the streets of the US [... apart from raising illicit prices]. [Added to the cost of interdiction is the far higher cost of domestic crime directly related to prohibition and high black-market prices.]</p> <p>A <i>tiger team</i> asked "what does it take to create secretive U.S. companies capable of wiring funds to and from an offshore bank with virtually no identifying trail" – the answer: <u>it's easy</u>.</p>		
Policy	see <i>daily items with links to full stories on the web</i> at PDB-Policy		
Agriculture news list forecast	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]		
Diplomacy news list forecast	• Departing US Ambassador to Iraq has praised the Kurdish region, but warm and furry feelings for "Kurdistan" are a further nail in the coffin of US-Turkish relations.		
Economy news list forecast	• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]		
Education news list forecast	<p>• A thorough reform of the Venezuelan school system is next on President Chávez's agenda and he has appointed his brother as education minister – "<u>We have to create new values, and new values are created through education.</u>"</p> <p>The UK has plans for <i>user reviews</i> of schools – like <i>Amazon</i> book-ratings -- to help families identify which schools are most suitable for their children.</p>		
Energy news list forecast	<p>• Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan want to ensure they are have options in the new energy world order by bypassing Russian pipeline routes. Separately, there is talk of constructing <i>pipelines</i> that would bring Gulf <i>oil</i> beyond the <i>Strait of Hormuz</i> to Oman or Yemen.</p> <p>The idea of a <i>global natural gas cartel</i> is gaining clarity --"the consortium reportedly will initially include Russia, Iran, Qatar, Venezuela, and Algeria...", <u>70%</u> of the world's natural gas reserves.</p> <p>US presidential candidate Senator Edwards has announced an “aggressive” energy plan that hits all the right words -- "... strengthen the <i>family farm</i> ... replace some of the <i>manufacturing jobs</i> that we've lost in America."</p> <p>In the UK an <u>8MW tidal stream</u> power project in the sea off the west coast of Britain is proposed. Oak Ridge National Laboratory has developed a <i>nanofilter</i> that may replace an expensive, dirty, water-greedy diesel refining process. A paper-like, polymer based <i>rechargeable battery</i> developed by Japanese scientists may be a technology with long-term promise -- "<i>The power rate performance is strikingly high – it only takes one minute to fully charge the battery. And it has a long cycle life, often exceeding 1,000 cycles.</i>" [It is for small device applications at present but the technology is theoretically extensible to <i>vehicle</i> applications.]</p>		
Family news list forecast	• The Pope has said that <i>society</i> will fail without " Christian conscience ". [Better still ... why not a sense of the virtuous that is devoid of bigoted exclusivism?]		
Health news list forecast	• FDA has ruled that <i>medical practitioners</i> who receive more than \$50,000 from a company would no longer be allowed to serve on the <i>committees</i> deciding on that		
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	companies' products. [Not that big pharma has ever engaged in shady practice.]		
Immigration news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports continue to highlight the “human toll” of <i>immigration raids</i> but ICE defends itself against charges that it has been brutal or callous. 		
Justice news list forecast	<p>↓ Amnesty again urges the Bush Administration to abandon <i>Military Commissions</i> -- <i>"The military commissions are patently tailored to fit the unlawful practices that have preceded them."</i> Secretaries Gates and Rice are said to be at odds with Vice president Cheney and others on the issue of <i>Guantanamo's</i> legality.</p> <p>Following recent bad behavior, the Senate has grounded the Attorney General by removing his authority to hire and fire <i>District Attorneys</i>.</p>		
Security news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security holes have been found in <i>software</i> used to control much <i>vital infrastructure</i> [power switching, pumping stations, ...] -- <i>"they are horribly insecure because few people in the SCADA industry know what a 'buffer-overflow' is."</i> The US is under daily attack in <i>cyberspace</i> and STRATCOM announces it is now going to take a more proactive stance and take <i>cyberwar</i> to the enemy. [Nobody said China.] <p>France's space agency has put three decades of research of material on <i>uncorrelated targets</i> on the web. [28% are Class-D (inexplicable).]</p> <p>The Thai military is actively recruiting <i>women</i> in the hope of curbing an insurgency in the south -- <i>"140 female rangers recruited by the military in a search for nonlethal ways to curb the three-year insurgency that has claimed more than 2,000 lives."</i> Separately, a unit of a 100 Indian policewomen has been deployed as peace-keepers in Liberia -- <i>"an increase in female peacekeepers will help limit abuses perpetrated by the very people sent to safeguard the rights of those already traumatized by conflict."</i></p> <p><i>"Today, the so-called ready brigade [82nd Airborne Division] is no longer so ready. Its soldiers are not fully trained, much of its equipment is elsewhere".</i> Also, 88% of the National Guard is not “ready” -- <i>"the chairman of the US Commission on the National Guard and Reserves said Friday [23 Mar 2007] reserve readiness was worse than realized."</i> The USAF has suddenly reached a gap in upgrade cycles for <i>aging aircraft</i> -- <i>"delays in getting the expensive and ambitious new aircraft operational were likely to last for at least half a decade more."</i></p> <p>Some think that <i>UAVs</i> [“drones”] could soon defend <i>airports</i> – they would circuit above local traffic outfitted with <i>missile-warning</i> systems (and possibly <i>anti-missile lasers</i>).</p> <p><i>"The often overlooked subplot of the wars of the post-9/11 period is their unprecedented scale of outsourcing and privatization."</i> -- <i>Four Years On, Bush's Shadow Army Is A Reality</i>.</p> <p>An item covering Texas taking delivery of <i>communications</i> upgrades, includes review of the Presidential Directive on <i>Continuity of Operations Planning</i> doctrine -- <i>New equipment helps ensure communications</i>.</p> <p>The House Judiciary Committee say they will curtail the FBI's record-gathering powers if measures are not taken to correct recent <i>"mistakes, carelessness, confusion, sloppiness, lack of adequate training, guidance, and oversight."</i></p> <p>Israel held a “massive” <i>chemical attack</i> exercise -- <i>"Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh said the exercise was meant in part to defend against a possible Iranian missile attack."</i> Hinting at how difficult it is to detect a <i>radioactive</i> “dirty</p>		
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	<p>weapon" amid everyday applications, DHS and DOE are gathering an inventory of benign sources of radiation in various cities. Bees have been found to be a reliable detector of various toxins and may have application in chemical attack early warning systems -- "we found bees respond within 30 seconds or less to the presence of a toxic chemical."</p> <p>The US "Terror Database", <i>Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (TIDE)</i>, has quadrupled in four years -- "the bar for inclusion is low, and once someone is on the list, it is virtually impossible to get off it."</p> <p>DHS is moving into a new headquarters, in an old lunatic asylum.</p>
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report published in <i>The Lancet</i> [UK] suggests "alcohol and tobacco are more dangerous than some illegal drugs like marijuana".
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ The FAO says the world must learn about sharing water now to avoid future water wars; a subtext is that much water is presently wasted or under-priced -- a person needs to drink <u>2 to 5 litre</u> per day, but a kg of beef needs <u>15,000 litre</u> to produce.</p> <p>In China, a drought downstream on the Yangtze triggers a debate over China's Three Gorges dam -- the Yangtze last year fell to its lowest level since records began.</p> <p>Most of the world's freshwater ecosystems are under siege; WWF list the 10 most threatened rivers -- <i>WWF's Top 10 Rivers at Risk, Rio Grande Makes List</i>. <i>World Water Day</i> March 22 is to focus on <u>one person in six</u> without access to safe drinking water and over <u>2.6 billion</u> without sanitation.</p>
Challengers	
<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Brazil's largest police operation ever, 30,000 policemen across Brazil arrested over 2,000 suspects.
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ The US and China are planning to install a cold-war style "hot phone" -- "<i>General Pace says China and the US both have great military capacity, so they need to be able to know quickly what each other's genuine intentions are.</i>"</p> <p>China will probably exceed US CO₂ emissions this year -- "<i>China would easily outstrip the U.S. this year, long before forecasts.</i>"</p> <p>Angola's loans from China are larger, and more expensive, than IMF monies but they are on a no-questions basis.</p> <p>China has shut down web sites with news broadcasts -- the <i>State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT)</i> is keeping a close watch on news sources critical of the administration. China has jailed an online activist for six years on subversion charges -- "<i>guilty of posting more than 60 articles online in which he 'slandered the government and China's social system'</i>". China's job market is worsening -- like any regime, it does not want masses of educated urban dwellers with time on their hands; China has <u>12 million</u>, and growing.</p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India plans to launch its first nuclear submarine later this year.
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia threatened to abstain from the Security Council vote on Iran. [The "final" resolution was amended to satisfy misgivings of South Africa, Indonesia, Qatar and was passed unanimously.]
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Iran seized 15 British marines on the Iran-Iraq maritime border in what seemed to</p>
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	<p>be a tactical misunderstanding or posturing hours ahead of a Security Council vote on Iran. When it was revealed Iran's <i>Revolutionary Guard</i>, rather than <i>Navy</i>, was involved, it was likely this was the first act in a concerted drama rather than a tactical misunderstanding. A later yet <u>unconfirmed</u> report claims Iran will want to trade the Marines for some of the 50 Iranian "<i>spies</i>" captured in Iraq in recent months.</p> <p>Iran's Foreign Minister visited South Africa which is currently chair of the UN Security Council. The Security Council promulgated broader <i>sanctions</i> on Iran -- the unanimous resolution is short of the US position but tougher than the US expected. [The "final" resolution was amended to satisfy misgivings of South Africa, Indonesia, Qatar and was passed unanimously.]</p> <p>Iran has commissioned a new <i>air defense system</i> -- "<i>It also remains unclear whether the Iranians have the capability to integrate their TOR-M1s with state-of-the-art radars and coordination systems.</i>"</p>
	<p>Russia news list forecast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A useful survey of Russian <i>arms dealing</i> with seven <i>Latin-American</i> countries -- <i>The Russian Arms Merchant raps on Latin America's Door</i>. <p>The US wishes to send a delegation to Russia's <i>North Caucasus</i> Republic of <i>Chechnya</i> to learn from Russian <i>antiterrorism</i> experience.</p>
	<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US has undiplomatically rebuked Argentina for permitting Venezuela's President Chávez to hold a <i>rally</i> during President Bush's recent <i>visit</i>. [Free speech obviously has its limits.] Venezuelan financial support to <i>Latin America</i> presently exceeds US aid -- "<i>Venezuela, as modest as it is, is helping Latin America much more than the United States</i>" Chavez said.
	<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p> <p>↓ A <i>Great Game</i> continues to be played out unnoticed by many in the West – under the auspices of <i>South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)</i>, India is working towards a transcontinental highway to Afghanistan via Pakistan; already Indian engineers are connecting Afghanistan's ring road to the Iranian border.</p> <p>Fighting broke out in Pakistan bordering Afghanistan between foreign mainly <i>Uzbek</i> foreign militants and local <i>Pashtun</i> tribesmen, a scenario possibly conforming to President Musharraf's view that local solutions are best. After four days fighting, about 160 have been killed on both sides and tribesmen have offered the estimated 500 foreign militants still in the area surrender or death. Pakistan's first deep-sea port, <i>Gwadar</i>, was inaugurated -- it is of strategic importance to Pakistan, the region, and to China who funded it. Analysts again stressed Pakistan's strategic importance as a diplomatic bridge between East and West -- "<i>Pakistan is the key to defeating the new threats to the world</i>", but ruling Pakistan requires a peculiar combination – "<i>America, the Army and Allah</i>".</p> <p>At sites of an annual <i>Kurdish</i> festival across Turkey, Kurds carried pictures of PKK rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. The CIA is said to be supporting the PKK for the aggravation it can cause Iran but this is equally aggravating to Turkey -- "<i>The US attitude has really pissed off the government and the army...</i>".</p>

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