



GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

Environment. African dust reaches Pacific islands, moves to higher atmosphere. Deadly fish virus.
Inter-State Conflict. US botches Iraq, collapse almost inevitable. US over-extended & ineffective.
Proliferation. Russia will build nuclear plant in Myanmar, they want less dependence on China.
Poverty. Liberation Theology making a come-back in Latin America. Angola evicts 20,000 squatters.
Infectious Disease. Drug-resistant bacteria in Iraq; improved knowledge on preventing next pandemic.
Civil War. Somalia moves to front burner. Zimbabwe assured of massive famine. Kosovo heats up.
Genocide. Agreement on lawyers fees related to Cambodian genocide overshadows current genocides.
Transnational Crime. Chinese gangs seek cyberspace crime resources. Colombian death squads.
Other Atrocities. 400 million work in minefield environments. Pope loses mind in public. Sex trade.
Terrorism. Indonesia accused of training southern Thai separatists. Al Qaeda mutating effectively.

Policy Summary

Diplomacy. *Fifth Summit of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA)*. World Bank control?
Security. DoD flails, lacks bandwidth, troops in Iraq improvising. Australia focuses on skills & stealth.
Society. 75% in US unhappy with government. Hispanics want jobs, everyone else wants health care.
Education. See links and forecast.
Health. Toothpaste poisoned with anti-freeze reaches Panama from China. Thailand breaks patents.
Immigration. Congress agrees on immigration reform, possibly most significant act in 41 years.
Water. Private sector reluctant to invest in clean water for the poor, protests against privatization.
Agriculture. See links and forecast.
Economy. See links and forecast.
Energy. Aluminum pellets revolutionary? Namibia goes for solar & wind power. Ethanol down.
Family. See links and forecast.
Justice. UK judge clueless about the Internet and its role in terrorism.

Major Player Summary

Iran. Joining with Russia and the 'stans in a collective security treaty. US loses Central Asia.
Venezuela. Chavez slams Pope for being stupid in public. Land reform continues peacefully.
Brazil. Minor stories.
China. Minor stories.
India. Brazil-India nuclear axis. A dozen border disputes on-going. Incentivizing green energy.
Indonesia. 41% trust religious authorities, only 22% trust government and military.
Russia. State-owned energy firm invests in 16 of 22 European countries. Estonia accuses of cyber-war.
Wild Cards. Information societies could displace nation-states. Pakistan blames Iran & Saudi Arabia.

World Crises - from monthly assessments by *International Crisis Group* - MAY 2007

-  **Alert:** [nil]
-  **Deteriorated:** Chad, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, Turkey
-  **Improved:** Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, Uganda
-  **Unchanged:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chechnya, Colombia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India (non-Kashmir), Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Maldives, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Nepal, Niger, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), North Korea, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zimbabwe

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Threats *see daily items with links to full stories on the web at [PDB-Threats](#)*

Poverty
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- **Liberation Theology** has been put in the news again (paradoxically) by the **Pope's** visit to **Latin America**; for current resources see [Jesus, Marx, and Liberation Theology](#) and <http://www.liberationtheology.org/>

In **Angola** 20,000 people have been left **homeless** in clearing **squatters** from land for development.

Infectious Disease
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- A professor of **epidemiology** at the UCLA says the **HIV pandemic** could have been prevented and explains how to prevent the next potential pandemic -- [Researchers Endorse Global Early Warning System to Prevent Pandemics](#).

The **UN** has again delayed **destruction** of samples of the **smallpox virus** -- although officially **eradicated**, and dangerous, there are scientific reasons to retain samples.

There are increasing cases of complications from **drug-resistant bacteria** among injured US soldiers in **Iraq**.

Environment
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- Megatons of **African dust** are falling on the **Caribbean** and **Central America**. [This natural process is exacerbated by past acts such as **Firestone's clear-felling Liberia** in the 1920s for rubber.] Separately: [Asian dust plume might sway US climate-scientists](#) -- "this is why dust and soot getting into the higher layers is so important. This is what makes a local (problem) into a global problem." [The news item includes a link to **imagery** of the dust plume.] [Large dams behind India's methane emissions](#); they are responsible for about a fifth of the country's total global warming -- remember **METHANE** is a **greenhouse gas** too. **DoE** has commenced a **carbon sequestration** field test -- "the test is designed to evaluate the potential for geologic sequestration in mature **Illinois oil reservoirs** ..." [Comment: A profit motive in **CO₂** sequestration is **increased yield** from oil reserves by pumping the gas into diminishing reservoirs.]

The **Pan African Parliament** says many of **Africa's environmental problems** are a result, directly or indirectly, of **colonial exploitation** -- "This problem is generated by countries in the West.... We are asking the Western nations to help us tackle the impact of this problem." [The **Pan African Parliament** was established in 2004 as one of the nine organs of the **African Union**.]

[Deadly fish virus reaches Wisconsin lake](#) -- "I'm worried because, inevitably, it'll wipe out fish". "Tennessee is serving as a funnel to bring in **nuclear weapons and power waste** from around the country to disperse into the **landfills** and recycling without public knowledge" -- [U.S. Allows Radioactive Materials in Ordinary Landfills](#). The **premature birth rate** in the US is rising and growing evidence suggests **pesticides** and other **environmental contaminants** are to blame.

The office of **DNI** has been forced to declare that a **NIE** on **climate change** will not divert **resources** from subjects such as **bin Laden** or **North Korea**. [Comment: There is still a sense from the **Right** that **climate change** is **girlie** stuff; but, conversely, rapt attention to **bin Laden** and **North Korea** seems to have yielded little actionable intelligence.] A panel of **US senior retired military officers** consider that **climate change** is a "**threat multiplier**" and forecast a time when the number of **failed states** will increase rapidly -- [Military Panel Calls Warming a Major Threat](#). The mayors of the world's **biggest cities** have met; "the fight to tackle climate change will be won or lost in cities" says Lord Mayor of **London**, Ken ("Red Ken") **Livingstone** -- [Big City Mayors Strategize to Beat Global Warming](#).

Inter-State • The **Bush** administration looked for a "**war czar**"; instead it got a "**junior war**

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Conflict
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

coordinator" -- *War czar compromise*. [The official title is **Deputy National Security Adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan Policy and Implementation**.]

Oil arrangements consonant with US perceived interests is one of the unspoken preconditions for pulling out of **Iraq** but Iraqi lawmakers are still failing to agree on the terms of oil legislation. [Note on the day *Baghdad* was entered, the *Oil Ministry* was secured while the *Museum* was being looted.] *Iraq is on the verge of collapse* -- "*across huge swathes of territory, [the Iraqi government] is largely irrelevant in terms of ordering social, economic and political life*" says **Chatham House** [UK]. The **US Army** wants urgently to buy 3,700 *Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles* (MRAPs) at about \$1 million each, sending some 3,000 to **Iraq**. **Pakistan** [again] proposes a *Muslim* peace-keeping force for **Iraq** -- "*a political solution is a dire necessity now. We have to stop all outside interference...*".

Poppy Fields Are Now a Front Line in Afghan War – Western forces have the choice of tackling the “war on terror” or the “war on opiates”, but not both simultaneously. The **German** Defence Minister **Franz** has complained to **NATO** about the increased number of *civilian casualties* during US-led operations in **Afghanistan**.

Civil War
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

↓ The worst fighting in **Lebanon** since the civil war broke out between Lebanese forces and *Palestinians* in a *refugee camp* in **Tripoli**, northern Lebanon; a new group thought backed by **Syria** may be involved -- *Fatah al-Islam an emerging threat for Lebanon*.

The **UN** says a *humanitarian crisis* worse than **Darfur** is developing in **Somalia** -- the speed and size of the exodus from *Mogadishu* has eclipsed the emergency in Darfur. The **Somali** Prime Minister Ali Mohamed **Gedi** has escaped a *roadside bomb* attack, at least the third attempt to kill him.

China is sending a special envoy to **Sudan** at the time a 100 members of the **US Congress** call on Chinese President **Hu Jintao** to reassess China’s investment in Sudan. The **African Union** force in *Darfur* [**Sudan**] is crippled by *funding* and *equipment shortages* and harassment by the Sudanese government and rebels -- *AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur faces collapse*.

The **Zimbabwe** *Opposition Leader* has agreed with the move by the **Australian** government to cancel a *cricket tour* of Zimbabwe later in the year. [A non-trivial event in the cricket-playing world.] **Mugabe’s** *land seizures* have guaranteed a *famine* as *wheat* harvests produce a fraction of previous years. Some three million Zimbabwean *refugees* may already be in **South Africa** *illegally* and South African President **Mbeki** warns that many more are certain to follow.

Russia and the **US** (and **EU**) remain on collision-course over **Kosovo** -- *Rice says impossible for Kosovo to remain part of Serbia*.

Genocide
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

• Thirty years later ... the **Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia** (ECCC) investigating the *Khmer Rouge mass killings* 1975-79 has now almost agreed on *lawyers fees*.

Other Atrocities
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

• Relative peace in **Uganda** has not brought normalcy as *unexploded munitions* litter the countryside -- "*How can you get over a war with these bombs everywhere?*" In fact, "*some 400 million people around the world live and work in what are effectively minefields, at daily risk of death or maiming ...*" -- *400 million people live in "minefields"*.

Somalia has (in principle) agreed to **UN** investigation of widespread allegations of *war crimes, disappearances, illegal detentions* and other abuses.

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	<p>Pope Benedict XVI's claim that <i>indigenous peoples</i> were "silently longing" to become <i>Christians</i> when colonized 500 years ago has infuriated some -- Pope Called Insensitive and Arrogant for Remarks on Brazilian Indians.</p> <p>Police have busted a Brazilian sex slavery gang in the Canarys operated by a man of Brazilian origin who brought women to Spain.</p>
<p>Proliferation news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia will build an atomic plant for the Burmese junta [Myanmar]-- "<i>analysts believe the country's military leadership has sought Russia's help in an attempt to balance its traditional and lop-sided dependence on China</i>."
<p>Terrorism news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mortars hit as Prime Minister Blair thanks troops on his farewell visit -- Iraqi insurgents seem to have an undiminished grasp of current affairs and <i>sense of occasion</i>. Former head of MI6 says <i>Islamist extremists</i> are still ahead of the curve; "<i>al-Qaida is showing an extraordinary ability to mutate in response to our successes</i>" -- <i>Anti-terrorism strategy needs overhaul, says ex-MI6 chief</i>. An insight into next-generation <i>asymmetric</i> operation; "<i>the LTTE has shown that it is possible to use commercially available space technologies for 'military' purposes</i>." -- <i>Is Tamil Tigers thinking of an aerospace force?</i>. • Sri Lanka along with Israel and Afghanistan will become partner nations of the <i>Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism</i> at the meeting in Kazakhstan next month. • Myanmar has banned sale of <i>remote-control toys</i> "<i>because of fears they could be turned into detonators for bombs ...</i>". • The US is introducing new legal provisions for <i>tipsters</i> "<i>to protect Americans from being sued for reporting to authorities suspicious activity that may lead to a terrorist attack</i>". • Rand says "<i>a threat assessment that ignores intergroup dynamics, including technology exchanges and beyond, is destined to be outdated quickly</i>" -- <i>Terror groups help each other with tech</i>. • Thailand says Southern <i>militants</i> may have been trained by Indonesians -- "<i>You really need to know certain bones of the necks to behead someone and Thais don't really know how ...</i>"
<p>Transnational Crime news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican drug cartels continue the <i>criminal insurgency</i> by gunning down another <i>police commander</i> – most Mexican police at some time are given the choice "<i>plomo o plata</i>" ("<i>lead or silver</i>"; a bullet or a bribe). • Criminal gangs are now fighting over territory in <i>cyberspace</i>, "<i>sending out waves of malware aimed at stealing zombie computers from rival gangs to build up their own army</i>" -- <i>Online Criminal Gangs Battle With Botnets</i>. • Colombia thinks the capture of Eduardo Hormanza Londono will dealing a severe blow to <i>Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)</i> by cutting a major link between the rebels and <i>drug trafficking money</i>. Two Colombian undercover military officers who had infiltrated FARC have been tortured, killed and found dead over the border in Venezuela. The <i>death-squad</i> scandal continues to circle ever closer to Colombia's President Uribe just as the US Congress considers whether <i>aid</i> will be continued. • The UK Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) is trying to block drug dealers importing large amounts of <i>lidocaine</i> from overseas – it is used as a "<i>cutting</i>" agent to increase profits in <i>cocaine</i> dealing.



Policy

Agriculture
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]

Diplomacy
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- Some in **Australia** want assurances that President **Bush's** presence in **Sydney** in September will cause minimum disruption to *emergency services* and other civil functions from *radio jamming* used to thwart some types of *bombs*.
 A good guide to the doctrine behind a new and important *world grouping*, **ALBA** -- *The Fifth Summit of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA)*.
 Following the **Wolfowitz** incident, some observers say now is a time for the other shareholders to end the **US** fiefdom over the **World Bank's** presidency -- "*The shareholders of the World Bank will have learned nothing ... if they again allow a minority shareholder [the US] to install a president of its choosing ...*"

Economy
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]

Education
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]

Energy
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- ↑ A **Perdue Eureka** moment that may be truly revolutionary -- *New fuel for 21st century -- aluminum pellets?*.
DoE has awarded \$11M in *research grants* in *hydrogen fuel cells*. *Solar* and *wind* powered *cellular phone* systems are being deployed in **Namibia** -- "*a feasible option for operators instead of utilising costly fuel generators or waiting long periods for a mains grid connection.*"
Ethanol diplomacy settles into two camps -- "*taking corn away from people and the food chain to feed automobiles is a terrible thing*" **Chávez** said -- *Why Chávez, Castro bash U.S. ethanol plan.*

Family
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]

Health
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- ↓ *Toothpaste poisoned* with *anti-freeze* found in **Panama** is believed to be from **China**. [The claimed difficulty in tracing culprits indicates official corruption and/or utterly inadequate safety systems.]
Holding Big Pharma's Feet to the Fire -- more in-depth on **Thailand's "patent breaking"**.

Immigration
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- ↑ The **Administration** and **Congress** have reached an agreed position on immigration; "*The delicate compromise, 380 pages long and three months in the making ... could become the most significant revision of the nation's immigration system in 41 years*" -- *Deal on Immigration Reached*.

Justice
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- A judge in a **UK terrorism** case displays a troubling lack of familiarity with 20-year-old concepts -- "*Web site" baffles Internet terrorism trial judge.*

Security
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- The **US Senate** has requested access to the **CIA 9/11 internal report** -- "*the agency is the only federal office involved in counterterrorism operations that has not made at least a version of its internal 9/11 investigation public*".
 A *net-centric* real-time *battlespace* is a neat idea but still just an idea; present *interoperability* problems in **Iraq** sometimes forces "*soldiers and Marines to use personal cell phones provided by family members or chat rooms as makeshift information-sharing tools*"-- *DOD study finds roadblocks on path to net-centricity*. The **Pentagon** has blocked access to several websites such as *YouTube* and *MySpace* over *military computer networks* because of a paucity of *bandwidth*. The **US Army**

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	<p>is facing a shortage of junior officers -- the number of senior captains stands at just <u>51%</u> of the Army's requirements. "... <i>the Army National Guard has only half the equipment it needs to respond to crises at home, from terrorist attacks to natural disasters.</i>"</p> <p>Google claims that 10% of web-sites are "dangerous" -- "<i>an average of 8,000 new URLs containing malicious software emerged each week during April [2007] ...</i>"</p> <p>The Australian military is preparing for a future of come-as-you-are exigencies where skills and stealth will supplant force -- <i>ADF future in precision and stealth.</i></p>
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new poll shows an aggregate of <u>75%</u> of Americans are discontented; to varying degrees, all statistical groups think <i>Camelot</i> it ain't. Former Speaker Newt Gingrich again condemns "radical" secularism, and it seems all forms of secularism, and alleges the US is a Judeo-Christian foundation -- <i>Gingrich: Challenge 'Radical Secularism'</i>. [Comment: The United States in fact rested its foundation on "radical secularism" -- "<i>the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God</i>", Voltaire's god not the Hebrew god who has hijacked the document.] Jerry Falwell, the most divisive person since <i>Stalin</i>, now gets the chance to find out if Jesus really does vote Republican; or not -- <i>Father of Christian Zionism Leaves the Building</i>. "Minorities" now comprise 100 million of the US population -- the population is segmenting between people who want jobs (increasingly Hispanic) and people who want health care (non-Hispanic). French President Sarkozy has appointed a Muslim woman as a minister -- "<i>It is the first time a French Muslim has held a top government job</i>". <i>Racked with guilt?... a burden on society? ... no socially-useful skills?</i> -- no surprise the nation's top lawyers turn to cocaine; Australia hears that cocaine use is not unknown to the nation's highest-paid lawyers [solicitors and barristers]. A study finds that 25 countries presently block web-sites; "China, Iran, Myanmar, Syria, Tunisia and Vietnam had the most extensive filters for political sites"; others filter social sites extensively.
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That mythical "<i>invisible hand in the marketplace</i>" delivers profits to a few but does not deliver equity; "<i>the evidence shows that the private sector has shown a great reluctance to commit finance to connecting the poorest people to clean, affordable water...</i>" -- <i>134 Groups Urge Rich Countries to Pull the Plug on World Bank's Push for Water Privatization.</i>
<p>Challengers <i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Challengers</i></p>	
<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Brazilian rancher has been sentenced for ordering the killing of a 73-year-old nun obstructing his destruction of jungle. President Lula does not <u>want</u> constitutional amendment that would allow him to stand for a <u>third</u> term but does want say in who will be the party's next candidate.
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany says that China "<i>largely ignores aspects of good governance in its policy of lending to countries such as Sudan and Angola</i>". The former head of China's drug agency is facing trial on charges of taking bribes and for dereliction of duty. A policeman was stabbed near Tiananmen Square two days after an attack on the portrait of Chairman Mao -- no popular uprising but a worry for authorities.
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brazil will help India in civilian nuclear energy -- "<i>We understand India's growing need for energy and appreciate its emergence as an important world power</i>". A not

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unrelated story: *All's not well with Indo-US N-deal* -- "the US Under-Secretary of State has reportedly postponed his proposed visit, a sign perhaps that the nuclear deal is not quite on track as Indian and US officials may have hoped".

A large **bomb** containing 1kg of **RDX** planted in a market, probably by **ULFA Assamese separatists**, was discovered 30 minutes before it was set to detonate.

"Intelligence inputs indicate that **Bangladesh** territory has been used, in some cases, for launching operations against India by terrorist groups based in **Pakistan** and **Pakistan Occupied Kashmir** ...". Also: *RDX imported from Bangladesh?*-- "**Harkatul-Jehad-i-Islami's** (HuJI) pawmarks are becoming increasingly visible in major terror attacks in India." The **Mecca Masjid** mosque in **Hyderabad** was **bombed**.

The **UN General Assembly** has elected India and 13 other new countries to the year-old **Human Rights Council**.

A brief survey of Indian in-country inter-state **border disputes** -- *Nearly a dozen border disputes within India alone!*.

"Four months ago a company of tough, experienced Indian policewomen landed in **Liberia**." - their presence is bringing social benefits beyond policing -- *Female Police in Liberia Hope to Empower Women*.



The government is encouraging **renewable energy** investment with a range of **tax** and other incentives.

An "outcaste" has been elected as leader of India's most populous state; "**Uttar Pradesh** ... saw a surprising voter alliance between **Dalits** and high-caste **Brahmins**, which led the **BSP** to its biggest-ever win" -- *India's caste system turned on its head as 'lowest of low' win right to govern 170M*. [With a tutorial on the caste system.]

Indonesia
[news list|forecast](#)

- Indonesia has been re-elected to serve on **UN Human Rights Council**. 41% of Indonesians say that they trust the country's **religious leaders**; whereas 22% trust the **president** and the Indonesian **military**.

Iran
[news list|forecast](#)

- Iran has arrested 10 in the volatile border province of **Sistan-Baluchestan** with "**spying**" gear. Iran is likely soon to join the **Collective Security Treaty Organization** which comprises **Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan**.

Russia
[news list|forecast](#)

- "*The state-controlled energy giant **Gazprom** now has a stake in 16 of the EU's 27 countries*" -- *Moscow and EU battle for control in escalating energy war*. Coinciding with an all-time low in diplomatic relations, **Estonia** accuses Russia of a '**cyberattack**' -- "*Estonia is a pioneer of 'e-government' and one of the most wired countries in Europe...*".

Venezuela
[news list|forecast](#)

- President **Chavez** has demanded the **Pope** apologize for his comments implying that **genocide** at **Spanish catholic** [and **Portuguese**] hands was the best thing that could have happened to the **indigenous peoples** -- "*apologize because there was a real genocide here and, if we were to deny it, we would be denying our very selves*." [It

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seems the Pope prefers the *Cowboys* to the *Indians*.] The **Chavez** regime reiterates that **RCTV's** licence will not be renewed because it actively supported on-air the 2002 *Opus Dei coup* against him. Venezuelan *state radio* is being *jammed* ... by someone.

Amid fear, loathing ... and hope ... Venezuela's largely peaceful *land redistribution* continues; "*Mr. Chávez's supporters have formed thousands of state-financed cooperatives to wrest farms and cattle ranches from private owners*" -- *Clash of Hope and Fear as Venezuela Seizes Land*.

Wild Cards
 news list|forecast

✓ As current chair of **Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)**, **Malaysia** urges the **UN** to intervene in **Gaza** to stop **Israeli collective punishment** of **Palestinians** -- "*All this violence must stop. The international community must intervene. I think the United Nations must intervene.*"

"*Angola is poised to become a regional power in the not so distant future*" -- the second-largest sub-Saharan **oil** producer after **Nigeria**, Angola is now turning its attention to **nuclear power**.

In **Pakistan** "*Those who spy for America will face this same fate*" read a note [in the **Pashto** language] attached to the severed legs of a **bomber**. **Imran Khan**, national hero and leader of **Tehrik-e-Insaaf**, says the **UK's** double-standard in counter-terrorism -- giving "protection" to exiled **Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM)** head **Altaf Hussain** -- is to blame for some recent **terrorist attacks** in **Pakistan**. Troops were told to shoot rioters as violence mounted in **Karachi** -- "*Fighting between the Pashtuns, and Urdu-speakers linked to the MQM raised the spectre of a return to ethnic bloodshed*". Some analysts see this as a bitter **proxy war** -- "*Pakistanis invariably blame Saudi Arabia and Iran for the violence since they funded and trained the partisans of this war*" -- *Sectarian conflict looms over Pakistan, says study*. Many were killed in a **bombing** in **Peshawar**, with no indication it was linked to violence between pro-government and opposition supporters elsewhere. **Pakistan** and **Afghan** troops have now traded fire, with deaths, on several occasions -- *Soldiers die as border talks end in gun battle* and *Pakistani, Afghan border troops trade fire*. Meanwhile, in **Islamabad**, radical **Islamists** at the **Lal Masjid** (Red Mosque) are now holding police as **hostages** until some of their own group are released from custody. President **Musharraf** is more precarious now than at any time during his tenure but even political opponent **Benazir Bhutto** says "*I think Musharraf's passage from the scene, one way or the other, would greatly complicate our efforts in the war on terror.*"

The irreversible emergence of **information societies** will challenge the very existence of state-based international relations; '**terrorism**' is just an early example of this -- *Information Societies, New Terrorism: Its Impact on International Politics*.

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