

**GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

*Destabilizing Threats, Stabilizing Policies*

**Threat Summary**

	<p><b>Environment.</b> Japan threatens to quit Whaling Forum. Another indigenous leader murdered in Brazil.</p> <p><b>Inter-State Conflict.</b> SecDef gives poor speech in Asia. Second UK general sours on Iraq. Tribes!</p> <p><b>Proliferation.</b> US missile shield, has no basis in reality, reigniting the Cold War for arms profit.</p>
	<p><b>Poverty.</b> Malaysia and Indonesia get it: poverty, illiteracy core causes of Islamic instability.</p> <p><b>Infectious Disease.</b> Myanmar case study in fortress state as incubator for massive epidemics.</p> <p><b>Civil War.</b> In Somalia, foreign fighters from Britain, Sweden, and Pakistan killed. Zimbabwe boiling.</p> <p><b>Genocide.</b> Botswana mixes diamonds with cultural genocide. Sudan, Bosnia, Rwanda in headlines.</p> <p><b>Transnational Crime.</b> \$10B in interdiction achieves <i>nada</i>—could it be because USG is #1 smuggler?</p>
	<p><b>Other Atrocities.</b> Pfizer uses Nazi techniques, secret drug trials on unsuspecting African children.</p> <p><b>Terrorism.</b> JFK plot close to Black Muslims. TB makes debut as weapon of choice. Nigeria on brink.</p>

**Policy Summary**

	<p><b>Diplomacy.</b> CIA gets it right in 2002 on Iraq; Arab world favors democracy—something US has lost.</p> <p><b>Security.</b> Baghdad Embassy plans leaked on the web. Cuba best prepared for natural disasters.</p> <p><b>Society.</b> US ranks 96<sup>th</sup> in global peace index, neck and neck with Iran. Norway in first place.</p>
	<p><b>Education.</b> High schools today fail to meet needs of top and bottom fifths. SecEd is stark naked.</p> <p><b>Health.</b> Selfish stupid US lawyer carries resistant TB twice across the Atlantic, shows terrorists how.</p> <p><b>Immigration.</b> See daily links.</p> <p><b>Water.</b> Water scarcity, not climate change, is what will create millions more refugees.</p>
	<p><b>Agriculture.</b> Carbon footprint information could begin to impact on diets and agriculture.</p> <p><b>Economy.</b> Cheney plan working--\$100B more for the arms industry, never mind the dead troops.</p> <p><b>Energy.</b> Burundi using urban waste as urban fuel. Water emerging as a closed-cycle fuel option now.</p> <p><b>Family.</b> German Pope keeps sinking into the past, considering a return to the 16<sup>th</sup> century Latin mass.</p> <p><b>Justice.</b> Dick Cheney destroys all records of his guests—a real first in US ethics.</p>

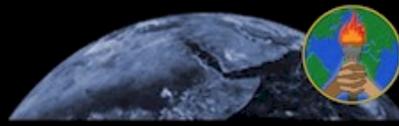
**Major Player Summary**

	<p><b>Iran.</b> The covert war heats up at precisely the time sane diplomats would want to break bread together.</p>
	<p><b>Venezuela.</b> Chavez closed down the oldest TV network in Venezuela.</p>
	<p><b>Brazil.</b> Brazil subsidizing “the pill” by up to 90%, properly tells the German Pope to take a walk.</p> <p><b>China.</b> Getting Uzbekistan natural gas. Beats US in Africa. Objects to replacing Russia as “threat..”</p> <p><b>India.</b> Becomes 12<sup>th</sup> Trillion Dollar GDP nation. Green, yellow, red METRO channels. More clashes.</p> <p><b>Indonesia.</b> Muslim clerics questioning secular system inherited from Dutch. Malacca Strait \$7B pipe.</p> <p><b>Russia.</b> Low debt, high growth, Putin on a roll. But why is he taking US missiles in Europe seriously?</p> <p><b>Wild Cards.</b> SecDef Gates supports Turkey against Kurdish terrorists (the ones with UK MD quals).</p>

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

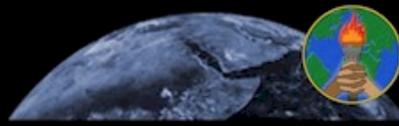
↗	<b>Alert:</b> Pakistan
↓	<b>Deteriorated:</b> Ethiopia, Israel/Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Pakistan
↑	<b>Improved:</b> Northern Ireland (UK)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unchanged:</b> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea, Haiti, India (non-Kashmir), Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), North Korea, Philippines, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Somaliland, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zimbabwe</li> </ul>

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<b>Threats</b>		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at <a href="#">PDB-Threats</a></i>
<b>Poverty</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Malaysia</b> (and <b>Indonesia</b>) are continuing to focus on <i>social development</i> at the core of instability in the <i>Islamic</i> world – “<i>The real threats to the Muslim world are poverty, illiteracy and backwardness</i>” says Malaysian Prime Minister <b>Badawi</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Infectious Disease</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Malaria</b> and <b>drug-resistant TB</b> are flourishing in <b>Myanmar</b> aided by “<i>simmering civil war, fake drugs and a non-existent health service</i>” -- <b>failed fortress states</b> can be incubators for epidemics that affect everyone.</li> </ul> <p>see also: <b>Health</b></p>
<b>Environment</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Japan</b> continues its age-old traditions of <i>cruelty, treachery and isolationism</i> and threatens to quit the <b>Whaling Forum</b>.</li> </ul> <p>Another <b>Brazilian Indian</b> leader has been murdered in disputes over stolen <b>indigenous land</b> -- “<i>Aurino dos Santos was an active participant in the struggle of the Pataxó Hã-Hã-Hãe people for recovering their territory.</i>”</p> <p>Hoping to catch the ear of the upcoming <b>G8</b>, <b>Oxfam</b> says the <i>West</i> must be prepared to carry most of the estimated cost of <u>\$50B/year</u> to address <b>greenhouse gases</b>.</p>
<b>Inter-State Conflict</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another <b>Iraq</b> defeatist ... another <b>British</b> [four-star] General says all is lost -- “<i>We can’t win, so pull troops out of Iraq</i>” says general.</li> </ul> <p><b>US</b> Defense Secretary <b>Gates</b> suggests “<i>extremism</i>” has a cause -- <i>Gates Calls for Focus on Extremism’s Causes</i>. [Comment: It is truly astounding if Secretary Gates does not know the “cause of terrorism” -- for <b>Muslims</b> -- is the 100 “Iraqs” over the last 1200 years; this <b>Iraq</b> is just more gasoline to the fire ...]</p> <p>Insurgents have destroyed a major <b>bridge</b> in northern <b>Iraq</b> -- for “insurgents” some Iraqi groups are also doing quite well at the tactics of <i>conventional warfare</i>.</p> <p>In signals and counter-signals about <b>Turkey’s</b> threat to enter northern <b>Iraq</b>, Turkey asks the <b>US</b> not to repeat recent “accidental” incursions into its <b>airspace</b>.</p> <p>Coalition forces in <b>Iraq</b> are now doing what should have been done on day-1 of <i>mission-completed</i> ... forming alliances with <b>tribal rulers</b> -- <i>Gathering the Tribes</i>.</p>
<b>Civil War</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Foreign fighters</b> from <b>Britain</b>, <b>Sweden</b> and <b>Pakistan</b> were among those killed by <b>US</b> missiles and Somali army operations in <b>Puntland</b> [northern <b>Somalia</b>].</li> </ul> <p><b>Zimbabwe’s</b> President <b>Mugabe</b>, now finding enemies under every bed, is threatening to seize “hostile” foreign companies -- “<i>One minister said ‘imperialist companies’ would be targeted as they had been operating with what the president described as a ‘sinister, regime-change agenda’ ...</i>”</p>
<b>Genocide</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<i>We Will Die Like the Grass</i>” -- A definitive overview of the <b>San</b> people of the <b>Kalahari</b>, the <b>Botswana</b> government, <b>diamonds</b>, treachery, and <b>cultural genocide</b>.</li> </ul> <p>A <b>Bosnian Serb</b> General has been captured and will be transferred to the <b>UN Court</b> - - “<i>Zdravko Tolimir was a top aide to the Bosnian Serbs Ratko Mladic during the massacre of thousands of Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica in July 1995.</i>”</p> <p><i>At last, a way to stop the grotesque cruelty in Sudan</i> -- another <b>Oil-for-Food</b> program; afterall, the scandal-ridden <b>Iraq</b> program kept <u>75%</u> of <b>oil revenues</b> away from the regime; maybe that’s good enough...</p> <p><b>Rwanda’s traditional judiciary</b> says “<i>Around 800,000 people, accounting for one-tenth of the population, are suspected of participating in the 100-day killing spree that started in April 1994 ...</i>”</p>
<b>Other</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is there no difference between <b>Pfizer</b> and Nazi Doktor Josef Mengele -- secret</li> </ul>

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**Atrocities**

[news list|forecast](#)

*drug trials* on unsuspecting **African** children resulted in *deaths, paralysis, blindness and brain-damage* ... but they were cheap; [Pfizer Faces Criminal Charges in Nigeria](#).

**Botswana** has hosted a *summit* on **human trafficking** -- "*countries in the region are beginning to take the issue seriously.*" A glimpse at a **Thai** missing persons centre that confronts **human trafficking** as well as those "*disappeared*" by criminals and the state -- [Parents turn to Thailand's kidnap centre](#). **Indonesian** police have arrested 15 for **human trafficking** -- "*the victims, mostly from West Java, were promised restaurant jobs with large salaries before finding themselves working in cafes, discotheques and brothels.*" In **India**, **Chandigarh** police busted a "flesh trade racket" [**human trafficking**], arresting eight -- "*the entire management of the hotel is allegedly involved in the flesh trade business and one of the girls arrested includes a Russian woman.*" Five were extradited from **Bulgaria** to **France** on **human trafficking** charges -- "*part of an organised group which forced Bulgarian women from the northeastern part of the country into prostitution [in France].*"

**Civil war** has left **Mozambique** littered with **unexploded ordnance** and little expertise to tackle the danger -- [Fears Linger in Mozambique Over Unexploded Weapons](#).

**Proliferation**

[news list|forecast](#)

↓ The US "**Missile Shield**" adventure seems, in one step, to have reinstated the **Cold War**; "**Russia** has not expressly targeted its **missiles** at Europe since the end of the Cold War but, asked if it would do this again if the U.S. missile shield plant went ahead, **Putin** said: 'Yes, naturally.'" -- [Putin warns he will point missiles at Europe: paper](#)

**Terrorism**

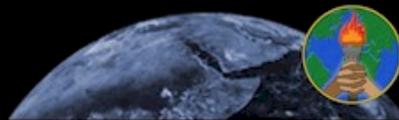
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ A mature plot, broken by an *informant*, to blow up **fuel tanks and pipeline** under **JFK Airport** seems unrelated to **al Qaeda** but to **Caribbean Islamists**. [Comment: The group that may be involved, **Trinidad's Jamaat-al-Muslimeen** is closer to **Malcolm 'X' Black Muslim** ideology. The event threatens the possibility of a new "front" with a new demographic disenchanted with the US.] **TB** already kills four people per minute every day; a new **highly drug-resistant strain/s** could be really dangerous if used as a weapon -- [New Strains of TB Can Be Used as a Powerful Bioterror Weapon](#).

*Is Libyan militant new face of al-Qaida?* -- "**Abu Yahya al-Libi** is now the most visible face of **al-Qaida**, surpassing even **Ayman al-Zawahiri** in actual video appearances." The **internet** continues to be a powerful tool for "terrorists" -- "*when we started this research we had around 12 terrorist Web sites. Now we have more than 5,000 Web sites.*" **Bin Laden's** mission of offering **al Qaeda** ["the Base"] as a resource for like-minded groups is working out well; "[**al Qaeda**] has enabled the **Taliban** to develop from a **xenophobic, home-grown Islamist movement** into a more outward looking force that is helping to advance **al Qaeda's** global interests" -- [Taliban learns tactics, propaganda from al Qaeda](#). [Comment: The local zealots who defeated the **Russians** have now become globalized.]

An intense battle continues between the **Lebanese** military and a radical group **Fatah al-Islam** in a **Palestinian** refugee quarter in **Tripoli** [northern Lebanon]. Much is at stake in what many see as a sudden *new front* against **Salafic** [**Sunni**] extremism. **Kuwait News Agency** says "*the recently-surfaced group is reportedly a cocktail of Arab nationals, advocating Al-Qaeda thoughts.*" They say "*We are ready to blow up Beirut and every other place in Lebanon*" -- [Lebanon gunmen dig in for 'two-year battle'](#). [Comment: The **Fatah al-Islam** "foreigners" who arrived in the camp

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"recently" may partly comprise escapees from **Iraq**.]  
*Nazis, criminals* of every type, and now extremist groups seek Swiss hospitality; "*Switzerland serves Islamic-motivated terrorism as a place for retreat, preparation, logistics and propaganda*" -- *Muslim terror groups using Switzerland as base: govt.*  
*"Al Qaeda has infiltrated nearby Algeria, Morocco and Tunis. Its eyes have turned to Nigeria because of its vast energy resources."* -- *Nigeria's fresh start.* [Comment: *Islam* is predominant in Nigeria's north, in contrast to the *pagan* and *Christian* south but Islamists make no secret of their mission to bring Islam to all of the country.]  
**Psychologists** and other specialists commissioned by the **Intelligence Science Board** says *interrogation techniques* used since the 2001 terrorist attacks are *outmoded, amateurish* and *unreliable* -- *Advisers call U.S. interrogation methods 'amateurish'*.

**Transnational Crime**  
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ *Cocaine running jeopardizes what's left of Haiti* -- "You can follow the *cocaine* by tracing the money locally, even to the homes of some of my colleagues and sometimes the local population want a piece of it" said a **policeman**. *Ponder This Graph for a Moment, Please* -- the article shows, using **State Department** data, what **\$10B** in *coca interdiction* in **Latin America** has achieved over the last 13 years ... *nothing, zilch, nil*. In an incident sadly now almost too common to report, another *severed head* was used to encourage silence, this time at the "*Tabasco Hoy*" in *Villahermosa*. *Mexico's Drug War: The Risky Military Downside* -- in depth discussion including the desertion of **Mexican Special Air Mobile Group** to the **Gulf cartel** ('*Los Zetas*').

**Policy**

**Agriculture**  
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- *New diet shrinks calories, carbon footprint* -- a trend certain to range from the useful to the puerile may influence what is popular based on "carbon footprint". [Unfortunately *water-greedy cotton* would be the first to go on a strict criterion.]

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

↓ The "worst-case" in the **CIA's** 2002 6-page **Iraq** analysis is very accurate, down to *world-wide disaffection* -- *Before War, CIA Warned of Negative Outcomes*.  
*What happened at the last five G8 summits [Factbox]* [Prediction: *Africa, Climate change, HIV* will be talked about and another G8 will end.]  
*"Mr Gorbachev accused America of 'empire-building', which he said the UK should have warned it away from."* -- *Gorbachev criticises US 'empire'*.  
*"It is hard to understand why President Bush welcomed Uribe at the White House this month."* -- *US aid exacerbates abuse in Colombia*.  
 More detail, and concerns, on **AFRICOM** -- *U.S. Africa Command Brings New Concerns*.  
*"The Gallop poll has found that between 85% and 95% of the people in the Arab and Muslim states want democracy."* -- *Majority in Arab world favour democracy: Poll*.

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

↓ **US** spending on **Iraq** and **Afghanistan** has now passed the cost of the **Vietnam War**, -- *\$100bn more to fight terror*. [Which is good for the *armaments* industries.]

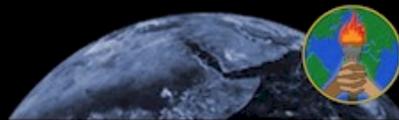
**Education**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- "*Students today do not have a reasonable chance of becoming ready for college unless they take a number of additional higher-level courses beyond the minimum*" -- *Core Classes Not Enough, Report Warns*.

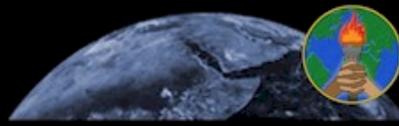
**Energy**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- In **Burundi**, the lesser of some bad options takes some pressure off a tree-denuded land -- *Urban Waste Becomes Urban Fuel*.  
 An update on attacks in the *oil-rich Christian and pagan southern delta* of **Nigeria** -- *Nigerian militant attacks on oil industry [Chronology]*.

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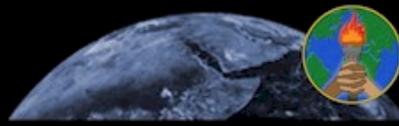


	<p>A new agreement will bring <b>Algerian gas</b> to <b>Brazil</b> -- "Algerian gas ... would be used in terminals that the company is implementing in Pecém Port ... and in Guanabara Bay".</p> <p>A technology involving <b>starch</b>, <b>enzymes</b> and <b>water</b> to produce <b>hydrogen</b> fuel joins the growing array of "basic research" technologies that offer the only real future promise -- <a href="#">Researchers study organic enzymes as future car fuel</a>. <u>Also</u>: A <b>lithium</b> compound "could be a major step towards the breakthrough that the fuel cell industry and the transport sector have waited for" -- <a href="#">Hydrogen Breakthrough Could Open the Road to Carbon-Free Cars</a>.</p> <p>The first generation of <b>LED</b> (Light-Emitting-Diode) lighting technologies bring <u>60%</u> energy-saving without the downsides of complex and <b>ecologically-unsound compact fluorescents</b>.</p> <p>[As predicted ...] "The rush to produce <b>biofuels</b> ... is exerting <b>price pressure</b> on <b>staple foods</b> in South Africa ..." -- <a href="#">Biofuel making staple food more expensive</a>.</p>
<p><b>Family</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pope is considering a return to the <b>Latin mass</b> -- continuing the <b>fundamentalism</b> of the last two popes, the enlightenment of <b>Vatican II</b> may be overturned in a return to the 16th century form of the mass.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A selfish stupid <b>US</b> lawyer who traveled knowing he had <b>highly drug-resistant TB</b> shows how ready the world is to contain <b>pandemics</b> -- <a href="#">TB patient "very sorry" for endangering others</a>.  <a href="#">Obama calls for universal health care coverage, paid for by government, business, consumers</a> -- "If you are one of 45 million Americans who don't have <b>health insurance</b>, you will after this plan becomes law."</li> </ul>
<p><b>Immigration</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Justice</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Vice President <b>Dick Cheney</b>, whose penchant for secrecy is well known, has eliminated any public record of his <b>guests</b> and their visits." -- <a href="#">Dick Cheney and His Invisible Guests</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Security</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Web Security Breach Lets Cat Out Of Baghdad Embassy Plans</a> -- "The architectural firm ... removed master sketches of the compound from its Web site, but not before details of the <b>sensitive plan</b> were exposed online."  <a href="#">"Cuba counts with the best organized program on natural catastrophes prevention mechanisms of the hemisphere."</a> -- <a href="#">Cubans best prepared on natural disasters</a>.  <a href="#">"He is one of the bad ones. He's one of the longest-running and uses criminal methods all the time."</a> -- <a href="#">Longtime 'Spam King' Charged With Fraud</a>.  <a href="#">"The U.S. Defense Department has named a replacement for the controversial Christian general who ran its intelligence operations."</a>  <a href="#">NYPD Divers Now Search for Bombs</a> -- "If they can bring in drugs, they can bring in other materials."            Something on the work of the new <b>Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA)</b> -- <a href="#">New US agency aims to help spies with new technology</a>. [On the model of <b>DARPA</b>.]            The FBI's latest report will show that <b>violent crime</b> is still increasing -- "the FBI's focus on <b>counterterror</b> investigations since the 2001 attacks have inevitably resulted in fewer agents devoted to traditional crime fighting." [Comment: Almost certainly the <b>crystal meth</b> trend is also partly involved.]</li> </ul>



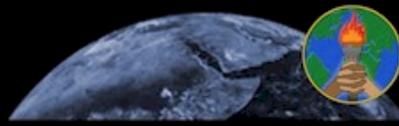
	<p>Many are questioning the “<i>war-time</i>” <i>powers</i> proposed for <b>UK police</b> -- <i>UK government assailed over 'stop and quiz' anti-terror proposal</i>.</p>
<p><b>Society</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>German G-8 Summit Protests Turn Violent</i> -- middle-class <i>pseudo-anarchists</i> and sociopaths waste communal resources with no conceivable useful purpose -- some <u>146 police</u> were hurt, 25 of them seriously.</li> <li><i>Rotterdam bans cannabis-selling cafes near schools</i> -- "the new laws will not cover <i>primary schools</i>, as <i>primary school children hardly ever consume cannabis ...</i>"; cannabis shops in the <b>Netherlands</b> have <i>revenue</i> of around <u>\$1.3B/year</u>.</li> <li>The <i>Global Peace Index</i> of 24 factors from <i>overseas wars</i> to <i>street violence</i> and <i>prison population</i> ranks the <b>US 96th</b>, just ahead of <b>Iran</b> -- <i>Norway rated world's most peaceful country</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Climate change</i> will not make millions of <i>refugees</i>, but <i>water scarcity</i> will -- <i>U.N. Braces for New Breed of Environmental Refugees</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Challengers</b>     <i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at <a href="#">PDB-Challengers</a></i></p>	
<p><b>Brazil</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↑ In a move unpopular with the <b>Roman Church</b>, Brazil will distribute and subsidize <i>contraceptive</i> medications ["the pill"] by up to <u>90%</u> -- <i>Row brews over cheap Pill plan</i>.</p> <p>Brazil is giving its <i>police</i> [brief] training in <i>human rights</i> -- "We want an intelligent police that ensures security without violating human rights."</p>
<p><b>China</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <b>Uzbekistan</b> will build a <i>natural gas pipeline</i> to China -- "The Central Asian nation is trying to end <b>Russia's</b> stranglehold on natural gas with a pact to build a <u>530-kilometer pipeline to China</u>."</p> <p>Chinese occupation forces have forced the abbot of a large <b>Tibetan monastery</b> to step down when he refused to sign documents condemning the <b>Dalai Lama</b>.</p> <p>Village <i>protests</i> over <i>one-child policy</i> fines flared again -- "Some of them forced their way into the office, smashed furniture and set fire to government vehicles." From the nation that gave the world <b>SARS</b> and (probably) <b>H5N1</b>, now "<u>a mystery virus that is killing millions of pigs in southern China</u>" and soaring <i>pork prices</i> bring fear of social unrest.</p> <p>The <i>death sentence</i> for the head of China's <b>FDA</b> 1998-2005 for official corruption may remind the <b>US FDA</b> that it is a <i>watch-dog</i>, not a <i>lap-dog</i> -- <i>Ex-Chief of China Food and Drug Unit Sentenced to Death for Graft</i>. China blames <i>mislabeling</i> for deaths from <i>toxic medications</i> in <b>Panama</b> -- "two Chinese companies had mislabelled a toxic chemical as a medical ingredient that killed at least <u>100 people</u> in Panama last year ...."</p> <p>Chinese Premier <b>Wen Jiabao</b> told a meeting of the <i>African Development Bank</i> in Shanghai that China was committed to helping <b>Africa</b> develop socially and economically -- <i>China Defends Its Role in Africa</i>. China says <b>US</b> sanctions on <b>Sudan</b> over <b>Darfur</b> [which would affect Chinese <i>trade</i>] will not help solve the problem -- "These willful sanctions and simply applying pressure is not conducive to solving the problem" said <b>Liu Guijin</b>, China's <i>special representative</i> on the Darfur issue.</p> <p>China is unhappy about the <b>US</b> assessment of its <i>military</i> capacity and intentions; "<i>a brutal interference in China's internal affairs.... We are very unhappy about the report and strong object to it.</i>"; <i>China rejects Pentagon's 'exaggerated' report</i>. But China admits it has an interest in <i>electronic warfare</i>; "<i>the PLA sees CNO [Computer Network Operations] as critical to achieving 'electromagnetic dominance' early in</i></p>

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	<p><i>a conflict." -- US military warns of China electronic warfare capability.</i></p>
<p><b>India</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Rajasthan</b> state imposed the <i>National Security Act</i> after deadly clashes between <b>Meena</b> and <b>Gurjar</b> ethnic groups; Gurjars are demanding <i>Scheduled Tribe</i> status.</li> <li>The once blue-sky <b>US-India nuclear deal</b> is becoming increasingly bogged down -- <i>"The deal has been delayed by disagreements over clauses that India says could limit its nuclear weapons program and, in the process, impinge on its sovereignty."</i></li> <li>India now joins <b>US, Japan, Germany, China, UK, France, Italy, Spain, Canada, Brazil</b> and <b>Russia</b> in the <i>trillion- dollar GDP</i> club.</li> <li><b>Metro stations</b> across <b>Delphi</b> now have a <i>green, yellow and red</i> channel -- <i>Passenger profiling on Delhi Metros?</i></li> <li>Eleven were killed in clashes in <i>northwest</i> India by poor villagers who believe government <i>positive discrimination</i> programs are leaving them unemployed -- <i>"Nearly 20,000 villagers blocked the roads to press officials to classify them as being on the lowest rung of India's complex social ladder so they could get government jobs reserved for such groups ... "</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indonesia</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members of the <i>Anti-Apostate Movement Alliance</i> -- angered by often aggressive <i>Christian evangelism</i> -- have attacked a <i>church</i> in <b>West Java</b> -- <i>Muslim hardliners attacked a church in Indonesia</i>. Controversial <i>Muslim</i> cleric <b>Abu Bakar Bashir</b> says he may run for <i>president</i> in 2009 -- <i>"The law we have was inherited from the Dutch (Indonesia's former colonial power) and is not suited to Muslims."</i></li> <li>A minor <i>diplomatic incident</i> was triggered when two <i>New South Wales</i> [state] police accosted <i>Governor of Jakarta</i> <b>Sutiyoso</b> while he was visiting <b>Sydney</b> and "rudely delivered the invitation" to an <i>inquest</i> into the <u>1975</u> killing of five Australian journalists in <b>East Timor</b>.</li> <li>A proposed <b>Malaysia - Indonesia - Saudi</b> \$7B <i>pipeline</i> across the <i>Malay peninsular</i> will reduce <i>tanker traffic</i> in the <i>Malacca Strait</i> by about <u>20%</u>. [Comment: This will steal the march on a long-proposed <b>Thai - Chinese canal</b> across the <i>Kra Isthmus</i>.]</li> <li>Indonesia's President <b>Yudhoyono</b> says the "<i>Golden Age of Islam</i>" can be reclaimed if <i>Muslim nations</i> "play a commensurate role in the shaping of the <i>world economic order</i>" -- <i>Muslim states have the muscle to have a say in world economic order</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Iran</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The briefest of glimpses at what may or may not be happening in the covert <i>destabilization campaign</i> against Iran -- <i>Tehran's Secret 'Department 9000'</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Russia</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>see also: Proliferation</b></li> <li>A <i>surplus</i>, record-low <i>national debt</i> (8.5% of GDP), 6%-7% <i>growth</i> are all real signs of a healthy economy -- <i>The IMF gives Russian economy a clean bill of health</i>.</li> <li><i>Russia tests new rocket to beat missile defenses</i> -- <i>"The RS-24 intercontinental ballistic missile will strengthen the military potential of Russia's strategic rocket forces to overcome anti-missile defense systems ..."</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Venezuela</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amid serious <i>protests</i> quelled by water cannon, Venezuela's <i>oldest TV network</i> has ceased broadcasting -- <i>Amid protests, Venezuela's TV station goes off the air</i>. President <b>Chavez</b> warns he may also take action against TV news channel <i>Globovision</i> if it continues to incite viewers over his closure of <i>RCTV</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wild Cards</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>US</b> again warns <b>Turkey</b> not to invade northern <b>Iraq</b>; Secretary <b>Gates</b> says <i>"The Turks have a genuine concern with Kurdish terrorism that takes place on Turkish soil.... So one can understand their frustration and unhappiness over this."</i></li> <li><b>ASEM members [The Asia-Europe Meeting]</b> now represent <i>60% of international</i></li> </ul>

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*trade, 58% of the global population and around 50% of world GDP.*

**South Africa**, currently a non-permanent member of the **UN Security Council**, says it's just a club for the **Big Five**; "*Some of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are using their clout to raise issues that do not belong in the decision-making body*". -- *U.N. powers use Council to push own agendas: SAfrica.*

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