

GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Destabilizing Threats, Stabilizing Policies, and Global Powers at a Glance

Threat Summary

	<p>Environment. Farmers losing ground. Google Earth helps track pollution. Antarctic ice sheet at risk. Inter-State Conflict. Afghanistan a stage-managed disaster. Iraq deadlier than ever. Ethiopia-Eritrea. Proliferation. Bangladesh goes nuclear. Top powers get D- from Carnegie Endowment.</p>
	<p>Poverty. World produces enough food for 12 million. Urban slums growing, urban design terrible. Infectious Disease. Global warming => mosquitoes (malaria, dengue). New cheaper typhoid treatment. Civil War. Millions starving to death in Zimbabwe. Central African Republic on brink of collapse. Genocide. UN out of funds for Darfur. China continues to torture Tibetans to death. Transnational Crime. Record opium crop in Afghanistan, courtesy of the USA. Mexico trying hard.</p>
	<p>Other Atrocities. Female circumcision still—not Islamic per se. Philippine “dirty war.” Moldova! Terrorism. Summer spectacular planned by Al Qaeda. IED technology a global export now.</p>

Policy Summary

	<p>Diplomacy. US and China both losing ground across 47 countries. Islamic Conference 2nd after UN. Security. CIA airs dirty laundry. UAVs and Tactical imagery up. 25% UK police hours in red tape. Society. US under Bush-Cheney no longer a bastion of freedom—policies are enemies of open society.</p>
	<p>Education. Genuine diversity in schools not being achieved (absent diversity in real estate ownership). Health. Pfizer sued by Nigeria for immoral drug trials killing or deforming 200 children. Immigration. US bill defeated, US government still not serious about addressing illegal immigration. Water. China controls the Tibetan plateau, source of most major rivers in Asia. California going dry.</p>
	<p>Agriculture. See Poverty. Half of all food wasted. GM screwing over Africa with debt & chemicals. Economy. Washington Post against the Comptroller General and John Birch Society: economy OK? Energy. Energy efficiency (i.e. localized) better than nuclear energy. Floating wind turbine for 2009. Family. Neo-Nazi Pope? Good Friday mass to denounce “perfidious Jews,” their blindness/darkness. Justice. Supreme Court rules 3X against Cheney. Military judge stands fast on Gitmo dismissal.</p>

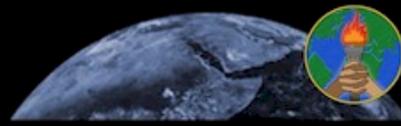
Major Player Summary

	<p>Iran. US asks Russia to apply pressure on Iran (the same Russia that is exporting enriched uranium).</p>
	<p>Venezuela. Virtual nationalization of four oil companies, two leave. Leading war of resistance to US.</p>
	<p>Brazil. See Water (diverts for the elite). Third of eight nuclear reactors resumes construction. China. 180 food factories closed. Workers restless, illegal and slave workers. New pig disease. India. Trans-Asian Railway: 28 countries. Maoist chaos across four states. Islamic group rises. Indonesia. Softer form of Islam (and secular to boot). Needs \$110B to reduce poverty; good deal! Russia. Quadrupling uranium enrichment at Angarsk. Wild Cards. Libya’s Gaddafi presses for united African Union. Arab imperialism feared by many.</p>

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

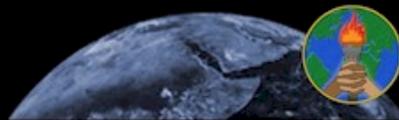
↗	<p>Alert: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Pakistan</p>
↓	<p>Deteriorated: Afghanistan, Basque Country (Spain), Comoros Islands, Israel/Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Niger, Pakistan, Somalia, United Kingdom</p>
↑	<p>Improved: Burundi, North Korea, Yemen</p>
	<p>• Unchanged: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India (non-Kashmir), Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Nepal, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), Northern Ireland (UK), Philippines, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somaliland (Somalia), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Zimbabwe</p>

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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"> • Urbanization is now be the single most important factor in development but this will be largely due to rural poor moving to urban slums; "You cannot keep people away from settling in cities" – but "much of the misery and degradation that we encounter in cities today <u>could have been prevented</u>". "We are wasting food in the North. We are eating too much, <u>burning grain as fuel</u>, and <u>growing grain to feed pigs</u> to slaughter for ham. ... last year enough food was produced to feed <u>12 billion people</u>. This is why a child that dies from famine is murder." says Jean Ziegler, UN special rapporteur on the right to food. 	
Infectious Disease news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although the infective diseases of poverty are an immense challenge, the World Bank warns development brings a new range of diseases -- "poor countries are catching up with wealthier nations in terms of cancer, diabetes, obesity, and heart disease." WHO warns that fatal diseases such as malaria and dengue will increase as mosquitoes spread as a result of global warming -- "... this problem will pose an even greater threat to mankind in coming decades if we fail to act now." Nepalese researchers have identified a new typhoid treatment that is more <u>affordable</u> and <u>effective</u> than the drug currently recommended by WHO. 	
Environment news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quick look at land degradation -- loss of food-growing resources -- across the world, from Chad to China -- <i>Around The Globe, Farmers Losing Ground</i>. <i>Just Climate Policy</i> - a well-documented discussion by <i>Foreign Policy in Focus</i> with a emphasis on several "misconceptions". Canada, Mexico and the United States have introduced an interactive Google Earth mapping tool, which will expand public access to information on air pollutants. The European CO2 Test Centre in Mongstad Norway will inaugurate a pilot plant to test technologies for separation and storage of CO2 from power plants on a commercial scale. Rising sea levels could rapidly disintegrate the Antarctic ice sheet -- " 13,000 to 7000 years ago, when sea levels rose by 100 metres, the ice sheet thinned by 200 to 350 metres rising waters lifted the buoyant ice sheet's edges off its rocky base". 	
Inter-State Conflict news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ The Prime Minister of Ethiopia says his country made an error on Somalia -- "his government 'made a wrong political calculation' when it intervened in Somalia, where Ethiopian troops are bogged down in a fight against a growing insurgency." Ethiopia has announced it is preparing for an attack by traditional foe Eritrea -- "Eritrea and Ethiopia fought a nasty border war from 1998-2000, where <u>tens of thousands</u> of people died, and continue to dispute the UN-patrolled frontier." The Institute for War and Peace Reporting says Afghanistan is increasingly a <u>stage-managed disaster</u> -- "No amount of public relations work can convince people in Helmand that the situation is improving." The Pentagon reports this three-month period in Iraq as the deadliest for US personnel since the war began. A arrest warrant was issued for the Iraqi Minister of Culture Asaad Kamal al-Hashemi on terrorism-related charges. With the formal end of their mission, UN arms inspectors in Iraq can not resist an 'I told you so' -- "in-country verification, especially on-site inspections, generate more timely and accurate information than other outside sources such as national assessments." 	
Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ The Archbishop of Bulawayo warns that millions are facing death from famine and 	

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has urged [former colonial power] **UK** to invade **Zimbabwe** to end the suffering. A thumbnail of a strategically located *dispossessed ethnic group* -- [Who are the Kurds?](#)

A **Somali** government soldier has opened fire at a crowd clamoring for *food aid* in **Mogadishu** and killed at least three people.

More than a third of **Iraq's** national *police battalion commanders* are now **Sunni** after a purge of **Shiites** who had a *sectarian* bias.

Those on the ground say **Central African Republic** is on the *brink of collapse* -- "*Sitting at the border of Chad, Sudan, and the Congos, the country faces pressure from neighbours, who may at times prefer that the country be weak and unstable*".

A quick look at the nature of a few civil wars around the world -- [More Civil Wars, And More Players, Too.](#)

Genocide
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↓ The **EU** says its budget supporting **AMIS** [*African Union Mission In Sudan*] peacekeepers in **Darfur** has run out and the **US** and **Arab League** need to contribute to make the transition from AMIS to the *African Union/United Nations hybrid force*. Senator **Hillary Clinton** has suggested an immediate help to the situation in **Sudan's Darfur** would be a *NATO-enforced no-fly zone* -- "*If Sudan doesn't live up to its commitment to allow a full hybrid United Nations and African Union peacekeeping force, we should work with NATO to take military action.*"

The **Dutch Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization** says that **China** continues its use of *torture* in **Tibet** -- "*torture is endemic in the network of prisons across the plateau.systematic use of torture has resulted in the death of 89 known Tibetan political prisoners since 1987.*"

Other Atrocities
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• Egypt has [again] outlawed all *female circumcision* -- "*Officially the practice, which affects both Muslim and Christian women in Egypt and goes back to the time of the pharaohs, was banned in 1997 ...*" [Comment: Contrary to widely-held belief, female circumcision is not an **Islamic** practice but has existed in several Islamic countries from pre-Muslim times.]

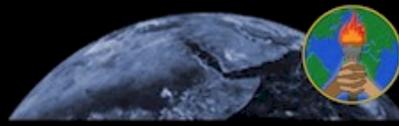
Human Rights Watch joins several similar groups in accusing the **Philippines** military of a '*dirty war*' against *leftists* -- "*a military spokesman ... said the number of alleged victims was exaggerated*". Separately: "[A yet unnamed **Philippines** general] said he was most willing to testify on the role of certain military officers in the *liquidation of suspected communist insurgents* ... " And yet another general breaks silence on *extrajudicial killings* -- "*killings of political activists were discussed 'openly' in a top-level military conference*".

"**Moldova** is a major source, and to a lesser extent, a *transit country* for women and girls trafficked for the purpose of *commercial sexual exploitation*." "[US allies] **Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar** --- are among the world's worst offenders in *human slavery and sex trafficking* ... "

Russia's FSB has rescued **Uzbek slave workers** -- "*the Uzbeks had their documents taken from them and were forced to work practically 24 hours a day with no days off.*"

Charles Taylor has again refused to leave his cell to attend his *war crimes trial* in The Hague -- "*Taylor -- the first African head of state ever to stand trial for war crimes* -- faces 11 charges of war crimes ... during the 1991-2001 civil war in **Sierra Leone**."

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see also: **China**

Proliferation
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↓ In consultation with the **IAEA**, **Bangladesh** hopes to establish a 600 MW **nuclear power plant** at Ruppur in **Ishwardi**.

Big Powers Skirt Anti-Nuke Terrorism Treaty -- "But most of the major powers, including those with nuclear weapons, are giving it a miss". A Foreign Policy in Focus discussion: "only one country, **South Africa**, has voluntarily given up this ultimate power" -- *Just Nuclear Disarmament*. Also: "The **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace** gave the world's top powers an overall D-plus ..." -- *Top world powers fail on non-proliferation*. Also: **UK's [Foreign Minister] Beckett** says nuclear states must cut stockpiles -- "Our efforts on **non-proliferation** will be dangerously undermined if others believe... that **the nuclear weapon states** have abandoned any commitment to **disarmament**".

Terrorism
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↓ A **DHS** leak says that **al Qaeda** is planning a terror "spectacular" this summer --] "Official cites resemblance to warnings and intelligence before 9/11".

Abortive **London car-bombings** in the entertainment district could have killed many. One report had just said "what will be worrying the security services at the moment is whether this is just the tip of a bigger plot" when a less than successful attempt was made at **Glasgow** airport, setting the **UK** threat level to the highest -- "**critical**". [Comment: Speculation on the reasons for the timing of the bombings ranged from anniversary of the **07 July 2005 bombings**, the knighthood for Salman **Rushdie**, and the change of **UK Prime Minister**. The **Glasgow** connection favors the latter -- the new Prime Minister Gordon **Brown** is a **Scot**.] "**Today I say: Rejoice, by Allah, London shall be bombed**." said a web posting 17 hours before the attempted London car-bombings. Also see: *London bomb scare: A chronology of attacks*.

Growing Links Seen Among Southeast Asian Islamists; Southern Thailand Affected -- [Comment: "Terrorist links" across **south-east Asia** are far more tenuous and *ad hoc* than this article suggests.]

The **Philippines** stresses that Ollie **North** did not mean "side-by-side" when he said **US** and Philippines forces are fighting "side-by-side" in a report on **Fox**. [Comment: Under present Philippines law that would not be permitted.]

A new wave of senior **US** officers seem better acquainted with the needs of **asymmetric warfare** and **insurgencies** than the "shock and awe" school; "new senior officers are expected to give greater weight to an indirect approach to warfare" -- *New Players in Terrorism Fight*.

The Low-Tech War Against Terrorists -- "Some 100 IED and remote controlled attacks occur daily in **Iraq**, and the technology has been exported to **Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, and now Lebanon**".

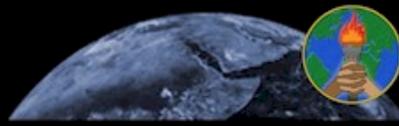
The **Jamestown Foundation** says "the alleged **JFK plot** appears to be an isolated incident concocted by a group of aging amateurs" -- *Spotlight on Trinidad and Tobago's Jamaat al-Muslimeen*.

A attack by "**terrorist insurgents**" killed 27 in **Myanmar** -- "the **KNLA, the military wing of the Karen National Union (KNU)**, has been waging a guerrilla war for the autonomy of the **Karen State** for almost six decades."

Transnational Crime
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• There are indications that **Mexico's Sinaloa** and **Gulf** cartels are trying to negotiate a truce and an agreement over territory. As a move against official **corruption**, **Mexico** has replaced all **federal police chiefs** and has ordered more than 1,000 high-ranking state and federal officers to complete a one year **training course in crisis control, law**

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enforcement techniques and *English*.

One industry in **Afghanistan** is booming – this year there is a record *opium* crop.

Policy

Agriculture
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- Some fear *African* farmers are being tricked into growing *GM crops* -- "*GM technology forces Africa into **high-input, chemical-dependent** agriculture which impacts on **biodiversity** and creates **debt burdens** for small farmers.*"

Diplomacy
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- A *Pew Poll* across 47 countries has found that the *image* of the **US** (and **China**) has declined -- "*there is a question as to whether we are living up to our own values, which is what is making people question what our policies are*" said former Secretary of State **Albright**.

Key Islamic countries such as **Malaysia** have welcomed a **US** plan to appoint the first-ever *envoy* to **Organization of the Islamic Conference** -- "*It would be the first US diplomat dedicated to dealing with the **OIC**, the world's second-largest international organization, after the United Nations.*" [Comment: Everything will depend on who is chosen as that envoy.]

The Asia Times says "*right-wing hawks have gained control of the weapons in the 'war of ideas'*" -- *Neo-cons take spin to US-backed airwaves*.

After several *African* countries declined the opportunity to host **AFRICOM HQ**, "*latest plans envisaged 'a **distributed command**' that would be 'networked' across several countries.*"

The *Caribbean* trade grouping **CARICOM** made it clear they will not sacrifice their "*functional relationships*" with **Venezuela** and **Cuba** to please the **US**.

A meeting of **India**, **US**, **Japan** and **Australia** is said to have "unnerved" **Beijing** -- Beijing sought to know from New Delhi whether a *new bloc* was emerging.

Economy
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ *Washington Post* says the economic doom and gloom is an invention of the *media* -- *Not a worsening economy*. *John Birch Society* enumerates the reasons for doom and gloom -- *Not an Improving Economy*.

Education
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- Genuine *diversity* in **US schools** is still elusive; "*critics say the plans are mere proxies for **affirmative action**, serving no purpose other than to up minority representation among students. That makes them **constitutionally suspect** ...*" -- *Can Schools Still Achieve Diversity?*

Energy
[news list|forecast](#)

- *Why Nuclear Energy Isn't the Great Green Hope* -- "*There's a better solution: energy efficiency....*".

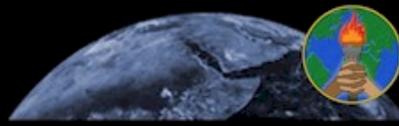
Nomadic *rebels* have launched a string of attacks in northern **Niger's Sahara** desert, demanding greater stake in *uranium* and *oil* reserves being sold off to **Chinese** and other foreign firms.

Researchers Find Way to Safely Store Hydrogen for Use in Future Cars -- "*high surface areas that soak up hydrogen at much higher densities than previously possible, and without the need for extreme cooling or pressurisation.*"

"*There may be ways to use **microbial communities** to improve the **quality** of the oil while still in the subsurface. So we'll look at microbes that live in **coal beds** or **oil fields** and **oil sands***" -- *Building a Bug to Harvest Oil*.

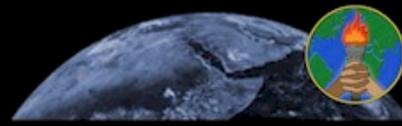
How Might China's Soft Power Impact Central Asia? -- "*The reason **Central Asia** is so attractive to **oilmen** is that it is not **Arab***".

The world's first *floating wind turbine* could be generating *electricity* in the **North**



	<p><i>Sea</i> in 2009.</p> <p>DOE has named 13 “<i>Solar America</i>” cities -- “<i>The new DOE program will provide technical and financial assistance to the cities that were chosen because of the commitment they demonstrate to a comprehensive, <u>citywide approach to the deployment of solar technologies.</u></i>”</p>
<p>Family news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ By <i>papal</i> decree, for unclear reasons, the <i>Good Friday Roman mass</i> will again say “<i>perfidious Jews</i>” and refer to their “<i>blindness</i>” and “<i>darkness</i>”.</p>
<p>Health news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sadly, as with all zealots of the Right and Left <i>facts</i> are sometimes killed off in the interest of a good story -- <i>The facts and numbers behind Moore’s Sicko</i>. • Pfizer and the Nigerian government are locked in <i>litigation</i> -- “<i>The government is seeking the damages after nearly <u>200 children</u> either died or suffered deformities [from immoral drug trials].</i>”
<p>Immigration news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many are happy at the failure of a “<i>bad bill</i>”, but most still seek a perfect solution to an imperfect situation -- <i>Mexico opinion makers see hypocrisy in defeat of U.S. immigration bill</i>.
<p>Justice news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <i>military judge</i> is unmoved by a request to reconsider -- “<i>the government’s renewed legal argument has not resolved a lack of jurisdiction</i>” -- <i>Military judge stands by Gitmo dismissal</i>. “The US Supreme Court has since given three rulings contradicting Vice-President Cheney’s view of the <i>president’s powers</i>, culminating in June [2007] with a demand for the Guantánamo inmates to face trial.” -- <i>How Cheney abused his power in war on terror</i>.
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the \$293M Aegis contract for <i>security intelligence</i> services in Iraq is <i>better</i> or <i>cheaper</i> than doing it in-house is difficult to calculate. <p>Police in the UK says that “<i>red tape</i>” ties up a fifth of the <i>police force</i> -- “<i>As long as the bottom line is <u>detections</u> ... the problems are going to continue. How can one murder detection equal one shoplifting detection?</i>”</p> <p><i>Predator UAVs</i> have now reached <u>a quarter-million flight hours</u> -- “<i>This historic achievement in the evolution of air and space power underlines the United States Air Force commitment to unmanned aerial systems.</i>” [Comment: The USAF is intent on becoming the <i>executive agency</i> for UAVs.]</p> <p><i>Tactical imagery</i>: “<i>This type of imagery could, if properly used, lead to a revolution in intelligence comparable to the one accomplished by the codebreakers of World War 2.</i>” -- <i>TacSat-3: a potential revolution in space-based operational intelligence gathering</i>.</p> <p>CIA Director Michael Hayden says of “dirty secrets:” documents released this week that they are “<i>reminders of some things the CIA should not have done of a very different era and a very different agency</i>”. Former CIA officer Robert Baer thinks the CIA is saying to the White House “<i>Politicize intelligence and you’ll find your name on the front page of the newspaper</i>”.</p>
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ An observer argues the US has now fallen well below its own standards as a “<i>bastion of freedom</i>” -- <i>Bush’s post-9/11 policies have become enemies of the open society</i>.</p>
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No country influences whether Asia will soon be at war or peace more than China, which controls the Tibetan plateau — the source of <u>most major rivers</u> of Asia. • Californians have been told to start conserving water after the <u>driest year in over a century</u> -- “<i>A mere 3.2 inches of rain -- less than a quarter as much as usual -- fell on downtown Los Angeles in the year beginning on July 1, 2006, the lowest since</i>

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records began 130 years ago."

Brazil's pharaonic *São Francisco* river transposition project seems to have nothing in its favor -- *São Francisco Diversion: Brazil Vows Water for All But Elite Will Get It*.

Desalination is not a ready option ... yet; "Current methods require about 14 kilowatt-hours of energy to produce 1,000 gallons of desalinated seawater".

Challengers

Brazil

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- Brazil will resume construction of its third **nuclear reactor** -- "approval of the third plant could herald the start of a wider nuclear project to build up to eight reactors by 2030".

see also: **Water**

China

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- China has protested a **US** ban on **seafood** imports. [Comment: Although home to all loathsome diseases, creator of new ones, and criminal laxity in the interest of profit, China is puzzled at world concern.] China has closed 180 **food factories** -- "inspectors found **industrial chemicals** being used in products from candy to seafood".

China is responding to growing **worker unrest** -- "the **National People's Congress** over the objections of **foreign investors**, requires employers to provide **written contracts** to their workers".

The scandal continues over **illegal workers** and **slave workers**, particularly at brick kilns -- "So far nearly 600 people, including dozens of under-aged children, have been released from **slavery** in Shanxi and neighbouring Henan province."

A highly pathogenic **new strain** of **blue ear disease** has decimated the Chinese **pig** population. [Comment: Sub-standard Chinese practices are certainly to blame.]

see also: **Water**

India

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- ↓ A spate of **bombings** and **killings** this week in the state of **Assam** are reminders of continuing actions by the separatist "terrorist" organization **United Liberation Front of Asom** (ULFA).

India has signed up to the **Trans-Asian Railway Network Agreement** -- "The total Trans-Asian Railway Network as finalised by the agreement has 80,900 Kms of Railway line in 28 countries including 22,600 Kms in South Asia, Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey. "

India will soon announce its decision on a huge **fighter jet** contract from a short-list of **Russian MiG-35** and **MiG-29**, and **US Lockheed Martin F-16** and **Boeing F-18**.

In four states across India, **Naxalite** [Maoist] **insurgents** caused chaos -- "This is the first-ever coordinated lethal action by the Maoists over a very wide area."

Discussions are now at an advanced stage for India's participation in the **US-led Container Security Initiative** (CSI).

Increasing unrest over **Special Economic Zones** is verging on **civil war** in the **Nandigram** district of **West Bengal**.

The **Mujahideen Islam-ul-Hind** (MIUH) is back "after two decades of remaining inactive".

Indonesia

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- Good insights into the gulf between mainstream conservative Indonesian Islamic values and "**Islamism**" -- *Indonesian Islam's softer hard line*.

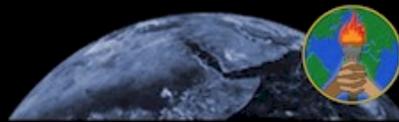
Indonesia says it needs at least [US\$110B] in new investment to significantly reduce high **poverty** and **unemployment** rates.

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<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With <i>missile shield</i> plans uppermost in Russia's agenda, the US seeks a favor – that Russia apply pressure to Iran on its nuclear program.
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity of the <i>Angarsk uranium enrichment</i> plant in Russia may be <u>quadrupled</u> by 2015 -- more detail on the facility: Enrichment capacity at Angarsk to be boosted.
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four <i>foreign oil companies</i> met Venezuela's demand on new arrangements tantamount to nationalization; two companies – <i>Conoco</i> and <i>Exxon</i> -- will quit their operations -- "<i>Conoco's shares fell 2.9 percent on Tuesday to \$75.80 as investors reacted to the announcements from Caracas.</i>" <p>A US psychological profile of President Chavez is unflattering -- Venezuela's Chavez seen wanting office "for life".</p> <p><i>Venezuelanalysis</i> says that in reporting Venezuela Reporters Without Borders is 'Reporters Without Integrity' -- "<i>purportedly non-partisan and independent. However, it receives funding from the National Endowment for Democracy and the International Republican Institute ...</i>"</p> <p>President Chavez warns of a coming war of resistance war against the US -- "<i>We must continue developing the resistance war, that's the anti-imperialist weapon. We must think and prepare for the resistance war everyday.</i>"</p> <p>President Chavez is visiting <i>Moscow</i>, probably to talk <i>submarines</i>, rather than attend a conference of the 'old Mercosur'.</p>
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaring himself a "soldier for Africa" Libya's Muammar Gaddafi has repeated his assertion that Africa must unite under a single government so it can compete in a globalize world -- "<i>even Europe can only ensure its survival thanks to union.</i>" [<i>Comment: Sub-Saharan Africans are wary of Arab imperialism.</i>]

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