

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

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| | Environment. Extremes hitting Earth hard. 2.7 million acres burn in Peru. Methyl bromide scandal. |
| | Inter-State Conflict. Iraq, Oil, and China. After four years, only half of Baghdad is “controlled.” |
| | Proliferation. Algeria wants nuclear. Syria has serious chemical capability. Ulster (UK) selling arms? |
| | Poverty. Switzerland signs on with UN and World Bank to recover billions stolen by corrupt leaders. |
| | Infectious Disease. Ebola big time. 1500 cases of cholera in Iraq. Insect termination via air waves |
| | Civil War. Darfur hopeless. UN and China tarred for silence on Zimbabwe. Rangoon fortress in debt. |
| | Genocide. Germans arrest former Rwandan minister for turnover to International Criminal Tribunal. |
| | Transnational Crime. ATMs laundering cash. Gangs debriefing and then killing intelligence officers. |
| | Other Atrocities. 90 percent of the countries asked to help on Human Rights inspections decline. |
| | Terrorism. Terrorists better at using Internet; Denmark a target. Bin Laden denounced by Saudi cleric. |

Policy Summary

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| | Diplomacy. Havana documents cost of embargo for UN. Russia worries about US in Central Asia. |
| | Security. Chinese Irregular Warfare “must read.” US considering another special warfare command. |
| | Society. Urbanization without services expanding urban ghettos. America revisits prejudice. |
| | Economy. War costs US \$720 million daily. Recession in US expected. \$50 billion more for military. |
| | Education. National Intelligence Academy proposed—will fail if US education not fixed first. |
| | Health. Universal health care making a comeback in US, succeeding in Latin America. |
| | Immigration. Boeing’s virtual fence flops. French setting pace on immigration rules with DNA tests. |
| | Water. 2200 litres of water to create 1 litre of ethanol. Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan trade water for oil. |
| | Agriculture. Modified crops essential for India. |
| | Energy. First wave energy farm. Largest solar plant in Spain. Iceland toward hydrogen. Brazil key. |
| | Family. See Other Atrocities — domestic violence a major under-reported crime. |
| | Justice. Attorneys suggest that first error of Bush-Cheney was to see rule of law as for the weak. |

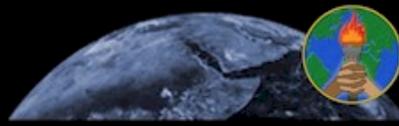
Major Player Summary

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| | Iran. General Abizad talks sense on Iran. Iran executing Arabs in the south. US strike on Iran still on. |
| | Brazil. With China, launches free forest-farm monitoring satellite service. Doubles military budget. |
| | China. Chinese Irregular Warfare “must read.” Applying human wave techniques to cyber-war. |
| | India. Nuclear deal with US being undermined by China. Loses big for Security Council seat |
| | Indonesia. Seeking 262 new warships for total of 376. Pressure mounting to investigate activist death. |
| | Russia. Putin at zenith of power. Serbia offers autonomy for Kosovo while warning US and NATO. |
| | Venezuela. Drugs to US, Marxism being taught, private schools could be nationalized, on US hit list. |
| | Wild Cards. Turkey close to Iran and to Central Asia. Tajikistan bread prices up 6X. Pakistan review. |

World Crises - from monthly assessments by [International Crisis Group](#) at 01 September 2007

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| ↗ | Alert: Democratic Republic of Congo |
| ↓ | Deteriorated: Bangladesh, Burundi, DR Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, India (non-Kashmir), Iraq, Philippines, Somalia |
| ↑ | Improved: Sierra Leone, Turkey |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unchanged: Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), China (internal), Colombia, Comoros Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Niger, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), Northern Ireland, North Korea, Pakistan, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Somaliland (Somalia), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uganda, 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](#)

- "Why is it that organisations that work in **Africa** (Save the Children, World Vision, among others) feel the need to **dehumanise** African children in the name of fundraising?" -- [Seeing Through Damage of Donor Aid in Africa](#).
Urban planning is pointless without sound **governance** and services -- "money spent on an eight-lane highway and subway system could fix traffic lights, buy fire engines, provide of **water** and improve **drainage**" -- [Cities Need More Than Plans](#).
 "Switzerland has backed an international initiative aimed at helping **developing countries** reclaim billions of dollars of public money stolen by corrupt leaders" -- [Swiss support drive to recover looted assets](#). Also: [World Bank, UN join battle to return corrupt leaders spoils](#) -- "there should be no safe haven for those who steal from the poor" **World Bank** chief Robert **Zoellick** said.

Infectious Disease

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

- ↓ "International medical personnel and supplies are being airlifted to a remote region of central **Congo** to combat what threatens to become the world's most serious outbreak of the deadly **Ebola** virus in years" -- [Congo's Ebola Outbreak Could Be Worst in Years](#).
 An outcome of inadequate **sanitation** in parts of **Iraq**; "More than 1,500 people have been confirmed as having **cholera** in Iraq and the outbreak has spread from the north to Baghdad ..." -- [WHO confirms 1,500 cholera cases in Iraq](#).
IBM proposes a **global** community of computing power that would do serious "number-crunching" to find "best combinations of drug molecules that will inhibit the replication of the viruses that cause **dengue**, **West Nile encephalitis**, **yellow fever** and **Hepatitis C**" -- [IBM Bids to Find Disease Cures Using Computer Grid](#).
[Millimeter Wave Flying Insect Termination System \(FLITS\)](#) -- FLITS would be used instead of the current practice of applying millions of tons of **poisonous insecticide** to the land, water, and air. [unpublished]

Environment

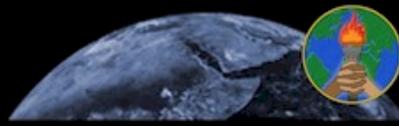
[news list](#)|[forecast](#)

- [New Method of Studying Ancient Fossils Points to **Carbon Dioxide** As a Driver of **Global Warming**](#) -- "it shows that carbon dioxide really has been a powerful driver of climate change in Earth's past".
 Extreme conditions continue to emerge throughout the world: "**Wildfires** have destroyed 2.47 million acres in **Paraguay**, causing irreparable harm to the parched South American country's biodiversity ..." -- [Paraguay's forests burn unabated](#).
[UN General Assembly Opens With Focus on Climate](#) -- "Climate change, financing for **development**, the **Millennium Development Goals**, management reform and counter-terrorism should all receive priority attention from the General Assembly".
Phosgene gas used as a **chemical weapon** in the trenches in the **First World War**, a century later, is still present in significant quantities in the atmosphere -- [Scientists In First Global Study Of 'Poison' Gas In The Atmosphere](#).
 The **methyl bromide** scandal: "We're all suffering with a thinner **ozone layer** just to benefit a few **U.S. companies**" -- [Environment: The Chemical That Must Not Be Named](#).
 There has been a rush to the **compact fluorescent lamp** as an "energy saver" without adequate protocols for the disposal of **mercury** -- [The quicksilver lamp: energy efficient yet toxic](#).

Inter-State Conflict

- ↓ [Is the Iraq war really about oil?](#) -- one under-reported reason is "the desire for permanent **American** military bases in the **Gulf** from which the United States could,

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news
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at need, stop oil flowing to China."

***Afghan President Reaches Out to Taliban** -- "We are already in contact ... with those Taliban who are not part of **al-Qaida** and terrorist networks, who are really in the majority ... and we would like to add to this process as the opportunity presents itself."*

In **Iraq**, an incident involving **Blackwater** has prompted the Iraqi government to look at the broader issue of "**military contractors**" -- ***Baghdad widening investigation of Blackwater - report***. Also: ***Iraq to review security firms after shooting*** -- Blackwater said its guards reacted "lawfully and appropriately" to a hostile attack.

The **US** is believed to have provided **Israel** with some "corroboration" of **intelligence** before Israel proceeded with the recent raid on **Syria** -- ***Israel, U.S. Shared Data On Suspected Nuclear Site***.

American and Iraqi Forces Control Half of Baghdad -- after four years, is this a glass half-full, or half-empty?

Civil War
 news list|forecast

↓ ***Darfur** decoded: "even though **Khartoum** and the South are known as **Sudan** under the definition of **colonial disarrangement** of nation state, the two are **enemies** to each other"; furthermore, "Khartoum is far more important than any **African** country on the international **intelligence** stage due to the **significant intelligence** role it plays in the war against global terrorism" -- ***The state of spy agency in Sudan***. Also: ***U.N. says violence increasing in Darfur camps*** -- "nearly a quarter million people have been displaced so far this year". One under-reported complication in **Darfur** is that there is not one **rebel group** to parley with; "There were about a dozen rebel groups at last count, all trying to call the shots" -- ***Darfur rebel head warns of split***. An experienced UN commander has told the newly appointed leader of UN forces in **Darfur** "You can anticipate being let down by everyone on whom you depend for support, be that troops, funding, logistics or political engagement" -- ***Bleak Advice for U.N. Darfur Commander***.*

Zimbabwe's opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) accuses UN agencies of gross dereliction of duty in keeping silent on the crisis in the country -- ***Zimbabwe humanitarian crisis is world's worst - MDC [Interview]***. **China** too seems to letting history takes its course; "One of the few remaining friends to President **Mugabe**, Zimbabwe's embattled leader, China has been quietly allowing the relationship to cool over the past few months" -- ***Beijing turns its back on embattled Robert Mugabe***.

Junta to hide in fortress if Rangoon revolts -- the **redoubt** the **Myanmar junta** is building itself, due to be completed by 2012, is in debt by millions.

Genocide
 news list|forecast

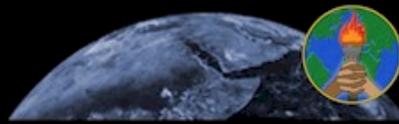
• ***German police arrest ex-Rwandan minister*** -- "Augustin **Ngirabatware** is accused of having presided over the **Rwandan genocide** and inciting the mass murder of the **Tutsi** minority, a spokesman for the **International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda** confirmed."

Other
 Atrocities
 news list|forecast

↓ ***Human trafficking** is heinous and widespread but the occurrence in the **US** seems to have been much over-stated and over-funded compared to well-documented harms such as **domestic violence** -- ***Human Trafficking Evokes Outrage, Little Evidence***.*

"The fact that 90 percent of countries identified as warranting a country visit [to investigate **human rights** abuses] have failed to cooperate with the system -- and that the Human Rights Council has done nothing in response -- is a major indictment of the system" -- ***Gov'ts Routinely Dodge U.N. Human Rights Investigators***.

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A determination by a **Chilean** court to extradite Alberto **Fujimori**, the former president of **Peru**, to Peru to answer charges of **human rights abuses** sets a precedent; "*Mr Fujimori's 1990-2000 regime covered a volatile period in Peruvian history. Faced with economic chaos and a rising guerrilla threat, he took extraordinary steps to centralise power*" -- [Fujimori faces jail after losing extradition battle](#) and [Decision to Extradite Fujimori Sets International Precedent](#).

In **Argentina**, thousands continue to demonstrate "*to demand the return of a key trial witness who disappeared one year ago after testifying in a government torture case*" -- [Thousands demonstrate in Argentina for 'disappeared' trial witness](#).

After years of pressure, the **Philippines** may be taking action against **extrajudicial killings**; "*The Philippine military is preparing to try at least 13 soldiers for their alleged role in the murder of left-wing activists ...*" -- [Philippine army prepares to try soldiers for murder](#).

Khmer Rouge '[Brother number 2](#)', **Nuon Chea**, has been arrested for his role in the notorious **Cambodian** regime that caused the deaths of 1.7 million people ... 30 years late -- [Khmer Rouge leader charged by tribunal](#).

The chief prosecutor of the **International Criminal Court** has urged prompt pursuit of Darfur's **war criminals**; "*... there will be no peace in the Sudanese region if alleged war criminals remain free.*" -- [Prosecutor Urges Arrest of Sudan Figures](#). [Comment: Theoretical possibility of conviction decades after committing atrocities is no deterrent.]

UN: Congolese children returning to war in new flare-ups -- "*the recent fighting has hindered efforts by UNICEF to help reintegrate 5,500 former child soldiers back into their communities.*"

"*The 1997 ban on landmines has succeeded beyond hopes*" -- but **cluster munitions** are the next challenge; "*we must move ... towards a 'human security' concept - one that tackles the real daily threats to human beings such as climate change, poverty, hunger, overpopulation, terrorism, organised crime, and trafficking in drugs, people and arms*" -- [Landmine ban a success 10 years on, campaigners say](#) and [10 years with the Mine Ban Treaty - Human Security is the way forward](#).

Of the 144 **labour activists** killed worldwide in 2006, more than half (78) were killed in **Colombia** -- [Global trade union reports 144 activists killed in 2006](#).

Proliferation
 news list|forecast

↓ [Kazakhstan joins initiative of Global Nuclear Energy Partnership](#) -- "*Kazakhstan ranks second in the world in uranium reserves.*"

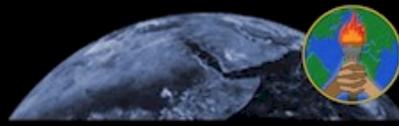
South Africa has declined to continue membership of **GNEP** [*Global Nuclear Energy Partnership*] -- [SAfrica out of GNEP to keep right to enrich uranium: minister](#). **Algeria** joins the growing ranks of developing nations with **nuclear (energy)** ambitions and turns to **South Africa** for know-how -- [Algeria to discuss nuclear co-operation in South Africa](#).

Amnesty claims weapons systems and components built in **Northern Ireland** could be ending up with **despotic regimes** in Asia, Africa, South America and beyond -- [Are Made in Ulster arms aiding world's despots?](#)

[Vietnam returns bomb-grade uranium to Russia](#) -- "*The Vietnamese safety agency report said the 34 fuel rod bundles of HEU [highly-enriched uranium] returned to Russia would be replaced by 36 LEU [low enriched uranium] fuel rod bundles by the end of this year.*"

[U.S. Would Turn Nine Tons of Weapons Plutonium Into MOX Fuel](#) -- the nine tons

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of plutonium will be removed over "coming decades" from retired, dismantled nuclear weapons and turned into mixed *uranium and plutonium oxide (MOX)* for *nuclear electricity* plants. The **UK** has an embarrassing 100 tonne stockpile of *plutonium*, doubled in the last decade, which comes mainly from *reprocessing* spent uranium power plant fuel; the **Royal Society** recommends reprocessing be stopped -- *Britain has plutonium for 17,000 Nagasaki bombs*.

The **IAEA** recommends establishment of an international *nuclear fuel bank*; "*this fuel bank would operate on the basis of apolitical and non-discriminatory non-proliferation criteria*" -- *IAEA for nuclear fuel bank*. The **IAEA** also expressed concern at the low sign-up rate for the *International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism*; "*Out of 128 States Parties, only 11 so far have accepted the amendment*" -- *IAEA Calls for More Action to Curb Threat of Nuclear Terrorism*.

A detailed (**Israeli-based**) look at **Syria's CBRN** activities -- *Syria's Chemical Weapons Proliferation Hydra*. [Includes convincing *imagery*.]

Terrorism
 news list|forecast

• **Germany** refines its thoughts on the proposed new offence of "*terrorist training*" -- *Terror Camp Law Dismissed as 'Useless'*.

France on Al-Qaeda alert after Algeria attack -- the bombing, wounding French engineers, Algerians and an Italian, came hours after al-Qaeda called for an offensive against French and Spanish targets in the *Maghreb*.

In the **UK** "*a new maximum security police station to hold up to 30 terrorism suspects 'for protracted periods' is being planned to replace the 1960s Paddington Green police station in London*" -- *New anti-terror jail to replace Paddington Green station*.

Leading Saudi cleric publicly denounces bin Laden -- "*Who benefits from turning countries like Morocco, Algeria, Lebanon or Saudi Arabia into places where fear spreads and no one can feel safe?*"

Scotland's first *home-grown* "*wannabe suicide bomber*" was arrested boarding a flight to **Pakistan** -- *Terror Scot 'may have been planning attack in Canada'*.

Denmark has become a target of *Islamic militantism* because of its military contributions in **Iraq** and **Afghanistan**; "... *at least one suspect in the Danish group had direct ties to leading figures in Al Qaeda They were born in Denmark but they don't feel Danish*" -- *New Terrorism Case Confirms That Denmark Is a Target*. Also, Danish *soldiers* and their *families* are targets of *phone* and *email* attack; "... *insurgent groups are monitoring and intercepting cell phone traffic between Danish soldiers and their families in Denmark. Private e-mail accounts are also being hacked into*" -- *Denmark Combats Psychological Warfare*.

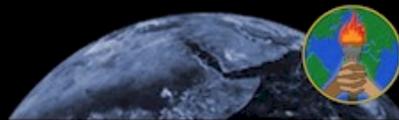
More on the *internet* as a crucial tool of *transnational insurgency*: "*They use the internet to communicate with each other using encryption and various means of coding which many country's police forces are unable to crack.*" -- *Inside the virtual war on terror*.

Transnational q
Crime
 news list|forecast

• *Mexican drug gang attacks government intelligence network* -- "*Intelligence agents have been targeted for assassination before, but the attack showed that traffickers not only knew who the agents were but also wanted to take the heavily armed officers alive*". [For "debriefing"]

Caribbean Countries Linger On "Major" List Of Drug Affected Countries -- **Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica** have again made the US list of

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major *producers* or *transit points* for *illicit drugs*.

U.S., Guatemala to jointly battle crime -- "the U.S. will supply \$2.3 million to combat *drug production and trafficking and gang violence* ..." [Comment: This is the value of one average professional shipment.]

Mexican drug cartels' annual take in the US estimated at \$23 billion -- "Mexican drug cartels now operate in almost every region of the United States".

Mexico's National Human Rights Commission has found a litany of *corruption* and *atrocities* since the *army* was launched against *drug cartels* -- *Panel accuses Mexican soldiers of abuse in drug war*.

In *New York* minions of drug lords race from *ATM* to ATM making small cash deposits of \$500 to \$2,000 -- in *Colombia*, other minions withdraw the money from ATMs in pesos as freshly *laundered cash* -- *Drug Lords Use ATMs To Launder Dirty Money*.

In the *US* there has been a significant *money laundering* bust: "Those transfers were between *Maryland, New York, Spain and Australia* using an informal system known as "*hawala*," One, in *Barcelona*, involved a transfer equivalent to more than \$450,000" -- *39 Charged in International Money Laundering Case*.

Policy

Agriculture
[news list|forecast](#)

• "Whether we like it or not, *transgenic crops* will soon be a reality" says a senior *Indian agriculture official* -- *Modified crops a must if India to feed itself: official*.

Diplomacy
[news list|forecast](#)

• *Embargo has cost us \$89 billion* -- "*Havana* produced a 56-page booklet laying out its latest argument against the *embargo* ahead of next month's meeting in *New York of the U.N. General Assembly* ..."

So little time: so many *enemies* -- *Hezbollah joins China, Russia as America's most serious threat*.

Russia has raised diplomatic concerns with *Kyrgyzstan* over the *US* use of *Manas air-base*; *Russian CSTO Secretary-General* says of *Bishkek's Manas air-base* "Considering that it is temporary, the presence of it here is justified if it is indeed temporary" -- *Foreign base in Kyrgyzstan not against CSTO interests - Bordyuzha*. Meanwhile, elsewhere in *Central Asia*, the *US* seeks to get a foothold -- *United States Makes Push to Improve Relations with Energy-Rich Turkmenistan*.

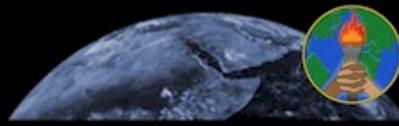
US warns Nepal's Maoists over election threats -- "the *Maoists* began a door-to-door campaign in their efforts to *abolish* the 238-year-old *monarchy* before any polls can take place ..."

Economy
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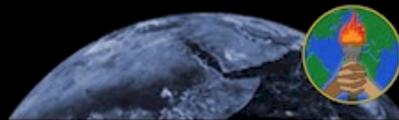
↓ Former Fed Reserve head Alan **Greenspan** is "gloomy" on the *US* outlook; an apocalypse no less may be what "*pretty gloomy*" means in *Greenspan-speak* -- *Greenspan: Efforts to get mortgage rates up failed*. On this and *Greenspan's* comments about *oil* as the driver for the *Iraq* war, Vice President Dick **Cheney** believes *Greenspan* doesn't know what he's talking about -- *Cheney rebuts Greenspan comments*. The present Fed Reserve head has little better news; *Mortgage crisis not over: Bernanke* -- many borrowers of recent-vintage *subprime* ARMs have not yet had their first interest-rate "*resets*" [*predatory increases*]. Alan *Greenspan* again: "A big *overhang* of *property* will bring *U.S. house prices* down further, but it is too early to say if the economy will plunge into *recession* ..." -- *House prices to drop much lower: Greenspan*.

War Costing \$720 Million Each Day, Group Says -- "War has no return -- you're not

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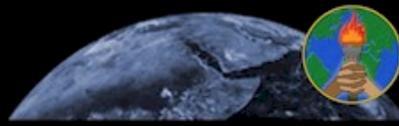


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| | <p><i>producing a product". Also: \$50 Billion for Military Is Added to Budget.</i></p> |
| <p>Education news list forecast</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <i>National Intelligence Academy</i> is proposed, separate to a proposed <i>Public Service Academy</i> -- Another Academy Idea. [This would plug a woeful US gap in <i>HUMINT</i> skills.] • Support Grows for Teacher Bonuses -- "Lawmakers are debating this month whether to authorize federal grants through a revision of the <i>No Child Left Behind</i> law for <i>bonuses</i> of as much as <u>\$12,500</u> a year for <i>outstanding teachers</i> in schools that serve <i>low-income areas</i>." |
| <p>Energy news list forecast</p> | <p>↑ 'World first' wave farm gets green light -- the £28M <u>20MW</u> wave energy installation boosts the UK's growing portfolio of landmark offshore <i>renewable</i> schemes.</p> <p>COHA: India's Oil Ambitions in Latin America – a good case study, for any who still doubt it, that <i>energy</i> is now the backbone of <i>foreign policy</i>.</p> <p>World's largest solar power plant launched in Spain -- <i>Planta Solar de Salamanca</i>, comprising 70,000 modules on 36 hectares, produces <u>13.8MW</u> of energy, with plans to expand to 25 MW.</p> <p>Toward pure white light: Next-generation LEDs show bright promise -- "Scientists in <i>India</i> are reporting an advance toward discovering a <i>Holy Grail</i> of the illumination industry — a <i>white LED</i> that produces pure white light for <i>interior lighting</i> ... "</p> <p>Iceland phasing out fossil fuels for clean energy -- Already energy-canny, <i>Iceland</i> is moving towards a <i>hydrogen economy</i> - "<u>We will be the prototype for the rest of the world.</u>"</p> <p>Brazil, Venezuela move forward with energy ventures -- "With these partnerships, we are showing that <i>South America</i> can resolve its energy problems."</p> <p>Worldwatch Perspective: The Meaning of \$80 Oil -- "World <i>oil production</i> is still going up, but growing evidence suggests that <u>we are beginning to 'feel' the ceiling.</u>"</p> |
| <p>Family news list forecast</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area] |
| <p>Health news list forecast</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinton Calls for Universal Health Care -- "I know my Republican opponents will try to equate health care for all Americans with <i>government-run health care</i>. ... Don't let them fool us again. This is not government-run." • Various <i>health-care</i> schemes in <i>Latin America</i> have "at least partly eliminated the old distinction between the <i>insured rich</i> and the <i>uninsured poor</i>"; neighbors may provide helpful examples for US health-care -- Universal healthcare is vital for Latin America, the Caribbean. • <u>47 million Americans</u> went without <i>health insurance</i> for all of 2006 -- One-third of U.S. lacked health insurance: survey. |
| <p>Immigration news list forecast</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuban smuggling business is thriving -- "we don't know at 3 a.m. when we see a '<i>go-fast</i>' boat running without lights if that's <i>migrants</i> seeking a better life or <i>terrorists</i> coming here to blow up a nuclear power plant". • Because of a <i>software</i> glitch, the first high-tech "<i>virtual fence</i>" on <i>U.S. borders</i>, made by <i>Boeing</i>, remains inoperable three months after its scheduled debut -- Real Problems For U.S. "Virtual Fence". • French parliament approves stricter immigration rules -- the law requires <i>immigrants</i> to learn <i>French</i>, show proof of <i>financial resources</i>, and authorises use of <i>DNA</i> tests to prove applicants are related to <i>family members</i> they hope to join in France. |



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| | <p><i>U.S. admits nearly 10,000 from "terrorism" states -- "the State Department's inspector general warned in 2003 that the Diversity Visa Programme posed a significant risk to national security and recommended it be closed to people from countries on the U.S. list of state terrorism sponsors."</i></p> |
| <p>Justice news list forecast</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two US law academics argue the first mistake the Bush administration made was to cast "<i>international fora, judicial processes</i>" as "<i>a strategy of the weak</i>", that <i>rule of law</i> was an obstacle, not an asset -- <i>Why America is losing the war on terror</i>. |
| <p>Security news list forecast</p> | <p>↓ Following the fatal collapse of the <i>I-35W bridge in Minneapolis</i>, DHS is examining the vulnerability of bridges to <i>terrorist</i> attack -- <i>DHS blowing up bridges to test them</i>.</p> <p><i>Congress debating funds renewal for US special forces</i> -- "... a counterterrorism tool that gives [<i>special forces</i>] <u>US\$25 million</u> a year to pay for information, buy guns for allied forces and hire fighters willing to battle al-Qaeda."</p> <p><i>Support grows for standing up an unconventional warfare command</i> -- a detailed discussion of JSOC (Joint Special Operations Command), SOCOM (Special Operations Command) and ... something that doesn't yet exist.</p> <p>Scanning 100% of <i>cargo containers</i> imported to the United States is "<i>expensive, unnecessary and misguided</i>" say industry and security experts -- <i>Experts say U.S. nuke cargo scan rules "unworkable"</i>.</p> <p>"After six years at war, some Army National Guard units are still struggling with <i>less than half the equipment</i> they need to do their jobs at home ..." -- <i>Equipment Shortfalls Hamper Guard</i>. One consequence is that the Guard must cut its force on the Mexican border despite community outcry; recruitment for a price is now a problem also because the Guard is often outbid by Blackwater for its <i>special operations</i> soldiers -- <i>Guard to cut Mexico border force in half</i>.</p> <p>The US Coast Guard has now formed a special unit tasked to combat terrorism at sea -- <i>Coast Guard forms anti-terror unit</i>.</p> <p>The EU has named a new head for counter-terrorism, a role that it now limited to "<i>coordination and bundling and pooling forces between member states</i>" -- <i>EU names new low-profile counter-terror chief</i>.</p> <p><i>US Air Force sets up Cyber Command</i> -- "Officials said the provisional command will pave the way within a year for the creation of the air force's first major command devoted to cyberwarfare operations." <i>USAF eyes cyber-craft to surf the Internet</i> -- "<i>software that can move through the Internet like planes fly through the air</i>".</p> <p>[Single-Source; Unverified; Plausible Scenario] <i>How Chinese Military Hackers Took Over A Nuclear-Armed B52</i> – How the vice president's plane was brought down and "<i>Six nukes are now forward deployed to the air force base that handles Middle East ops</i>."</p> |
| <p>Society news list forecast</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tomorrow's Crises Today: the Humanitarian Impact of Urbanisation</i> -- "at present, <u>3.3 billion people</u> live in urban centres across the globe. By 2030 this number is predicted to reach five billion ..." <i>Argentine Church Faces 'Dirty War' Past</i> -- "Patriotism came to be associated with Catholicism.... So it was almost natural for the Argentine clergy to come to the defense of the authoritarian regime." <i>Islamic guidelines for praying in space</i> -- the 12-page 'Muslim Obligations in the |

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International Space Station’ has been prepared for two **Malaysian Muslims** who will be in *space* during **Ramadan**.

America revisits its birth defect 50 years after **Eisenhower** created the **Civil Rights Division** in the Department of Justice -- [Thousands Protest Blacks’ Treatment](#).

Water
[news list|forecast](#)

- [Where’s the water to grow biofuels?](#) -- a fundamental query from **India**: "**Brazil uses 2,200 litres of water to produce a litre of ethanol from sugarcane....Brazil gets an average annual rainfall of 90 inches, India 49 inches**".

Neither **Kyrgyzstan** nor **Tajikistan** has the *oil* and *gas* of **Kazakhstan**, **Turkmenistan**, or **Uzbekistan** -- they have something more important -- the source of nearly all of Central Asia’s water -- [‘Water Baron’ Presidents Discuss Strategy At Summit](#).

Challengers

Brazil
[news list|forecast](#)

- [Brazil to resume arms-building](#) -- "In the 70s, we had modern factories that built **tanks**.... But they have been dismantled. Brazil must return to what it had. To rebuild our weaponry factories, we must buy."

[Rio police arrest 52 cops on drug crime charges](#) -- "the police officers that were arrested charged between 2,000 reais (\$1,041) and 3,900 reais (\$1,560) a week from **drug gangs** in three shantytowns in Duque de Caxias."

[Brazil Double Pluses Military Funds](#) -- "the 2008 **military budget** will grow to \$5 billion dollars, more than double last year’s 2 billion ..."

[Brazil and China Launch Forest and Farm Monitoring Satellite](#) -- CBERS-2B is the third Chinese-Brazilian satellite to be launched -- images are distributed free of charge to neighboring countries.

China
[news list|forecast](#)

- A useful statement of official **counter-terrorism** (and **counter-separatism**) line by chair of the *China Institute for International Strategic Studies*; "**Striking at the root cause of the problem as well as its harmful effects is the right prescription**" -- [China plays important role as peace-maker](#).

China is said to be working quietly to disrupt the **US-India nuclear deal**; "It’s all very subtle and very clever," a Washington source said -- [US sees China quietly working to halt N-deal](#).

"The Chinese **military** has also started applying so-called **‘human wave’** tactics to establish its **cyber war network**." -- [China launches People’s Information War \[Analysis\]](#).

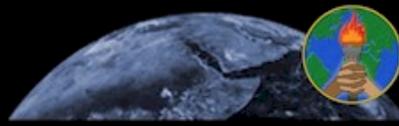
[PLA eyes aircraft carriers \[Analysis\]](#) -- a Chinese **carrier group** could defray the US **standoff** in an area 800-1,000 kilometers from the spot of engagement [Taiwan].

India
[news list|forecast](#)

- The Indian **military** is diverted for now with its own internal battles; "the government’s plan to create 156 additional posts for general-rank officers has led to a virtual war among the services, with the Army launching a vitriolic attack on Navy and IAF." -- [Army spars with IAF, Navy to corner key posts](#).

India did not hide its disappointment at failure to secure a **permanent seat** on an expanded **UN Security Council** which resulted partly from **Pakistan’s** diplomatic maneuvers; "the Assembly endorsed the approach advocated by Pakistan, ... for the widest possible agreement on restructuring the council, not by a vote [i.e. consensus]"; "It is the hope of the status quoists that they only have to sit tight and the world will remain the same but it has changed and will change more." -- [India hits out as UNGA fails to resolve expansion issue](#) and [India drops its bid for](#)

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permanent seat on UNSC after failing to get support.

The **US-India nuclear deal** is still far from resolved; the parliamentary **Left** ask for delay: the US asks for haste; "Washington's envoy to New Delhi said time was running out on the deal seen as the centerpiece of the new warmth in ties between the once-estranged democracies" -- *Indian left asks govt to delay nuclear deal 6 months.*

The US pursues its isolation of **Iran**: *India should explain its relationship with Iran: US* -- "But I think it's more on the Indian side to try to explain exactly what is and what is not going on in its relations with Iran, as we are upfront in our relations with other countries, with India".

Russia is pressuring **Tajikistan** to curtail India's only foothold in **Central Asia**; "this [Russian pressure] appears to be a ploy for more concessions and indulgence from India.... Moscow's way of telling New Delhi not to stray into the **American** military hardware camp..." -- *India faces eviction from Tajik military base.*

India has commenced tour groups to the **Siachen Glacier** that is disputed with **Pakistan**; "the move could cast a shadow over their slow-moving peace process" -- *Pakistan protests Indian trek on Siachen.* [Comment: The issues and tactics involved have an analogy in the **Spratlys**.]

India's ordeal in the **north-east** continues: *Indian army seizes explosives in northeast* -- "Around 45 kg of explosives and 400 pieces of detonators and fuse wires were recovered"; *Naxalite commander wanted by seven states held in Patna* -- "Tushar Kant Bhattacharya, accused in a number of cases of mass murders in **Naxalite** violence-prone ... **Andhra Pradesh** between 1974 and 1980, was arrested by the special task force"; *Maoists blow up railway station, tracks in E.India* -- the **Maoists**, who say they are fighting for the rights of **poor peasants and landless labourers**, have impact now across large parts of rural eastern and southern India.

Indonesia
 news
 list|forecast

- *Indonesia still needs another 262 warships* -- "the 376 warships will be one of the most requirements to enable us to defend and maintain national security in Indonesia as the world's largest archipelagic country which is lying in **strategic sea intersection**."

Ex-BIN deputies to face music over Munir murder -- "with the emergence of new evidence in the Munir case, pressure is mounting for a thorough and rapid investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of the activist." [Comment: **BIN** is Indonesia's state intelligence service.]

Iran
 news
 list|forecast

- *Iran executes more Arabs* -- bowing to **Israel's nuclear** hysteria is blinding the world to true harms -- dubious convictions and prompt execution of ethnic **Arabs** in **Iran's** south-west **Khuzestan** (called al-Ahwaz, by Arabs).

"Iran is not a suicide nation I doubt that the Iranians intend to attack us with a **nuclear** weapon." says retired **CENTCOM** General John **Abizaid** -- 'We can live with nuclear-armed Iran'.

"Iran should be admitted to the **SCO**, but on a condition that its **nuclear** programmes are put under the control of the organization" -- *Kyrgyz pundit speaks in favor of Iran joining Shanghai Bloc.*

Iran has plans to strike Israel in case of war, general says -- "Iran's **Shahab**-class missiles, based on a North Korean design, easily could reach the Levant, military specialists say."

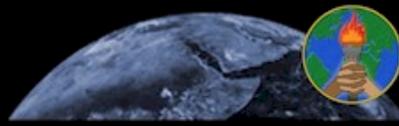
New York: Iran's leader can't visit ground zero -- "it is appalling that President **Ahmadinejad**, one of the world's leading sponsors of terror, would find it

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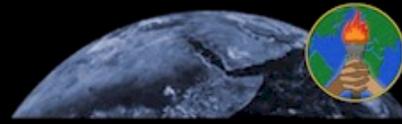
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| | <p>appropriate to visit this hallowed ground" State Department spokesman Tom Casey said.</p> <p><i>Secret US air force team to perfect plan for Iran strike</i> -- "Project Checkmate, a successor to the group that planned the 1991 Gulf War's air campaign, was quietly reestablished at the Pentagon in June [2007]."</p> |
| <p>Russia news list forecast</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Putin's legacy is a Russia that doesn't have to curry favour with the west</i> -- "Russia today has no intention of repeating the tsarist experience or what happened in Soviet times ... " says Putin. <i>Russian communists say Putin more powerful than Tsar</i> [And Putin doesn't have a Bolshevik uprising to worry about....] <p>Russia-backed Serbia is offering wide <i>autonomy</i> for Kosovo but "<i>devastating consequences</i>" if the US, NATO and Kosovo Albanians try to "snatch" independence" -- <i>Serbia warns U.S. and NATO not to "snatch" Kosovo</i>.</p> |
| <p>Venezuela news list forecast</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>US government upbraids 20 nations in annual drugs report</i> -- Myanmar and Venezuela top the latest US illicit substances report; those two had "<i>failed demonstrably</i>" to tackle the problem over the past 12 months. <p><i>Private schools 'to be nationalised' if they don't follow Chavez doctrine</i> -- President Chavez confronts schools with a fundamental proposition: "<i>Society cannot allow the private sector to do whatever it wants</i>"; <i>capitalist ideology destroys values</i> says Chavez.</p> <p><i>High-school students will be taught Marxism-Leninism</i> -- "<i>creating a new man under the doctrines of Simón Bolívar, Ezequiel Zamora and Simón Rodríguez</i>", or, critics say "turn the country into a barracks. Future generations who are loyal to the revolution ..."</p> <p><i>Washington Promotes 'Independent' Media in Venezuela</i> -- "for some time it has been apparent that President Hugo Chavez – the democratically elected President of Venezuela – and his government have been on the US's 'regime change shopping list'".</p> <p>President Hugo Chávez suggests giving the National Armed Force (FAN) a new role, namely, "<i>permanent participation in tasks to ensure citizens' security</i>" -- <i>Venezuelan Armed Force may become free to take the streets</i>.</p> |
| <p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey says it has no intention of acceding to US pressure to cease buying gas from Iran; "<i>Turkey is generating 52% of its electricity from natural gas and it is out of the question for us to say we are cutting our relations with [Iran] ...</i>" -- <i>No End to Iran-Turkey Gas Links</i>. <p><i>"Bread prices in Tajikistan are already six times what they were this July.... Tajik population is not rioting yet, but protest actions are already reported in Uzbekistan nearby"</i> -- <i>Food crisis of unprecedented proportions in Central Asia</i>.</p> <p>A detailed survey of Central Asia in a speech by the ninth president of Turkey -- <i>Changing Central Asia in the new world order</i>.</p> <p><i>Israel enhances military intelligence capabilities</i> -- "... will add Israel to the few nations with imaging radar reconnaissance satellites able to distinguish camouflaged vehicles from rocky terrain – by night and through foliage."</p> <p><u>Cowboys or Indians</u>: President Morales of Bolivia, despite a popularity of 57% -- like popular leaders elsewhere in Latin America -- faces a dangerous enemy in the traditional Castilian elite -- "If they [the majority] want me to go tomorrow ... I'd find myself a woman and I'd go back to my coca land plot." -- <i>Bolivia's Morales says</i></p> |



elites resent Indian power.

Pakistan's President Pervez **Musharraf** will give up his post of *army chief* if he is re-elected *president* - *Musharraf to quit army if re-elected*. Some of the best news President Musharraf has heard in months, showing he must be doing something right -- *Osama bin Laden declares war on Musharraf*. But Pakistanis seem to respond: *He might be an infidel tyrant, but he's our infidel tyrant - Pakistanis reject bin Laden's "interference"*. President Musharraf is losing no time preparing the future with key appointments, starting with the two most important posts: *head of security*, and CO of *Rawalpindi* garrison -- *Musharraf makes army appointments*. Meanwhile, Afghanistan continues to say Pakistan could do more against "terrorists", making a rare mention one of the prizes to be had; access to Central Asia; "*Afghanistan has promised Pakistan we will be their best ally.... We will provide them access into Central Asia*" -- *Pak military lacks commitment to deal with terrorists, says Afghan envoy to US*. But the Pakistan position is unchanged; there is no choice: "*the local chiefs who hold sway over these remote enclaves must be won over by Gen Musharraf's government*" -- *Tribal chiefs hold key to fight against Al Qaeda*. Following the abortive return of former president **Sharif**, and vociferous public meetings, the government moves to keep order; "*We have detained 14 people as a preventive measure. They have given calls for protests and we have fears that they may create disturbances in the coming days*" -- *Musharraf's opponents arrested in Pakistan*.

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