

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

Environment. Algae transform the carbon dioxide into biomass that can later be used as biodiesel,
Inter-State Conflict. Cholera spreads in Iraq; Afghanistan trending down on control; up on drug crops:
Proliferation. See topic links: in counterpoint we see proliferation of new positive technologies.

Poverty. Several governments overturning patents essential to reducing poverty.
Infectious Disease. Brain-eating bacteria in lakes; deadly bacteria grown in outer-space; lab on a chip.
Civil War. Myanmar (Burma) complete mess, burning monks; disappeared villages; public now angry:
Genocide. Darfur now understood to be a deliberate genocide; spreading across borders:
Transnational Crime. US carries out 124 raids on performance-enhancing drug sites and dealers:
Other Atrocities. Nomads persecuted in Chad; East Timor militia says Indonesia funded them to start:
Terrorism. Bio-chem experts tracked (we believe they are also being murdered); read full section:

Policy Summary

Diplomacy. Bush blind to Israel cancer and fact that US ties accelerate extremists: Middle-powers up:
Security. US, others realizing nature the most dangerous-should address **all ten high-level threats!**
Society. FBI says violent crime on the rise; White House wants cuts in Social Security.

Economy. See links: Media avoiding the big story: US insolvency; volatility; coming recession:
Education. Social skills enhance academic performance. *10 Things Schools Don't Teach Well.*
Health. See links. Big story not being covered: alternative, natural, and bio-energy healing:
Immigration. Mexican president proposes right to work in US, never mind his incompetence at home.
Water. See energy: this is the single most ignored and most pressing policy threat for lack of thought:

Agriculture. See links:
Energy. No fuel, you walk: No water, you die. North Africa solar could displace all Middle East oil:
Family. See links:
Justice. US allowing terrorist suspects lawyers but the lawyers are deeply investigated:

Major Player Summary

Iran. He hit me first. Neocon godfather tells Bush: BOMB THEM. CIA declared terrorist entity.

Brazil. 75% trust military and police; 21% on aid; corruption still a big problem, some gains:

China. Four-lane highway to Central Asia; fourth space launch center:

India. Clearly on rise as world power; permanent member of UN SC; global energy giant:

Indonesia. Singapore proposes regional nuclear body; UAV for anti-piracy? Army-police friction:

Russia. Collaborates with China but not to extent of sharing advanced military technology.

Venezuela. Exxon willing to bail out; seeking 41% of its investment.

Wild Cards. Food crisis in Central Asia; Pakistan leadership split in three: India toys with pipeline:

World Crises - from monthly assessments by *International Crisis Group* at 01 October 2007

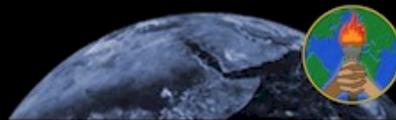
Alert: Democratic Republic of Congo

Deteriorated: Bangladesh, Burundi, DR Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, India (non-Kashmir), Iraq, Philippines, Somalia

Improved: Sierra Leone, Turkey

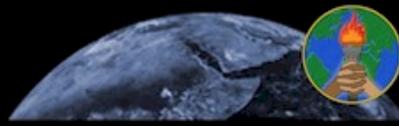
- **Unchanged:** Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), China (internal), Colombia, Comoros Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Gambia, Georgia, 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 (UK), 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

deteriorated • steady improved ALERT



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"> Several governments are now willing to overturn <i>intellectual property "rights"</i> of expensive medications; the Thai government will impose "<i>compulsory licences</i>" on four cancer treatment drugs sold by <i>Novartis</i> -- <i>Thailand may override patents on some cancer drugs.</i>
Infectious Disease news list forecast		<p>↓ 6 Die From Brain-Eating Amoeba in Lakes -- <i>Lake-dwelling Naegleria fowleri</i> killed <u>23</u> in the US 1995 to 2004 but <u>six deaths</u> this year indicate it is responding to <i>climate warming</i>.</p> <p>Just a hint at some possible future threats: "<i>Salmonella</i> bacteria grown on the <i>space shuttle</i> displayed <u>unusual genetic activity</u>, becoming <u>much more virulent</u>." -- <i>Deadly Bacteria from Outer Space.</i></p> <p><i>New device speeds bird flu testing</i> -- "a self-contained lab on a chip"</p> <p>By 2011 there will be up to <u>12 new anti-malarial drugs</u> -- <u>better, cheaper</u> products may have been delivered <u>sooner</u> if there had been <i>coordination</i> rather than corporate silos -- <i>United malaria studies more efficient.</i></p>
Environment news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Algae Against Climate Change?</i> -- "Exposed to <i>solar light</i>, the algae transform the <i>carbon dioxide</i> into <i>biomass</i> that can later be used as <i>biodiesel</i>, whose combustion doesn't emit <i>greenhouse</i> gases." <p><i>Biggest polluters gather for US-led climate forum</i> -- "Four more meetings will be held in 2008, culminating -- 'tentatively' -- in a leaders' summit ..."</p> <p>See Energy (Algae)</p>
Inter-State Conflict news list forecast		<p>↓ Iraq: Cholera outbreak in Iraq is spreading -- With new cases confirmed in <i>Baghdad, Basra</i> and northern districts of <i>Tikrit, Mosul</i> and <i>Dahuk</i> there are now <u>2,116 cases</u> of cholera in Iraq, with <u>11 deaths</u> so far. "<i>The single most effective weapon against our deployed forces</i>" -- "<i>the roadside bomb, which as of Sept. 22 had killed or wounded 21,200 Americans, is both a proximate cause and a metaphor for the miscalculation and improvisation that have characterized the war.</i>" A pithy snapshot of southern Iraq: "<i>The militia is said to number 17,000 in Basra alone and is divided into 40 company-size military units, according to a senior Iraqi security official</i>" -- <i>Post-Surge Strategy: Mega-Bases?</i></p> <p>Afghanistan's Balkh province in the north was declared <i>opium-free</i> in 2007; it is now planted with the <u>second most valuable illicit</u> crop -- <i>Afghan farmers find alternative to opium: marijuana.</i></p> <p><i>Taliban unveils hardline Afghan constitution</i> -- "<i>This is first time the Taliban has clearly set out its aims.</i>" <i>Taliban 'may retake land won by Army'</i> -- NATO's commander in Afghanistan says it is 'likely' <u>some areas will have to be fought over again</u> because Afghan forces may not be able to hold it as the Taliban regroups during the winter.</p> <p>Palestinian security officers have handed over to the Israel Defense Force <i>Kassam missile</i> casings found near the Jerusalem district of <i>Gilo</i> -- <i>Kassam rockets found near Jerusalem: new terror phase or Palestinian PR?</i></p> <p><i>Ethiopia says may call off Eritrea border pact</i> -- "<i>Relations between the two Horn of Africa nations are at their lowest since a 1998-2000 border war killed 70,000</i>".</p>
Civil War news list forecast		<p>↓ Peacekeepers killed: "<i>Sudan's army and Darfur rebel movements blamed each other for the Saturday night attack on the Haskanita base</i>" -- <i>African Union attacked, seven killed in Darfur.</i></p>

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------



"As part of a peace deal with militant ethnic **Tuaregs** in northern **Mali**, the country's government has pledged \$2 million towards **development**." -- *Mali Pledges Assistance to Taureg Minority*.

Disaster-bent **Zimbabwe** promulgates more measures aiming to '**dismantle the structure of colonialism**' -- *Zimbabwe to take over foreign-owned firms*. Wildlife police have saved a **giraffe** that strayed too close to **hungry** people on the outskirts of Harare; "**Wild animals** have become the latest victim of this economic crisis" -- *Giraffe saved from hungry crowd in Zimbabwe*.

In **Myanmar (Burma)** as **Buddhist monks** continue **protest** walks, "the country's religious affairs minister appeared on state television to accuse the monks of being manipulated by the regime's domestic and foreign enemies" -- *Myanmar government warns monks*. The eyes of the world remained on Myanmar only with difficulty given government control of **communications**; "The **Thailand**-based, exile-run **Irrawaddy** has called on the Myanmar population to play the role of **citizen journalists** and send information to their newsdesk" -- *Burning down Myanmar's Internet firewall*. Deaths and arrests ensued: *At least 5 dead in clash between troops, monks in Yangon* -- "At least 30 monks and 50 civilians were taken away in military vehicles to an unknown destination." Whether 'tipping point' or not, something had happened that could not be undone: "**You are fools! You are fools!**" the cry rang out on Yangon's streets as people -- appalled at a crackdown on Buddhist monks -- vented their anger at Myanmar's hated **security forces** -- *Myanmar public turns on security forces*. "We found evidence of 18 [**Karen**] **villages** that essentially disappeared." -- **Open Society Institute** funded the **imagery** time over Myanmar -- *Satellites confirm reports of Myanmar violence*. **Socialists** (the Sweden-based **China Worker**) pressure **China** to influence Myanmar: "... working people and the poor and oppressed in Burma need their own mass organization and a bold socialist programme." -- *Army shoots peaceful demonstrators*. Also see: *45 years of resistance and repression in Myanmar [Chronology]*.

Blackwater probed for **selling weapons to PKK** -- "The **Turks** provided serial numbers of the weapons to **US** investigators ..."

Genocide
[news list|forecast](#)

- Partly obscured by the present chaos, **Darfur** is at base a deliberate genocide, and is spreading across borders -- *Echoes of genocide in Darfur, eastern Chad*.
Rwandan doctor accused of organising genocide -- "He is one of four men facing **extradition** from **Britain** to Rwanda under a diplomatic deal between the two governments, signed nine months ago."

Other Atrocities
[news list|forecast](#)

- ↓ *EastTimor ex-militia chief blames **Indonesia** for 1999 mayhem* -- "then-transmigration minister, Abdullah **Hendropriyono**, who later became the chief of the **national intelligence agency**, offered money from his ministry to fund the creation of a **militia** group."
*The government wants to say that all **Arabs** are **Janjaweed**. ... As we are Arabs, the land has become narrow to us. Nobody likes us. Only God*" -- *Nomads Describe Persecution in Chad*.

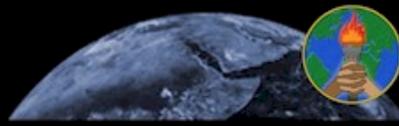
Proliferation
[news list|forecast](#)

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

Terrorism
[news list|forecast](#)

- "**Trinidad** supplies nearly three-quarters of America's **liquefied natural gas**, all of it shipped to **US**. **ports** aboard vessels that terror experts have identified as potential **targets**" -- *Plot exposes possible threat of terrorists from Caribbean*. The **US-based Nuclear Threat Initiative** says "Preventing **nuclear terrorism** must be a front-

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------



burner issue for leaders at the highest level of governments around the world every day. *So far it is not.*" -- *U.S. study urges firmer guard against atom terrorism. Staged cyber attack reveals vulnerability in power grid* -- "For about \$5 million and between three to five years of preparation, an organization, whether it be transnational terrorist groups or nation states, could mount a **strategic attack** against the United States."

Unprecedented Blast Rocks Maldives Tourist Site -- "This has never happened in the Maldives before, so the government is strongly condemning this act." [The Maldives is a predominately Sunni Muslim country of 350,000 people in the Indian Ocean.]

Terror suspect arrested in Venice -- "planning terrorist strikes in **Iraq** using **ultralight helicopters** bought in **Italy**."

An update on the continuing strategic value of **Pakistan's** ungovernable areas to **Islamic militants** -- *Resurgent al-Qaida plotting attacks on west from tribal sanctuary, officials fear.*

"A related problem, **Algerians** say, is that some of the most experienced Algerian security experts who fought Islamist rebels in the 1990s are no longer in active service" -- *Algeria rebel attacks test govt security policy [Analysis].*

Experts doubt plan to block bomb recipes on Web -- "If you block it, probably the same content is available on a different site within a minute, so this doesn't help."

Spy Officials Tracking Key Scientists -- "Because they are easier to hide than **nuclear** weapons or missiles, **biological** weapons are best tracked by monitoring those with **expertise** to make them ..."

"The **Srebrenica massacre** was the largest **mass murder** in Europe since World War II.... **Bosnia** played an identical role in the **global jihad** as did **Afghanistan** a decade earlier" -- *Experts Debate the Influence of Islamism During the Bosnian War of 1992 to 1995.*

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

- Raids over 18 months in 27 US states and 10 nations on **performance-enhancing drugs** facilities culminated in the last few days -- *Agents Arrest 124 in Drug Raids.*

Policy

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

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

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

- A retired **Japanese vice-admiral** says both the UN and the US need cooperation of the '**middle-ranking powers**', such as **Japan, Australia, Germany, Canada**, to stabilize the **global security** environment -- *The rise of the middle-ranking powers.*

"Where governments have been most closely linked to the US, **political Islam's** rise has been most marked" -- *Engine of political Islam.*

Africa's lack of UN Security Council seat "untenable" -- "The situation whereby **Africa** is itself totally excluded from the **permanent membership** of the council is unfair and untenable and must be rectified" **Nigerian** President Umaru **Yar'Adua** tells the **UN General Assembly**.

Bush blasts UNHRC for anti-Israel bias -- the **US** continues to put **Israel's** interests ahead of its own.

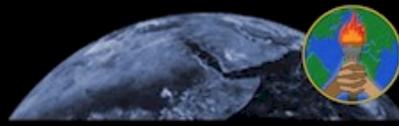
Economy
[news list](#)|[forecast](#)

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

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

- The old-fashioned tenets work: "If we increase **social skills**, we see commensurate increases in **academic learning**," -- *10 Things Schools Don't Teach Well.*

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------



Energy

[news list|forecast](#)

↑ The US *price for corn has doubled* due to increasing demand for *ethanol* production; the demand for **WATER** in producing this corn/ethanol is also yet to hit home -- *Soaring corn prices hit US cattle farmers*. [Comment: No fuel, you walk: No water, you die]

Hydrogen from Algae -- "The new finding will be important in maximizing the production of **hydrogen** in large-scale, commercial **bioreactors**. ... The process is still at least five years from being used for hydrogen generation."

Storing Solar Power Efficiently -- "**Heat storage** is more efficient than **electricity storage**: just 2 to 7 percent of the energy is lost when heat is banked in a storage system, compared with losses of at least 15 percent when energy is stored in a battery".

German Aerospace says just 6,000 square kilometres of **collectors** in the desert of **North Africa** would supply energy equivalent to the entire oil production of the Middle East, 9 billion barrels a year -- *Germany Looks to North Africa's Untapped Solar Thermal Potential*.

"An engineer in the **US** has developed **solar panels** that can produce electricity for roughly the same cost as using nuclear energy or fossil fuels" -- *Engineer pioneers cheap solar energy*.

"**Australian** soldiers could soon be **recharging** their radios, sensors and night vision goggles on the battlefield with **high-tech solar panels** ... They can be used under **camouflage nets** during **covert operations**" -- *Solar panels go to war*. [Comment: Supplying, carrying, and disposing of *non-rechargeable* batteries to power an increasing inventory of electronics is a significant annoyance for troops.]

See **Environmental Degradation (Algae)**

See **India (wind power)**

Family

[news list|forecast](#)

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

Health

[news list|forecast](#)

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

Immigration

[news list|forecast](#)

• At the **US-Mexican Border Governors Conference** **Mexico's** president puts the libertarian proposition "the right to work wherever one can make the greatest contribution" -- *Mexico criticises US border plans*.

Justice

[news list|forecast](#)

• **U.S. lets key terrorism suspects request lawyers: report** -- "lawyers will have to undergo especially thorough background checks before they are allowed to see the **high-value captives**."

Security

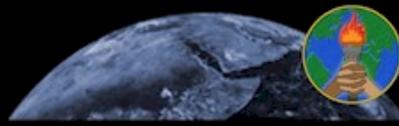
[news list|forecast](#)

• Blame **Canada**: "*Our work clearly shows substantial vulnerabilities in the **northern border** to terrorist or criminals entering the United States undetected*" -- *Report: Security on U.S.-Canada border fails terror test*.

"Another day, another anti-terror plan" -- **Germany** continues to have a healthy if vociferous debate on **counter-terrorism policy** -- *German Anti-Terror Measures Fight for Life as Opposition Grows*.

London police carrying out 200 stop and searches a day -- "... just over a fifth of those stopped were classed as **Asian**, almost twice their proportion in the capital's population."

The new **EU counter-terrorism coordinator** proposes measures on the sharing of **air passenger data** but this collides with the **Schengen agreement on the free movement**



of people -- *EU needs "new instruments" to counter terrorism - Frattini [Interview].*

FBI discovers *desk officers: FBI Reorganizes Effort to Uncover Terror Groups' Global Ties* -- "The new approach is meant to channel **raw intelligence** and threat information through 'desk officers' with expertise on specific **world regions** or **terrorist groups** ..."

U.S. in cyberwar 'late to the game' -- "If you are defending in **cyberspace**, you are late.... The **military** is neither resourced, nor equipped, nor authorized by law to protect **civilian infrastructure**."

"**Hackers** stole millions of credit card numbers from discount retailer **TJX Cos.** by intercepting wireless transfers of customer information at two Miami-area Marshalls stores ..." -- *Encryption Faulted in TJX Hacking.*

In *Chicago* a dozen **railroad spikes** disappeared from a section of commuter rail highlighting the virtual impossibility of securing all of the nation's railroads -- *Damaged train rails show vulnerability.*

A revolutionary policy shift in the **Pentagon** creates a **burden to share information** and a **presumption of document release**, and recognises the central role of **DNI** -- *New defense intelligence policy [Analysis].*

The **US** administration starts to realise that **Nature** is far, far, more lethal than "**terrorism**" -- *U.S. rewriting homeland security strategy.* [Comment: The '**Human Security**' approach makes no moral or political distinction among threats to human safety.]

"A number of top **U.S.-based physicists** have concluded the United States used inaccurate claims to reassure **NATO** allies about **U.S. missile defense plans in Eastern Europe**" -- *Physicists question US on missile plan.*

Head of the **Australian Federal Police** says **climate change** -- not "**terrorism**" -- will be the security issue of the 21st century; almost inevitable **resources-induced instability** in **China** will be one major trigger -- *Climate shift is biggest security risk: Australia.*

Society
[news list|forecast](#)

- ***FBI: Violent Crime On The Rise*** -- "... in nationwide data that show a slightly higher increase than expected."
- ***White House Urges Social Security Cuts*** -- The war on poverty continues.

Water
[news list|forecast](#)

- See **Energy (Corn demand)**

Challengers

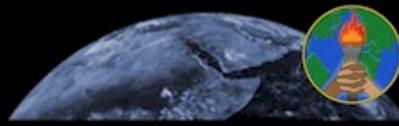
Brazil
[news list|forecast](#)

- ***40 Million Brazilians or 21% of Population Getting Government Help*** -- "The funds destined for **social development** have increased four-fold during the administration of president **Lula**."
- 75% of Brazilians trust both the **federal police** and the **army**; 11% trust **politicians** -- *Brazilians don't trust politicians but they trust their military.*
- ***Brazil Gets Better Grade in Fighting Corruption But Still Fails*** -- "Despite some gains, **corruption** remains an enormous drain on resources sorely needed for **education, health and infrastructure**."
- "If the president of **Iran**, **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**, wants to **enrich uranium** and deal with the **nuclear** issue in a peaceful manner as **Brazil** is doing, this is **Iran's** right" -- *Brazil's Lula Comes in Defense of Ahmadinejad's Nuclear Program.*

China

- "China has started construction of a **four-lane freeway** that will form a key part of a

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------



[news list|forecast](#)

Central Asia highway network between Korla and Kuqa, in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region" -- China starts building new freeway to oil-rich Central Asia.

China to construct its fourth space launch center in Hainan -- "As China's fourth space center, Wenchang's low-latitude and geographic proximity to the equator would help increase the capacity of rocket carriers and extend the life span of satellites ..."

India

[news list|forecast](#)

- *India ranks 72 in corruption Index -- "India has slightly improved its standing in the comity of nations in terms of integrity as it is ranked 72 among 180 countries in the corruption index this year ..."*

"Britain is backing South Africa, Japan, Brazil and India for permanent seats on the UN Security Council" -- Britain backs India for Security Council veto.

Costa Rica, El Salvador and Nicaragua plan to open their embassies in New Delhi next year -- Three Central American nations to open missions in India.

Bombs found in Mumbai as India cricket team parties: Police -- Said to be 'country-made crude bombs,' not the work of any terrorist outfits say police.

'India to become a global power by 2015' -- By 2020 they India and China will form a "tri-polar" world along the US. [Comment: Being chosen by God (along with Israel), the US is not yet accustomed to sharing.]

India to develop its version of GPS -- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) is expected to be functional by 2012.

Encrypted documents recovered from senior Communist Party of India (Maoist) officials reveal plans to target industrial facilities -- Maoists target industry units.

India has the fourth-highest installed wind-power capacity in the world (behind Germany, Spain, US) but primitive legislation makes local distribution difficult -- Harnessing The Wind To Fuel India's Growth.

Delhi shows how to get tough with Islamist terrorists -- "On every issue facing the globe today, India is an important player. Its experience with its vast minorities, Muslims and others, is a telling case in point."

Indonesia

[news list|forecast](#)

- *Your nuclear hazard is my nuclear hazard: "Safety issues in nuclear use are real issues and have influence in a wide range of contexts, such as the environment, climate change and regional security" says Singapore Institute of International Affairs -- RI nuclear plants a 'regional issue'.*

The commander of US Air Force assets in the Pacific suggests using high-altitude, long-endurance drones like the RQ-4 Global Hawk for surveillance in locations such as the Strait of Malacca -- Anti-Piracy Missions for Global Hawk.

The stabbing of a police Brigadier may be related to recent clashes between police and army -- Another policeman stabbed to death in North Maluku. [Comment: Serious fighting between Indonesia's police and army is not uncommon.]

Iran

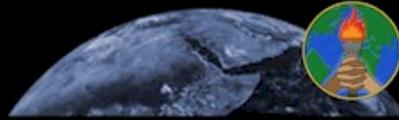
[news list|forecast](#)

- *At last, simply explained: "The US and Iran's mutual history can be broken down to two basic grievances: He hit me first and it's not fair" -- A Child's Guide to Iran-US Relations.*

The administration gets its orders: Bomb Iran -- Neocon 'godfather' Norman Podhoretz tells Bush: bomb Iran.

Iran Labels CIA 'Terrorist Organization' -- "The aggressor U.S. Army and the Central Intelligence Agency are terrorists and also nurture terror" -- Iranian

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------



	<p>grievances include the <i>1953 CIA-backed coup</i> that overthrew a democratically elected government.</p> <p>Germany has declared a position on <i>military action</i> against Iran as "<u>no, under no circumstances</u>" -- <i>Germany at odds with US, France on Iran</i>.</p> <p><i>Morales defends Bolivia-Iran ties</i> -- "The world is in the hands of a predatory capitalism that is only concerned with accumulating wealth for the few while abandoning the majority of humanity."</p> <p><i>Iran closes key border crossing with northern Iraq</i> -- The significant move is thought to be related to the <i>detention</i> of a member of an Iranian <i>trade convoy</i> in northern Iraq's <i>Sulaymanyah</i>.</p> <p><i>The New York Times</i> interviews Iran's only <i>gay</i> person -- <i>Despite Denials, Gays Insist They Exist, if Quietly, in Iran</i>.</p>
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia and China are now "friends" but Russia is drawing a line at supplying the latest <i>high-tech armaments</i> to China -- <i>Problems in Russian-Chinese military-technical cooperation</i>.
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Exxon in oil row with Venezuela</i> -- "The company's total investment in the Orinoco River reserve of Venezuela is said to be about <u>\$750 million</u>. Exxon is reportedly seeking compensation totaling <u>41.7%</u>."
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <i>food crisis</i> worsens in Central Asia -- <i>Food coupon system to be introduced in Uzbekistan</i>. <p>Strong US opposition to the <i>Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline</i> may not be enough to stop it but details such as <i>transit fees</i> may be -- <i>India to skip IPI talks over transit fees</i>.</p> <p>Three are contending to lead Pakistan -- "She [Benazir Bhutto] is in a difficult position, too, because this whole set of circumstances has tended to give political leadership to Nawaz Sharif" -- <i>Bhutto Says Pakistan at a Crucial Point</i>. Some candid views from former prime minister Benazir Bhutto on Pakistan's current situation -- "I have raised the issue of my security with General Musharraf" -- <i>Bhutto acknowledges she has met secretly with Musharraf</i>. President Musharraf of Pakistan infuriates his opponents by arranging a win-win situation; he will be either <i>president</i> or <i>military chief</i> -- <i>Musharraf to stay on as army chief if he loses presidential bid</i>. Despite bans on <i>public gatherings</i>, lawyers protested President General Musharraf's intention to seek re-election in <i>Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar</i> and other major towns -- <i>Pakistani police baton-charge, teargas anti-Musharraf lawyers</i>.</p>

20071001w [103]

.oOo.

This is a free public service.

Subscribe with the active link at

http://meta2.com/PDB/pdb_WeeklySummaryList.htm

Multinational Information Sharing Summit

17-20 December 2007

Complete details at <http://www.oss.net/IOP>

Free Decision-Support Training

<http://www.earth-intelligence.net>

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------