

**GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

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

**Threat Summary**

	<p><b>Environment.</b> 28% shortfall in renewal of consumed resources. US HAARP project dangerous to all.</p> <p><b>Inter-State Conflict.</b> UK writes off military solution for Afghanistan. More on CURVEBALL.</p> <p><b>Proliferation.</b> France seals nuclear deal with Morocco. USN Sub falsifies nuclear checks not done.</p>
	<p><b>Poverty.</b> 2 billion lack access to electricity. Africa being robbed of skills West fails to produce.</p> <p><b>Infectious Disease.</b> Malaria kills 41-year old Filipino peacekeeper, a lieutenant colonel, in Sudan.</p> <p><b>Civil War.</b> Overseas Kurds mobilizing. Sudan, Lebanon, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Eritrea into Ethiopia....</p> <p><b>Genocide.</b> China continues to exterminate Tibetan monks and society. Watch <i>Cry of The Snow Lion</i>.</p> <p><b>Transnational Crime.</b> Southern Africa destabilizing. Mafia thrives in Italy. Tajikistan 70% of drugs.</p>
	<p><b>Other Atrocities.</b> Under-age Nigerian girls, big time. East Congo atrocities continue.</p> <p><b>Terrorism.</b> Fallacy of “block thinking.” US vulnerable, terror watch list a monstrous travesty.</p>

**Policy Summary**

	<p><b>Diplomacy.</b> 40% want less US. Africa Command flails toward Maritime, cannot get base on land.</p> <p><b>Security.</b> UK creating Security Council. Fire fighters out of money. US short on radiation lab tests.</p> <p><b>Society.</b> See links.</p>
	<p><b>Economy.</b> Afghanistan and Iraq breaking the US bank By 2010 China will own \$17 trillion of USA.</p> <p><b>Education.</b> See links. Also <i>Edutopia</i>, book and CD set.</p> <p><b>Energy.</b> Uzbekistan invites Japan to develop uranium assets.</p> <p><b>Health.</b> 30% of troops at risk of disabling neurological disorders. Out of 1.4M, 700K eligible for care.</p> <p><b>Immigration.</b> EU “blue card” competes with US “green card” as attractor for skilled and migrant labor.</p> <p><b>Water.</b> 36 US states face water crises within five years. Urban sprawl, waster, overuse, all explosive.</p>
	<p><b>Agriculture.</b> Two homicides at Syngenta AG research farm for genetically modified seeds.</p> <p><b>Family.</b> See links.</p> <p><b>Justice.</b> FBI (which still has not hired most authorized analysts) assigns 300 to Guantanamo cases.</p>

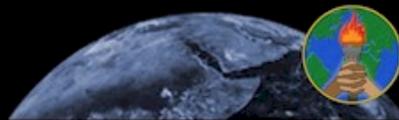
**Major Player Summary**

	<p><b>Iran.</b> 60 Iranians study nuclear in UK Special Forces inside Iran. US loony right presses for attack.</p>
	<p><b>Brazil.</b> Leaning toward admission of Venezuela to Mercosur, Chavez insults continue to sting.</p> <p><b>China.</b> Rebels attack, give one week to leave Sudan. Smog spells disaster for Olympics &amp; athletes.</p> <p><b>India.</b> Landless march for land and water. Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline a “go.” Sonia Gandhi to China.</p> <p><b>Indonesia.</b> Assumes UN Security Council presidency. Sympathetic to Occupied Palestine.</p> <p><b>Russia.</b> Provides 40% of EU’s energy. Putin compares missile defense to Cuban missile crisis.</p> <p><b>Venezuela.</b> Thousands (generally Catholic students) protest. US loss on trade is Venezuela’s gain.</p> <p><b>Wild Cards.</b> Pakistan cracking on several fronts. France lonely in Africa. Central Asia organizes.</p>

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

↗	<b>Alert:</b> Democratic Republic of Congo
↓	<b>Deteriorated:</b> Bangladesh, Burundi, DR Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, India (non-Kashmir), Iraq, Philippines, Somalia
↑	<b>Improved:</b> Sierra Leone, Turkey
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unchanged:</b> Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia &amp; 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</li> </ul>

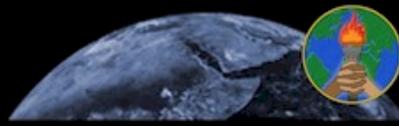
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**Threats** see *daily* items with *links to full stories on the web* at **PDB-Threats**

<p><b>Poverty</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <a href="#">2 Billion Lack Access to Electricity</a> -- "people from third world countries resort to <u>poor energy sources</u> like <b>firewood, candles and lanterns</b> which gulp an average of <u>10 US dollars per month</u>".</p> <p><a href="#">New eBay site will finance world's poor</a> -- "MicroPlace will allow people to invest as little as <u>\$100</u> to support <b>development in impoverished areas</b>".</p> <p><a href="#">Africa is now being robbed blind of its brightest and best</a>: "at the <b>tertiary skills</b> level, Africa has <u>the largest proportion of its tertiary level skills stock outside the continent compared to the total stock available, which is small in the first place</u>" -- . <a href="#">Continent Seeks Ways of Harnessing Brain Drain</a>. Also: <a href="#">Developed World Poaches Continent for Skills</a> -- "developed Western countries, who in their <u>quest to save and minimise costs and maximise returns</u>, are producing too few <b>engineers, doctors and nurses</b> to even meet their own demands".</p> <p>These issues are not restricted to <b>Colombia</b>: <a href="#">Women and the struggle for social change in Colombia</a> -- "The principal issues related to gender that FARC women identified <u>do not differ</u> significantly from those highlighted by Colombian women engaged in <b>non-violent political activities</b>, although their language reflects a <b>Marxist orientation</b>".</p>
<p><b>Infectious Disease</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Malaria</a> is not just a disease of the <b>poor</b>; it claims a 41-year-old lieutenant colonel -- <a href="#">Filipino peacekeeper in Sudan dies of malaria</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environment</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ The <a href="#">High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP)</a> located in Gakona, Alaska seeks to control the <b>Van Allen Belts</b> -- <a href="#">Military Experiments Target the Van Allen Belts</a>.</p> <p>This is REAL ... "The human <b>population</b> is now so large that the amount of <b>resources</b> needed to sustain it exceeds what is available at current <b>consumption patterns</b>" -- <a href="#">U.N. Warns of Rapid Decay of Environment</a>. Also: <a href="#">Humans living beyond Earth's means, warns UN report</a> -- "humanity's footprint is <u>21.9 ha/person</u>, while the <b>Earth's biological capacity</b> is, on average, only <u>15.7 ha/person</u>, thus resulting in net environmental degradation and loss".</p>
<p><b>Inter-State Conflict</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The <b>military</b> is a key, an essential element in dealing with those problems, but by and large these problems can <u>only</u> be resolved <b>politically</b>," says Air Chief Marshall <b>Stirrup</b>, the Chief of <b>UK Defence Staff</b> -- <a href="#">Military action won't work in Afghanistan or other war zones, says UK armed forces chief</a>.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">The Pushtun Civil War</a>-- "put another way, <b>Afghanistan</b> is just part of a <b>tribal civil war</b> in the <b>Pushtun</b> community. The <b>Taliban</b> are a small part of all that, supported by <u>a few million of the 40 million Pushtuns</u> in the region".</p> <p><a href="#">CURVEBALL: Spies, Lies and the Con Man who Caused a War</a> -- <u>the story that was too good to verify</u>...</p>
<p><b>Civil War</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ Some overseas <b>Kurds</b> are joining a call to arms -- <a href="#">Britons join Kurdish rebels to fight Turks</a>.</p> <p>A checklist of key stakeholders in <b>Sudan's Darfur</b> -- <a href="#">Darfur conflict: the key players</a>. <b>Sudanese</b> rebels now target <b>Chinese oil</b> interests; "<b>JEM</b> says its attack on the <b>Defra oil field</b> in Sudan is 'only the beginning' of a campaign to drive <b>foreign oil companies</b> out of the country" -- <a href="#">Sudanese oil field attack threatens peace talks</a>.</p> <p>see also: <b>China</b></p>

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In **Lebanon** "a *sectarian* fire far more dangerous than that which we are currently struggling to put out in **Iraq**" is in the offing; too many **factions**, too much **foreign** interference, too little time -- [Lebanon Inching Closer to War](#).

**Thai** authorities are playing an ambiguous role with **Burmese** activists *in exile* in **Thailand**, and relaying junta propaganda; [\[Thai\] Intelligence services tell Burmese media outlet to close temporarily](#) --the junta says " ...*monks* have visited Mae Sot in **Thailand** and some of them have attended **training courses in explosives and community organizing there**". In a minimalist gesture of yet unknown dimensions, **Aung San Suu Kyi** has left her house arrest briefly to meet with an official specifically appointed to liaise with her -- [Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi leaves home to meet with government official](#).

**International Crisis Group** discuss the dangerous role of *paramilitaries* in the south **Thai insurgency**; "the need for the Thai government to review the use of irregular forces such as the paramilitary rangers and village volunteer militias and to crack down on **private sectarian vigilante groups**" -- [Southern Thailand: The Problem with Paramilitaries](#).

In **Sri Lanka**, under the cover of darkness, **suicide bombers** supported by two **light aircraft** destroyed military aircraft and equipment worth more than £20 million, leaving Sri Lanka's military stunned -- [Tamil Tiger suicide squad in audacious strike](#). As the dust settled, it was clear the **Tamil Air Tigers** raid had done massive damage to government **air assets** -- [Damage of rebel attack amounts 30% of Sri Lanka's international bond issue - Mangala](#).

**Uranium** worth a fight, **Niger nomads** say -- "for centuries, the **Tuareg** have used camel caravans to trade salt throughout the region. But there is another, more modern wealth beneath the sands."

One of several wars in the **Horn of Africa** racks up another notch; [Eritrea deploying 25000 troops into Ethiopia border - opposition](#) -- "Eritrean 19 and 13 military division forces fully armed are deployed at the temporary security zone where **UN peace keepers** are deployed".

see also: **Terrorism**

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

- **China** continues its *extermination* of **Tibetan** society -- [Concern at Tibet monk 'arrests'](#).

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

↓ "We have never before seen a **gang** that was engaged in **smuggling and trafficking** in under-age **Nigerian** girls on this scale" -- [Action against the trafficking of Nigerian girls](#).

"Our motives were simple: we just wanted to rescue them from death" -- **trafficking** for profit, or act of compassion? -- [French held over Chad 'adoptions'](#)

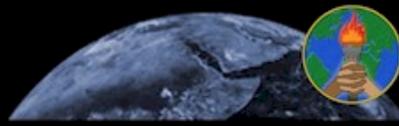
[Atrocities in East Congo Attributed to all Parties](#) -- "civilians are frequently accused of supporting one side or another in the conflict, then cruelly punished or killed for it".

[UN shares blame for Timor riots, Indonesia says](#) -- "Indonesia can't, and does not deserve to be, entirely held responsible for the **riots**, because **Portugal**, elements in the **international community** and the **UN** played some role in bringing about the riots".

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

- Again ... the **US** is interested only in the perfidy of **arms sales** when it directly affects **US interests** -- [U.S. extradition for arms dealer](#).

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**France seals nuclear deal with Morocco** -- "the energy of the future is not destined to be the exclusive property of the most **developed countries** as long as international conventions are respected".

**South Korea Develops 1,000 km Cruise Missile** -- "it flies in a **non-ballistic** very low altitude trajectory to avoid **radar** detection".

"Countries which are signatories to **Chemical Weapons Convention** ignore the consequences of **stockpiling** chemical weapons since they themselves possess such weapons" -- **Iran urges int'l bodies to counter CWs**.

"Sailors on the **submarine** USS Hampton failed to do daily **safety checks** on the ship's nuclear reactor for a month and **falsified** records to cover up the omission" -- **Navy: 6 punished for skipped checks**.

**Terrorism**  
 news list|forecast

↓ The **Bhutto bombing: Pakistan Blasts 10th Deadliest Terror Attack Since 2000** -- Comparable to **Karbala** and **Baghdad** (2004 March 02) 181 killed; and **Luanda [Angola]** (2004 Aug. 10) 150 killed.

**Lessing says Sept. 11 attacks not so bad** -- Doris **Lessing** makes a point about **Risk** and **Harm** that few will understand.

**Clausewitz after 9/11** -- "today's new, **non-Clausewitzian realities of armed bands**" maybe, but "**America's sense of vulnerability**" produces a very Clausewitzian response [scholarly book review]. **When 'block thinking' on Islam blurs all subtleties** -- "**block thinkers on each side give aid and comfort to block thinkers on the other side** .. " says professor emeritus of philosophy at McGill. **A Guide for the Perplexed: Intellectual fallacies of the 'war on terror'** -- "**one of the worst (and least comprehensible) blunders in the history of American foreign policy**".

"**Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife....** extremists round the world have seen mighty **America's vulnerability to the rocket-propelled grenade, the AK-47 and the suicide-bomber**" -- **. After smart weapons, smart soldiers**

"**the US Defence Threat Reduction Agency identified melioidosis - an uncommon but potentially fatal form of bacterial pneumonia - as the biological weapon of choice for terrorist groups**" -- **Bioterrorism threat warning**. Also: "**SUPERBUGS** [such as **methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)**] pose a **far greater threat to humanity than bio-terrorism**, a genetics pioneer warned yesterday" -- **Danger from MRSA bugs supersedes bio-terrorism**.

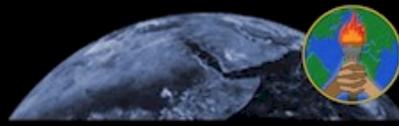
"While focusing on vulnerability-based analyses of the **nuclear threat**, the true capabilities of terrorists or states are overlooked" -- **Nuclear terrorism's fatal assumptions**.

**Terror watch list swells to more than 755,000** -- the rapid growth, and the many **alternative spellings** of '**foreign**' names, calls into question the quality of the list itself.

Osama **bin Laden** issues a call to **unity** to the troops; "**beware of division ... The Muslim world is waiting for you to gather under one banner**" -- **Shun extremism: Osama to Mujahedeen**.

More on the **Behavioral Analysis** approach to **counter-terrorism**; "**you could look at Vegas as the incubator of a whole host of surveillance technologies**" -- **From Casinos to Counterterrorism**.

More detail on the presumed place the **Horn of Africa** has in "global terrorism" -- **Al-Qa'eda target west from Horn of Africa**.



see also: **Civil War**

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

↓ Sir Richard **Gozney**, the outgoing *British High Commissioner to Nigeria* is candid about transfers of *stolen public monies* and other *suspicious funds* -- *Why Britain Tightened Anti-Money Laundering Laws*, by *Gozney [Interview]*.

*Botswana, Zambia Worry Over Transnational Crime* -- "the southern African region is increasingly becoming vulnerable to threats of *terrorism, illegal migration, human and drug-trafficking* and *armed robberies*."

*Bush wants \$1.4 billion for Mexico drug war* -- "a \$1.4-billion *military and security package* to assist *Mexico* and several *Central American* countries in their fight against *drug-trafficking groups*".

The *mafia* and lesser *organized crime syndicates* account for 7% of *Italy's* gross domestic product -- *Mafia thriving in Italy and beyond*.

"Two AFP [*Australian Federal Police*] agents would be based in the *Afghan* capital *Kabul* and the others in the eastern city of *Jalalabad*" -- *AFP targeting Afghan heroin supply*.

*Tajikistan* accounts for 70 % of *drugs seized in Central Asia* -- "owing to its geopolitical situation one of the main *transit countries* in the spread of drugs on the so-called *northern route: Central Asia-Russia-Europe*".

**Policy**

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

• In *Brazil* the *G-M* debate gets unfriendly: "a *security guard* and an *activist* were killed by *gunfire* Sunday at the research farm owned by *Syngenta AG*, a global company with a heavy focus on *genetically modified seeds*" -- *Activist, security guard killed in clash at Syngenta experimental seed farm in Brazil*.

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

↓ *Survey: 40% of world population* wants *U.S.* to have *less say* in global affairs -- "and almost as many — 35% — would like the *European Union* to have a bigger say on the world stage."

At last, a mission ... *Africa Command Gives Top Priority to Aggressive Maritime Security* -- "that's something I think that is somewhat new in some ways that *AFRICOM* will be focusing on and that we think is important".

A *Left* view from *Workers World*; "*socialist Cuba* has survived against all odds" -- *U.S. imperialism intensifies hostilities against socialist Cuba*.

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

↓ The administration needs to dig yet deeper into the war chest; *Trillion-dollar war: Afghanistan and Iraq set to cost more than Vietnam and Korea* -- "[*President Bush*] was accompanied by the *family* of a dead *US* marine when he made the request for funds on Monday".

*China* will have about US\$17 trillion *CASH* by 2010 – enough to buy *every* publicly-listed company in *America*...with change left over -- *China Sovereign Wealth Fund Could Buy Every US Company*.

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

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

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

• *Uzbekistan invites Japan to develop uranium deposits* -- "Securing new exploration projects in *Central Asia* is key to *Japan* which relies on *nuclear power* for over 25% of its *electricity* and imports some 60% of its *uranium* from *Australia* and *Canada*".

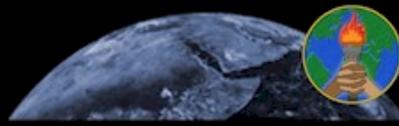
**Family**  
[news list|forecast](#)

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

**Health**

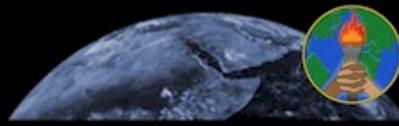
↓ "At least 30% of troops who served for *four months* or longer in *Iraq* or *Afghanistan*

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<p><a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>were at risk of potentially <b>disabling neurological disorders</b> from the blast waves of <b>IEDs and mortars</b>" -- <i>MoD surveys brain injuries in returning troops</i>. [Due to modern <b>high-velocity explosives</b>.]</p> <p>"Of the more than <u>1.4 million</u> service men and women who have served in the two war zones, nearly <u>700,000</u> have become eligible for <b>Department of Veterans Affairs medical care</b>" -- <i>Wounded Troops Overwhelm Care</i>.</p>
<p><b>Immigration</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EU 'blue card'</b> aims to attract skilled migrants -- "the 27-nation bloc is trying to compete with the US "<b>green card</b>" system and schemes in other western countries for the best-qualified <b>migrant labour</b>".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Justice</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The <b>FBI</b> has assigned up to <u>300 agents</u> to help build <b>war crimes</b> cases against <b>Guantánamo Bay detainees</b> once held by the <b>CIA</b> and now in military custody as big-time <b>al-Qaeda</b> captives... " -- <i>FBI to help build war crimes cases</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Security</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the <b>UK</b>, Prime Minister <b>Brown</b> will create a <b>US-style Security Council</b>; "the dramatic shake-up has been driven by the conclusion that existing policies and structures are <u>inadequate</u> to the task of meeting the terrorist threat facing Britain" -- <i>Brown to create US-style security council</i>.</li> <li>• <b>California Fires</b>: Will the <b>US</b> survive its traditions of <b>localism</b>? <b>San Diego County</b>, the largest county in California, <u>does not have its own fire department</u> and the local outfits within the area are starved of <b>tax money</b> -- . <i>Firefighters Get Control as Questions Rise</i></li> <li>• A <b>US State Department</b> panel has made 19 <b>recommendations</b> to improve the operations and monitoring of <b>security convoys</b> in <b>Iraq</b> -- . <i>More Oversight of Security Contractors</i>.</li> <li>• <b>US Short on Labs for Radiation Testing</b> -- "the tests available only address <u>six of the 13 radiological isotopes</u> that would likely be used in a <b>dirty bomb</b>".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Society</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ Rising <b>temperatures</b>, little <b>rainfall</b>, increasing <b>population, urban sprawl, waste</b> and <b>overuse</b> will bring water shortages to <u>36 US states</u> within five years -- <i>36 States Face Water Crisis</i>.</p>
<p><b>Challengers</b></p>	
<p><b>Brazil</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A committee in Brazil's lower house of <b>Congress</b> has approved <b>Venezuela's</b> entry to <b>Mercosur</b>, but several more stages of voting remain, with Brazilian <b>senators</b> still stinging from <b>Chavez'</b> insults -- <i>Brazil and Mercosur Prepare Summit Under Chavez Cloud</i>.</li> </ul> <p>see also: <b>Agriculture</b></p>
<p><b>China</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <i>Darfur Rebels Attack Oil Field, Warn Chinese to Leave Sudan</i> -- <b>Darfur rebels</b> have given Chinese interests "a week" to leave <b>Sudan</b>.</p> <p>see also: <b>Civil War</b></p> <p><b>Smog chokes Beijing amid Games delay fears</b>; "wear a face mask if you have to go out today" -- not looking good for several <b>Olympiad</b> events such as the <b>marathon</b>.</p> <p>"In 2003, China became the first Asian nation to use its own rocket to put an astronaut in space"; and now continues to go it alone in <b>Space</b> -- <i>China launches first Moon orbiter</i>.</p> <p><b>China Rejects Renewed Accusations of Cyber Spying</b> -- "we decisively reject these unfounded accusations. We will apply for a clarification from the <b>German</b></p>

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government".

**Uyghur** human rights activist, Rebiya **Kadeer**, from the dissident northwest region of **Xinjiang** spoke in **Germany** in same week the **Dalai Lama** visited the **US** -- *Human rights activist requests support for Uyghur while in Hamburg.*

**India**  
 news list|forecast

• **Indian landless march into Delhi** -- protesters waved flags and chanted "give us **land**, give us **water**", as they marched in long, orderly lines into the centre of the capital.

**Maoist Rebels Fire on Crowd in India** -- "around 40 **rebels**, including some **women**, disguised themselves as soldiers and police and surrounded a football field in **Jharkhand** state a few hours before dawn and fired at spectators". **Maoists inducting fresh blood to hoodwink police** -- "these groups have replaced their most-wanted guerrillas of the region with comparatively new faces from other zones". *Who are India's influential communists?* [Factbox]

**ULFA sends extortion notices to traders** -- "Following pressure from security and paramilitary forces in **Assam**, **ULFA [United Liberation Front of Asom]** has begun targeting the neighboring state of **Meghalaya** with **extortion demands** to traders in the **Garo Hills** area"

**Lethal similarity between terror strikes** -- "the terror strike at **Mecca Masjid**, **Samjhauta Express** and the recent strike at **Ajmer**, all had one thing in common. The **bomb** itself."

**China visit a "milestone" in Sino-India relations: Sonia Gandhi** -- both sides see the visit by **Sonia Gandhi** to **China** as important.

**India committed to Iran-Pak-India gas pipeline** -- "I said we remain committed to the pipeline. We would have to sort out one or two issues relating to the **transit charges**".

The **US-India Nuclear Deal: The real deal on the N-deal [Analysis]** -- "what both the sides are not telling the country is that they disagree over the exact definition of the word 'operationalise'".

**India, Russia To Design 'Fifth-Generation' Fighter** -- "**Russia** and **India** will split the cost and intellectual effort of designing the new fighter, which will be both countries' biggest joint military program ..."

**Indian Army working on Space vision 2020** -- "Carried by the **Cartosat** satellite, the **SBS** will enable Indian Army commanders keep close tabs on **troop movements**, **missile silos**, **military installations** and **airbases** of neighbouring countries ..."

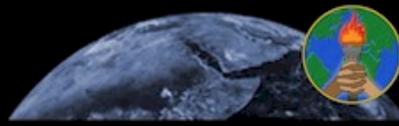
**Forces want to be ready for space battle** -- India's 'Army Space Vision-2020'.



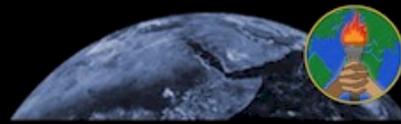
**Indonesia**  
 news list|forecast

• '**Indonesia brings countries together**' – comments by Indonesian Permanent Representative to the UN on Indonesia assuming the **Security Council presidency** next month. [Jakarta Post - Indonesia, 20071025 -- item misfiled after publication; #23745]

Indonesia has aired its sympathies for the people of **Occupied Palestine** for some



	<p>years; "a cooperation forged by Indonesia's national news agency <b>Antara</b> and <b>Palestinian News Agency</b> (Wafa) was expected to be a starting point to open the eyes of the world" -- <i>ANTARA Expected to provide positive information on Palestine and RI.</i></p>
<p><b>Iran</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Thousands of students chanted "Death to dictator" in the Polytechnic University of Tehran</i> -- from <b>National Council of Resistance of Iran</b>, Iranian opposition in-exile.</li> <li><i>US announces sanctions against Iran's <b>Revolutionary Guards</b></i> -- unprecedented, harsh, and ... "more symbolic than practical".</li> <li><i>Who's the boss in Iran?</i> -- "... no one outside the inner caucus of the country's leadership knows why [<b>nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani</b>] went or what his departure means for policy" ... but we'll speculate anyway ...</li> <li><i>SAS raiders enter Iran to kill gunrunners</i> -- "an SAS squadron is carrying out operations along the Iranian <b>border</b> in <b>Maysan</b> and <b>Basra</b> provinces with other <b>special forces</b>, the <b>Australian SAS</b> and <b>American special-operations troops</b>".</li> <li><i>Iran would need 3-8 yrs to produce <b>bomb</b> - IAEA chief</i> -- "it would need between another <u>three and eight years</u> to succeed," <b>ElBaradei</b> told <i>Le Monde</i>. "All the intelligence services agree on that." <b>HOWEVER</b> ... <i>Iran closer to nuclear bomb, emigre opposition says</i> -- Curveballs and carpetbaggers continue to urge the <b>US</b> to another war.</li> <li><i>'Iranians study nuclear physics in UK'</i> -- "about 60 Iranians had been admitted to study <b>postgraduate courses</b> considered '<b>proliferation-sensitive</b>' by the <b>British security services</b>".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Russia</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Russia remains the EU's largest <b>energy supplier</b></i> -- "In 2005, Russia supplied more than <u>40%</u> of the EU's <b>natural gas</b> imports and more than <u>30%</u> of <b>crude oil</b> imports"</li> <li><i>US missile shield is like <b>Cuban crisis</b> - Putin</i> -- "there was a similar situation in the mid-1960s, when the Soviet Union deployed missiles in Cuba. For us, the technical situation is very similar" <b>Putin</b> said.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Venezuela</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thousands of <b>university students</b> [largely from <b>Catholic University Andres Bello</b> (UCAB)] scuffled with police and government supporters during a <b>protest</b> against <b>constitutional reforms</b> -- <i>Clashes break out at Venezuela protest.</i></li> </ul> <p>The zero-sum game continues: "Venezuelan President <b>Hugo Chavez</b> is poised to score a <b>public relations victory</b> in <b>Latin America</b> if the <b>U.S. Congress</b> fails to approve <b>free-trade pacts</b> in the region" -- <i>US official says Chavez gains if trade pacts nixed.</i></p>
<p><b>Wild Cards</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ Cracks are said to be appearing in the resolve of <b>Pakistan's military</b> -- "While the <b>West</b> sees an <b>Islamist</b> war against its liberties, many here see a <b>US-led</b> war against Islam itself" -- <i>Pakistan's Army: Unprepared to tackle terrorism?</i>. As though the <b>Bhutto</b> camp were not now nervous enough ... <i>Bhutto receives threat from female suicide bombers.</i></p> <p>More <b>iconoclasm</b>: <i>Pakistani deploys troops to fight <b>pro-Taliban</b> militants</i> -- "there are also reports that <b>Islamists</b> have partially destroyed a <u>seventh-century</u> statue of <b>Buddha</b> in <b>Swat valley</b>."</p> <p><i>ICG says army trying to control <b>Balochistan</b> through force</i> -- "the <b>military</b> is determined to impose state control in <b>Balochistan</b> through force instead of redressing Baloch political and economic <b>grievances</b>".</p> <p><i>Pakistan finds 28 million 'lost' voters</i> -- "the commission's first draft put the number</p>



at 52 million, 20 million fewer than voted in the 2002 election".

"**Pakistan** has proposed that the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** set up a **police force** similar to **Interpol** to aid investigations and prevent crime in the eight-nation grouping" -- *Pakistan proposes SAARC police force.*

*The **PKK** is 'a Political Problem': an Interview with **Kurdistan Foreign Minister Falah Mustafa Bakir** -- "we believe a strong Kurdistan is a strong **Iraq**.... We need to give a chance to have a **federal** system."*

*Africa's gendarme **France** not hanging up baton yet -- the **French**, the only European country with a military presence "are lonely in **Africa**. There is no-one else to take the lead." Also: President **Sarkozy** " called **Mediterranean** countries to a meeting in **Paris** in **June 2008** to establish the foundations of a **Mediterranean Union**" -- *Sarkozy calls meeting to create Mediterranean Union.**

*Central Asia set to take major step forward in regional cooperation -- "eight member countries of the **Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)** program will discuss ways to deepen **interaction** and **integrate** more effectively with world markets ...".*

**Uzbekistan** will join the project on the construction of the **Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railway** network -- *Uzbekistan to join Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran railroad construction project.*

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