

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

	<p>Environment. Green Tax; 10 years to cut carbon emissions 50%. Ethanol nuts. Tropics expand.</p> <p>Inter-State Conflict. Spending too much on military, too much on foreign occupations.</p> <p>Proliferation. 2 nuclear “dirty bomb” cases, see Transnational Crime section.</p>
	<p>Poverty. China and Malaysia are models for poverty reduction. Energy & water policies critical.</p> <p>Infectious Disease. Ebola spreads in Uganda, medics flee. 33.2 million have AIDS.</p> <p>Civil War. Darfur worse. Serbs fleeing Kosovo. 100’s die in Chad. Somalia ruined by USA.</p> <p>Genocide. DR Congo preparing to genocide Congolese Tutsis again. See 8 Stages of Genocide.</p> <p>Transnational Crime. AMERIPOL for Latin America. Organized cybercrime. 51 countries confer.</p>
	<p>Other Atrocities. Philippine Army hunting down and killing leftist leaders. Malawi child labor.</p> <p>Terrorism. E-Games and e-commerce used by terrorists to move money. 2 nuclear crime cases.</p>

Policy Summary

	<p>Diplomacy. Liberia accepts Africa Command. China displaces US in Ecuador.</p> <p>Security. Human understanding, not weapons, avoid and win wars. Chinese espionage. ID theft.</p> <p>Society. Quiescent working class gets screwed every time. Ed.: Time for a general strike in USA.</p> <p>Water. Asia needs urgent re-think on water policies. True cost: 100x weight of each person per day.</p>
	<p>Economy. Millions of US families homeless in 2008 if sub-prime debacle not wisely handled.</p> <p>Education. Algeria reflects and opines on need for an Arabic Information Society.</p> <p>Energy. G8 Foreign Ministers meet on energy & climate—for the <i>first</i> time. Singapore brilliant!</p> <p>Health. Lifestyle diseases kill twice as many as infectious in developing world. Telemedicine up.</p> <p>Immigration. Latinos no burden on US health care. DHS has no idea how many it holds in detention.</p>
	<p>Agriculture. US has no agricultural policy since Farm Bill expired. Pesticides remain much used.</p> <p>Family. See links.</p> <p>Justice. US DoJ discovers corporate corruption. Saudi psychos rule. 2000 in Pakistan “vanish.”</p>

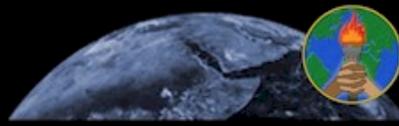
Major Player Summary

	<p>Brazil. Falls behind Albania in development while military wants complete modernization</p> <p>China. ALERT: Energy shortages could cripple Chinese economy. US knows China can deny Space</p> <p>India. Rice yields marginal. Intelligence sharing poor, planning to create an FBI. Appeasement.</p> <p>Indonesia. Indonesia will recognize Israel when there is a Palestinian state. We should all do this.</p> <p>Iran. Stealth submarine, rising influence in Turkmenistan, nuclear fuel moving fast, no threat.</p> <p>Russia. Putin doubles spending on science for 2010. Russia pulls out of NATO arms treaty.</p> <p>Venezuela. Venezuela will join MERCOSUR. Breach deepens with Colombia. “Reforms” may lose.</p> <p>Wild Cards. Latin American populism misrepresented as socialism. Pakistan MUST READ.</p>
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World Crises - monthly assessment by [International Crisis Group](#) - 01 December 2007

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

- [Energy for growth and poverty reduction in developing nations](#) -- a paper introducing the tight *nexus* between *energy*, *development*, and *poverty* [Comment: WATER is also an inescapable member of this nexus.]
 An academic examines -- in detail -- how developing economies could use **Malaysia** as a *model* for *development* -- [Lessons From the Asian Tigers](#).
 The *People's Daily* says **China** too is a *model* that can be used by *developing nations*: "In 6 years, China has reduced the number of its poor by 10.5 million at an average of 1.8 million per year" -- [China's poverty elimination sets a model for the world](#).

Infectious Disease

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

- [Global leaders call for action on World AIDS Day](#) -- "... with 33.2 million people around the world estimated to be living with AIDS and 2.1 million deaths in 2007, campaigners warned there was still a long way to go".
[Uganda medics flee abandoning patients as Ebola spreads](#) -- courage and ebola don't mix.

Environment

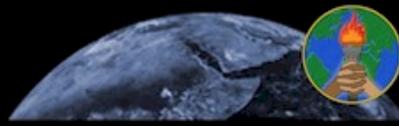
[news list](#)|[forecast](#)

- ✓ [In South Africa: "Environmental crime is almost always linked to other organised crimes, especially drugs and drug trafficking"](#) -- [New unit to get tough on green crime](#).
 No choice -- the world must cut *carbon emissions* by half over the next generation -- [World must fix climate in less than 10 years - UNDP](#).
 An idea – doubtless the first of many -- for a '**Green Tax**' that gets results -- [Donate 100 Pounds a Year from Each Household and Save the Earth!](#)..
[Wall Street](#) is afflicted with a rare dose of common-sense -- [Ethanol craze cools as doubts multiply](#).
[World marine monitoring system vital for well being of humanity](#) -- "... a speedy diagnosis of the temper and the monitoring of *vital signs* in oceans, could effectively determine the well being of humanity".
[Earth's Tropics Belt Expands](#) -- "Earth's *tropical belt* seems to have expanded a couple hundred miles over the past quarter century You're *not* expanding the *tropical jungles*, what you're expanding is the area of *desertification*".

Inter-State Conflict

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

- [The World's Biggest Military Buildups](#) -- overviews of **China, US, South Africa, India, Venezuela**.
[" Hamas said in a statement \[28 Nov 2007\], which is the 60th anniversary of the UN vote \[establishing Israel\], that correcting mistakes is nothing to be ashamed of"](#) -- [Hamas Calls on UN to Rescind 1947 Partition Vote](#).
[Turkey attacks PKK in Iraq](#) -- "The military said on [01 Dec 2007] that it fired on a group of between 50 and 60 **Kurdish militants** inside Iraqi territory, inflicting 'significant losses' ".
[Afghanistan army to reach targeted strength by March \[2008\]](#) -- "... the *expenses* of one *foreign soldier* was equivalent of 70 to 100 Afghan troopers".
[Ethiopia 'bogged down' in Somalia](#) -- "... divisions within the **Somali** government had left it unable to replace the **Ethiopians**, while not enough **peacekeepers** had arrived....only 1,600 **Ugandans** have arrived, from a planned 8,000-strong **African Union** force".
 see **Civil War**



Civil War

[news list|forecast](#)

↓ In the **Philippines**, a group of *renegade soldiers* already on trial for *rebellion* took over a hotel in the financial district and demanded the ousting of President **Arroyo**; the siege ended without bloodshed -- . *Philippines rebel soldiers seize Manila hotel*. Also: *Botched coup bid in Philippines ends, no casualties*.

Southern Thailand sees *daily killings*; this is one of the more demonstrative: *Muslim crucified, two Buddhists beheaded in Thailand: police* -- "The victim was attacked and killed in such a grisly way because they knew he was a military informant. This is to terrify the people".

↗ *Ethnic 'cleansing' threat to Serbs in Kosovo* -- "Tens of thousands of **Serbs** are preparing to flee the troubled **Balkan** province of **Kosovo** because of fears that the region is on the brink of a devastating war".

Darfur security worsening -- UN humanitarian chief -- "I think the *security situation* is probably worse now than it was eight months ago".

'Hundreds dead' in **Chad** fighting -- **Chad's** army says it has killed several hundred rebels in fierce fighting near the eastern border [near **Darfur**], shattering a month-long *ceasefire*. "The [Irish] Cabinet has approved the deployment of 400 Irish troops to the **Republic of Chad** to participate in an operation to protect *refugees* backed by the **UN**" -- *Cabinet approves Army deployment in Chad*.

The Ruination of Somalia -- "... little is reported concerning the role the **United States** has played in the tragedy, as it continues to engage in *semi-secret operations*, using **Ethiopian** troops as *surrogates* ..." Also: *An interview with the Somali Ambassador to Ethiopia and AU* – a good insight into one side of the story.

see: **Inter-State Conflict**

Genocide

[news list|forecast](#)

↗ "**DR Congo** government radio has been broadcasting *hate* messages branding **Congolese Tutsis** as **Rwandan** with the aim to have them '*annihilated*' ... " -- *Radio Fomenting Genocide*.

see **Civil War**

Other Atrocities

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• In **Malawi**: *Government intensifies campaign against child labour* -- "the *root causes* lie in areas beyond the reach of monitoring and enforcing legislation ...".

Thai de-miners badly underfunded -- "the **Thai Army** blew up its *stockpile* of 380,000 mines in a series of controlled explosions by mid 2003, but the country has woefully under-funded de-mining efforts ...".

AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]deliberately killing leftists – UN rights expert -- "... some *military units* have followed a '*deliberate strategy*' of systematically hunting down leaders of *leftist organizations*," says a **UN Human Rights Council** investigator.

Proliferation

[news list|forecast](#)

• see **Terrorism**

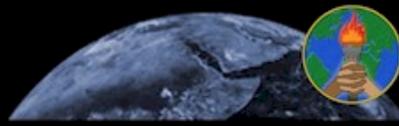
Terrorism

[news list|forecast](#)

↓ *Sri Lanka to host Commonwealth Ministerial Meeting on Terrorism next year* -- **Sri Lanka** is desperate to have the war of attrition with the **Tamil separatists** recognized internationally as "Terrorism".

"Terrorists are now using websites posing as *gaming* or *e-commerce* channels to actually *transfer funds* for their activities ..." -- *Terrorists now using website to launder funds, says Thai official*.

In **Saudi Arabia**: *208 Arrested in Terrorist Plots* -- "... the capture of eight *al-Qaida-linked* suspects '*pre-empted an imminent attack on an oil installation*' in the



country's east, which is home to most Saudi petroleum reserves".

"The **Afghanistan Counterinsurgency Academy** is a work in progress.... We're trying to build this as fast as we can but it's taking time. We're six years behind really ..." -- *Teaching Counterinsurgency - Too Little, Too Late*.

"That scenario" comes true: **3 arrested in radioactive sale bid** -- "2.2 pounds of an unspecified but 'dangerous' **radioactive material** the suspects were trying to sell for **\$1 million** ..." And, a day later: **Seized uranium 'enough for a bomb'** -- "smugglers arrested in **Slovakia** this week had enough **weapons-grade uranium** on them to make a 'dirty' bomb".

see: **Transnational Crime**

Transnational Crime
[news list|forecast](#)

- **International effort targets terrorist funds** -- "anti-money laundering agencies from **51 countries** gathered in **Bangkok** [28 Nov 2007] to build more, and more effective, **cooperation** to combat **economic crimes** and new types of **terrorism**".

A look at **organized cybercrime**, with a thumbnail of nine countries -- *Cybercrime: Uncovered*.

AMERIPOL comes to life -- "**Latin America's first regional police force** is now on its way to becoming a reality ... breathing life into a potentially promising but shaky new institution".

Policy

Agriculture
[news list|forecast](#)

- "Nearly three months have passed since the 2002 federal **Farm Bill** expiredIt could be some time -- maybe even a year or more -- before lawmakers decide on a new **nationwide farm policy**" -- *Legislative wheels turn slowly in setting ag policy*.

France and Poland to create **common agricultural policy working group** -- "the two countries are keen to spark a **debate** within the **European Union** on future **agricultural policy**".

Like it or not, **pesticides** are still an integral part of today's **food security** -- *'Pesticides to remain important in the interest of food security'*.

Diplomacy
[news list|forecast](#)

- ↓ **AFRICOM: Nigeria rejects US Military Base, but Liberia willing to host** -- "President Umaru Yar'Adua [of Nigeria] said he is also opposed to the US command establishing a presence elsewhere in West Africa". [Comment: **West Africa** is oil.]

Not comforting news for the **US: Ecuador offers concession of Manta air base to China, declines to renew contract wit US** -- "**Brazil** will likewise profit since Ecuador and Brazil inked an agreement building the **Manta-Manaus link** by rail".

Economy
[news list|forecast](#)

- ↓ Resets on many **subprime** loans still await in early 2008; "the **White House** has to deliver a deal that really will prevent millions of families from losing their **homes**, he said" -- *Wall St. sees silver lining in economy*.

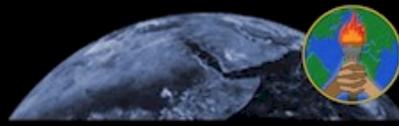
Report: Foreclosures Will Sap U.S. Cities -- "**New York** is expected to lose \$10.4 billion in economic activity in 2008, followed by **Los Angeles** at \$8.3 billion, **Dallas** and **Washington** at \$4 billion each, and **Chicago** at \$3.9 billion".

"The **Bush administration** intends to slash **counterterrorism funding** for **police, firefighters** and **rescue** departments across the country by more than half next year ..." -- *Bush seeks cuts in anti-terror grants*.

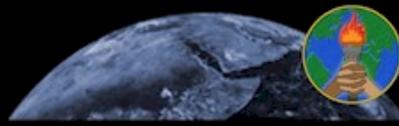
Education
[news list|forecast](#)

- **Education law's overhaul stalls in Congress** -- "there's **bipartisan** agreement that **No Child Left Behind** is due for an overhaul".

Some information on building an "**Arabic Information Society**" from **Bouzareah**



	<p>University (Algiers); "... important for the Arab nations to seize the huge opportunities being offered by the new information networks to develop a high quality of life for all citizens" -- <i>Challenges of Building an Arabic Information Society</i>.</p>
<p>Energy news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G8 Foreign Ministers meeting in Berlin on energy security and climate change -- "this is the <u>first time</u> that G8 foreign ministers have met specifically to tackle energy security and I hope that this event will be a precedent for future meetings". <p>It becomes increasingly obvious that answers to energy and environmental challenges are waiting in Nature fully-formed to be discovered; Termite guts yield novel enzymes for better biofuel production -- "this project has really given me a new appreciation for the lowly termite, a <i>mobile miniature bioreactor</i>".</p> <p>Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan: energy profile -- some details of these key players.</p> <p>The conservative <i>Washington Times</i> becomes a tree-hugger, sort of ... Toward a new energy policy -- "The Bush administration should take the lead and make the enactment of [a flex-fuel law] a major goal during its last year in office".</p> <p>Cleaner Nuclear Power? -- Thorium-based nuclear power has many advantages over the uranium-based process. [Comment: India leads in Thorium technologies.]</p> <p>Singapore to set up research center for energy solutions -- the Singapore Initiatives in New Energy Technologies (SINERGY Center) will have an initial focus on distributed energy and microgrid systems and technologies. [Important issues!]</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"> • In the US, health-care has (again) become a confusing battleground: "rather than spending their time attacking Barack Obama, the Clinton campaign should explain how exactly they plan to order every American to buy health insurance even if they can't afford it" -- <i>Clinton hits Obama on health care again</i>. <p>Health: developing world bears brunt of "lifestyle diseases" -- "<u>chronic, non-infectious diseases</u> like heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes kill more than <u>twice</u> as many people than HIV/AIDS, malaria or tuberculosis ..."</p> <p>An application of telemedicine not previously widely appreciated is the ability to "transport" medical expertise immediately into disasters areas; "during the training session, a satellite helped establish an immediate voice-and-video link between the rescue teams and specialised doctors from its altitude of 36,000 kilometre" -- <i>Telemedicine to monitor health, control epidemics during natural disasters</i>.</p>
<p>Immigration news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far this year almost <u>3,000</u> Cubans had been stopped at sea while attempting to reach the US, the greatest number in one year since 1994 -- <i>Nearly 3,000 Cubans caught at sea in 2007</i>. <p>Republican presidential contenders Mitt Romney and Rudy Giuliani exchange <i>tougher-than-thou</i> points on illegal immigration -- <i>Romney, Giuliani spar over immigration policy</i>.</p> <p>Homeland Security Changes Asylum Rules -- "Asylum seekers are in detention in federal immigration facilities and county jails around the country. <u>Exactly how many is unknown</u> because ICE has not released statistics for two years, <u>despite congressional mandates</u>".</p> <p>US immigration curbs cut Mexican remittances -- although remittances home to Mexico stand at around \$25B -- third worldwide after China and India -- the growth</p>

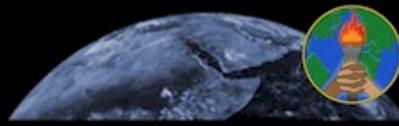


	<p>in flows is now <u>1.4%</u>, rather than the <u>20%</u> seen 2002-2006.</p> <p><i>Illegal immigrants not U.S. health care burden: study</i> -- "<u>Low rates of use of health-care services by Mexican immigrants and similar trends among other Latinos do not support public concern about immigrants' overuse of the health care system</u>".</p>
<p>Justice news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>Washington attacking corporate corruption elsewhere in the world</i> -- "While the investigation of BAE's business practices has followed a circuitous path in Britain, it has recently gained independent momentum in the US, where the Justice Department is now investigating the company".</p> <p><i>Saudi Rape Ruling Puts Govt on Defensive</i> -- it's simple ... the US administration need the Saudis: the Saudis need the Wahhabi psychopaths that run Saudi society.</p> <p><i>Amnesty International</i> puts "<u>enforced disappearances</u>" in Pakistan at more than 2,000 -- <i>Outcry swells over Pakistan's secret prisons</i>.</p>
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>MIS issues warning on Chinese espionage</i> -- "China has been carrying out <u>state-sponsored espionage</u> against British banks and financial services firms ..."</p> <p>"More than <u>100 countries</u> are believed to be using the Internet for espionage ..." -- <i>Rise seen in Internet's role in espionage</i>.</p> <p>"Nearly <u>4%</u> of American adults were victims of identity theft in 2005, but half of them did not incur any out-of-pocket expenses ..." -- <i>8.3 million Americans victims of ID theft</i>.</p> <p>A detailed look at the proposed National Applications Office (NAO) -- <i>Domestic Spying, Inc.</i></p> <p>🚩 More in the growing literature on <i>asymmetric warfare, cultural terrains</i>, and how to lose wars: "We got trapped into thinking that killing / destruction mechanisms of the highest technical quality could replace true human understanding. <u>The vote is in, and we were wrong</u>" -- <i>How technology almost lost the war: in Iraq, the critical networks are social — not electronic</i>.</p> <p>see Economy</p>
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ A detailed discussion of a contentious issue -- is 'adult crime: adult time' a just approach to juvenile crime -- <i>States rethink charging kids as adults</i>.</p> <p>"What is never said, because it cannot be said, is that inequality is a normal feature of capitalist economies, and growing inequality is a <u>natural consequence</u> of capitalism when there is a quiescent working class ..." -- <i>More Unequal: Aspects of Class in the United States</i>.</p>
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<p>• 'Asian Water Development Outlook 2007' says Asian governments need to rethink water policies in the face of increasing water pollution, urbanisation, and natural disasters -- <i>Asian govts should rethink policies to secure water supplies: report</i>.</p> <p><i>The danger of water wars</i> -- "A typical Westerner consumes, directly and through thirsty products like food, <u>about a hundred times their own weight in water every day</u>".</p> <p>A commentary on UNESCO's World Water Assessment Program -- <i>The Growing Global Water Crisis</i>.</p>

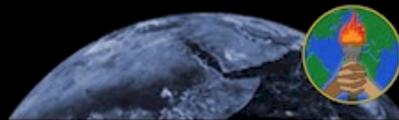
Challengers

<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<p>• A widening poverty gap: Some parameters now put Brazil into the 'High Human Development' group, but other parameters reveal a fall in overall development, below Albania -- <i>Brazil Gets High Human Development Status But Falls in UN Ranking</i>.</p>
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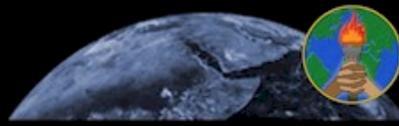


	<p><i>Brazil military in need of new weapons - report</i> -- "Soldiers are fed up with outdated weaponry such as 30-year-old rifles and Korean War-era tanks Of the navy's 21 warships, only 10 are in operation. Just two of its five submarines are in service".</p>
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>'State Security' Arrests in China Doubled in '06, Group Reports</i> -- "prosecutors approved the arrest and detention of <u>604</u> people on the state security charge in 2006, compared with <u>296</u> the year before".</p> <p><i>U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission</i> paints a highly aggressive picture of Chinese space doctrine -- <i>China targeting all 'enemy space vehicles' including GPS satellites.</i></p> <p>Of the several possible reasons for last-minute blocking of the long-arranged visit by the <i>Kitty Hawk</i> battle group to Hong Kong, China says it is recent US arms sales to Taiwan -- <i>China Explains Decision to Block U.S. Ships.</i></p> <p><i>Why China's Bubble Economy Could Go Into Freefall</i> -- "any claims to its one form of legitimacy that formed over the last three decades of scintillating growth will be shattered in less than a year".</p> <p>see Security</p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only good news is that there is room to improve ... "... rice yields in India are <u>one-third</u> of China's and about <u>half</u> of those in Vietnam and Indonesia" -- <i>Rethinking Agriculture.</i> <p><i>Moscow raises price of defence deals with India</i> – Commentators are sure Russia is displeased by nuclear and defense deals with the US; "<i>Moscow is conveying its displeasure by hiking the price of already delayed defence deals with India</i>".</p> <p>Indian politics continues to agonize over the US nuclear deal; nothing short of sovereignty is at stake and the Hindu BJP says the US nuclear deal makes India very much a junior partner -- <i>N-deal does not take away testing right: PM.</i></p> <p><i>India Appeases Radical Islam</i> -- a critical view of India's abilities, with the concession "India's experience offers important lessons to other democracies struggling to integrate large Muslim populations".</p> <p>In Bengal, political incompetence over attempts to grab land in <i>Nandigram</i> (near Kolkata /Calcutta) for development projects is causing widening unrest; "<i>their political isolation [the Marxist government] in West Bengal is complete. Even their allies are openly condemning them</i>" -- <i>Marxists accused over Bengal 'terror'</i>.</p> <p>The coordinated bombings outside civil courts in Lucknow, Faizabad and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh brought forth all the usual theories on who was responsible; some said organised crime networks wanted for trans-border trafficking and pumping forged currency into India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Thailand may be connected to recent bombings, but the Hindu press was sure Pakistan was somehow involved -- <i>U.P. blasts trail leads to Pakistan.</i> Others said India's intelligence-sharing was not good enough to tackle sophisticated threats; "... <i>there was no mechanism for coordination between the Central and State security and intelligence agencies and claimed that Uttar Pradesh was becoming a hub of terrorism</i>" -- <i>Lot of planning behind blasts: Advani.</i></p> <p><i>India plans a new investigating agency</i> – India has no equivalent of the FBI but now considers the massive task of establishing one; "... <i>a new investigating agency at the national level to look into the criminal offenses challenging national security</i>".</p> <p><i>India abandons spy satellite launch under US pressure</i> -- "a dependable source told</p>



	<p><i>DNA that the satellite was "mounted" on the PSLV when the American pressure came. 'We had to literally dismantle it,' he said".</i></p>
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A controversial Egyptian Koranic scholar has canceled a planned appearance in Indonesia after pressure from the government" -- Ministry forces out Islamic scholar [Comment: The government says it simply made a suggestion based on complaints it had received.] <i>"The excessive numbers of security personnel in Papua do not guarantee security in Papua" says a member of the House of Representatives -- Govt told to review troops in Papua.</i> Indonesia continues to make its position clear on the Palestinian Occupied Territories -- RI to recognize Israel when Palestinian State established: Foreign Minister.
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Iranian opposition group in-exile says the UK court judgment to remove Mujahedeen-e Khalq (MEK) from the list of terrorist organizations helps with its regime-change agenda -- British Delisting of Main Iranian Opposition: A nail in the coffin of the Iranian Regime. <i>Iran plays "great game" politics over Turkmenistan</i> -- "... these rivalries will raise Turkmenistan's role in Central Asia, and Ashgabat will need to balance carefully its relations with Russia, China, Central Asia, the South Caucasus, the EU, and the United States". <i>Nuclear fuel will soon be supplied to Bushehr</i> -- with the IAEA about to verify and seal Russian nuclear fuel for the Bushehr power plant, it seems Iran's deadlines have been brought forward. Also: IAEA approves Russian nuclear fuel for Iran -- "Inspection of fuel rod arrays confirmed the enrichment of uranium-235 to lower than 5%, and there have been no complaints about the quality of nuclear fuel and its storage conditions by IAEA inspectors". <i>Iran develops new long-range missile</i> -- "the long-range missile, which is capable of hitting targets as far away as 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles) has been designed and developed by the Defense Ministry". <i>Iranian Navy receives stealth-capable submarine - national TV</i> -- "the submarine, dubbed Ghadir, is reportedly fitted with noise-reduction features and is capable of firing missiles and torpedoes simultaneously".
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Putin promised to boost government spending on science to more than 400 billion rubles (about US\$16.5 billion) by 2010, which is twice this year's spending" -- Putin to double science spending. It's official: Russia suspends the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty; NATO is yet to ratify the amended 1999 version until Russia withdraws its forces from Georgia and Moldova -- Putin Signs Law Suspending Russian Participation in Arms Treaty.
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina wants both, Brazil and Venezuela, as close allies -- Mrs. Kirchner said "we're going to strengthen foreign policy and Venezuela will become a full member of Mercosur." Following heated disagreement during the process to negotiate release of FARC hostages, relations between Venezuela and Colombia are in tatters; "The spat is the bitterest yet between Chavez and the U.S.-allied Uribe ..." -- Chavez: Colombia relations on ice. Also: Venezuela recalls envoy to Colombia -- "The neighboring Andean countries share billions of dollars of trade and a 1,380-mile border. Their

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leaders until now had maintained friendly relations, despite sharply different **ideologies**". But: "The [proposed oil] pipeline [through Colombia to the Pacific coast] means that Chavez needs Colombia more than Colombia needs him" -- *Colombia hopes flap won't hurt*.

As **polls** close on far-reaching **constitutional reforms**, the result seems to be far from the rigged foregone conclusion that critics of **Chavez** predict; "Polls published in the last few days show a decline in support for the reforms, with one giving the "No" vote a 10 percentage point lead ..." --- *Venezuela's Chavez faces toughest vote test*.

Wild Cards
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- A discussion by *Council on Hemispheric Affairs* on the "**red tide**" said by some to be sweeping away all that is good in **Latin America**; "It can be argued that there may never have been a time where **socialism's** modest prospects are so bright as they are in contemporary Latin America" -- *Is the "New Left" Simply More of the Same, or a New Political Force in Latin America?*.

In **Pakistan**, the US thought it was being helpful in encouraging Benazir **Bhutto** and Nawaz **Sharif** to return and participate in national politics but almost all the imaginable **Musharraf – Bhutto – Sharif** marriages of convenience will be joyless; "US-created political combinations and permutations have serious inbuilt irresolvable contradictions" -- *Hobson's choice*. [Comment: Commentators elsewhere say that President Musharraf has an abiding distaste for both of these former politicians; he says he would gladly hand civil power to *anyone* except either of them.]

Pakistan assures the world it's business as usual; official spokesman of the Interior Ministry and Director General **National Crisis Management Cell**, Brigadier (Retd) Javaid Iqbal **Cheema** says "The war on terror is a policy objective of Pakistan and it would never be affected after President **Musharraf** quits the military slot" -- *All but 37 detainees released, says govt*.

As promised, but believed by no-one, President **Musharraf** stepped down as **military chief** -- *Musharraf Retires As Pakistan Army Chief*.

👉 A very impressive piece of **analysis** – which may or may not prove correct -- that sees recent complex events in **Pakistan** as one step in a far larger plan; "What they [the US] don't tell the world is how Pakistan's help secured for them their biggest footprint ever in **energy-rich Central Asia**" -- *The Plan To Topple Pakistan Military*.

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