

**GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

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

**Threat Summary**

	<p><b>Environment.</b> Japan deceitful. US nitrogen run-off killing Gulf of Mexico. Bali kills Kyoto.  <b>Inter-State Conflict.</b> Longest running war in Morocco. Afghanistan in turmoil, US out, Taliban in?  <b>Proliferation.</b> China to meet with North Korea. Clandestine enrichment program suspected.</p>
	<p><b>Poverty.</b> Severe food shortages, severe price increases. \$300M for safe water for poor. India.  <b>Infectious Disease.</b> Bird flu not spreading to humans.  <b>Civil War.</b> Kosovo extremely complex ethnic challenge. Western incompetence in Darfur.  <b>Genocide.</b> Can you name more than one genocide now on-going? Read <a href="#">52 Tough Questions</a>.  <b>Transnational Crime.</b> Cyber-phishing nets \$3.2B from 3.6 million stupid adults.</p>
	<p><b>Other Atrocities.</b> Uruguay's last dictator charges. Guatemala refuses to extradite. Nepal graves.  <b>Terrorism.</b> Al Qaeda way ahead of West in exploiting modern technologies shaping minds.</p>

**Policy Summary**

	<p><b>Diplomacy.</b> Israel Lobby. Increasing attacks across Mexican border. USA obsessive &amp; annoying.  <b>Security.</b> AFRICOM still homeless. Better to be in Tampa with <a href="#">Multinational Decision Support</a>.  <b>Society.</b> US blacks feel displaced by each incoming immigrant wave. Uruguay OK's gay unions.  <b>Water.</b> Nationalization of water to be discussed; Saudi Arabia privatizing. Read <a href="#">Blue Death</a>.</p>
	<p><b>Economy.</b> Wall Street spooked, read <a href="#">Soul of Capitalism</a>. Americans got poor in past six years.  <b>Education.</b> Story time fades in US, education stagnant, while India and Iran seek advances.  <b>Energy.</b> Fuel from waste. Solar for USAF. Wind energy cost competitive. Russia Iran displace US.  <b>Health.</b> Creative people gain six years of life. Health tourist crackdown in UK. US diet horrible.  <b>Immigration.</b> 81% of Americans worried about immigration. 1 Mexican a day dies at border.</p>
	<p><b>Agriculture.</b> Investment opportunities in Cuba. India will have high increase (from a low baseline).  <b>Family.</b> Germans pioneer paid family leave for fathers. US states considering.  <b>Justice.</b> US leaves key attorney positions vacant. Judge hesitant about getting into CIA's face.</p>

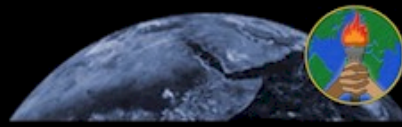
**Major Player Summary**

	<p><b>Brazil.</b> Forgives \$1B investment in Bolivia. This is genius, helps with autonomy rebellion.  <b>China.</b> Hacking United Kingdom Olympic teams for competitor data.  <b>India.</b> Exploring private universities. Four ministerial visits to Colombia. Manipur no ceasefire.  <b>Indonesia.</b> Bali bombers have prison party.  <b>Iran.</b> Iraq seeking education construction. Russia ships nuclear fuel in. 91% inflation.  <b>Russia.</b> Putin on a roll. Appoints Medvedev as heir (youngest since Tsar and no secret/military ties).  <b>Venezuela.</b> Chavez signs new energy accords with Cuba. More cash in suitcases in Miami.  <b>Wild Cards.</b> Balochistan, 42% of Pakistan, least developed. Turkey on Kurds. Islamic self-study.</p>
--	--

**World Crises - monthly assessment by [International Crisis Group](#) - 01 December 2007**

↗	<b>Alert:</b> DR Congo
↓	<b>Deteriorated:</b> Bolivia, Cameroon, Chad, Georgia, Nigeria, North Caucassus, <b>Pakistan</b> , Somalia, Sri Lanka, <b>Venezuela</b>
↑	<b>Improved:</b> Israel/Occupied Territories, Iraq, Sierra Leone
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unchanged:</b> 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</li> </ul>

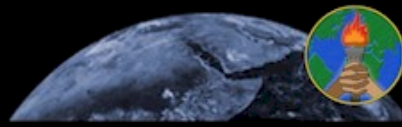
↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------



**Threats** see *daily items with links to full stories on the web at* [PDB-Threats](#)

<p><b>Poverty</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <a href="#">U.S. invests in initiative to ensure safe water</a> -- [Despite the title] A survey of <b>US clean-coal</b> initiatives, with a mention of the (meagre) \$300 million to fund <b>foreign aid</b> under the <b>Water for the Poor Act</b> of 2005.</p> <p><a href="#">Urban poverty in India</a> -- an evocative photo-essay on <b>Mumbai's Dharavi</b>, allegedly <b>Asia's biggest slum</b>.</p> <p><a href="#">Severe food shortages, price spikes threaten world population</a> -- "terrorism" becomes a walk in the park -- "<i>the <b>FAO's food price index</b> rose by <b>40%</b> this year, on top of the already high <b>9%</b> increase the year before, and the <b>poorest countries</b> spent <b>25%</b> more this year on imported food.</i>"</p>
<p><b>Infectious Disease</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>• <a href="#">WHO says spread of bird flu among humans limited</a> -- <b>WHO</b> says there may have been a case or two of "<b>limited human-to-human transmission</b>" of <b>H5N1</b>; the good news ... it was "<b>very circumscribed area and not sustained</b>".</p>
<p><b>Environment</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <b>THE UNFORGIVEN AGAIN DOING THE UNFORGIVABLE</b> -- <a href="#">Under pressure, Japan delays plan to hunt the humpback</a> -- the morally-bankrupt, treacherous, and insular <b>Japanese</b> add duck-and-weave tactics to their deceit.</p> <p><i>"The <b>nitrogen run off</b> from the <b>Corn Belt</b> states in <b>US</b> is rendering <b>Gulf of Mexico</b> increasingly <b>sterile</b>, meaning an area so <b>oxygen-depleted</b> that no marine organism will grow there"</i> -- <a href="#">Nitrogen runoff from corn fields destroying marine life</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">What did Bali achieve? [Analysis]</a> -- "... experts are convinced that the <b>negotiations in Bali</b> were a walk in the park compared to those leading up to <b>Copenhagen in 2009</b>".</p> <p><b>GREED AND FEAR TRIUMPH</b> -- "<i>The <b>Bali Roadmap</b> is essentially an agreement to start a <b>two-year</b> process of <b>negotiations</b> designed to agree on a <b>new set of emissions targets</b> to replace those in the <b>Kyoto Protocol</b>"</i> -- <a href="#">Climate Change: measuring Bali by a scientific yardstick</a>.</p>
<p><b>Inter-State Conflict</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>• President Hamid <b>Karzai</b> says "<b>Afghanistan</b> is not a stronghold of <b>terrorism</b>, <b>Afghanistan</b> is a <b>victim</b> of terrorism. The strongholds are outside <b>Afghanistan</b>, they get <b>trained</b> and <b>equipped abroad</b>". [i.e. <b>Pakistan's ungovernable areas</b>] -- <a href="#">Afghan president calls for forgiveness of Taliban</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">US orders review of Afghan mission</a> -- "... an <b>elaborate</b> review of the <b>US mission in Afghanistan</b> amid fears <b>Taliban</b> and <b>al-Qaeda</b> forces are gaining ground ...".</p> <p><b>ONE OF THE LONGEST, LEAST-KNOWN WARS</b> -- <a href="#">Morocco says Polisario war threat will backfire</a> -- "<b>Peacekeepers</b> have watched over <b>Western Sahara</b> since <b>1991</b> when the <b>U.N.</b> brokered a ceasefire to end a guerrilla war between independence movement <b>Polisario Front</b> and <b>Morocco</b> ..."</p>
<p><b>Civil War</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <b>WESTERN INCOMPETENCE HAS NO LIMITS</b> -- <a href="#">Darfur peacekeepers 'set up for failure'</a> -- "<i>The new <b>hybrid peacekeeping force</b> for <b>Darfur</b> is being set up to fail</i>" said a statement from <b>35 aid groups</b>. Also: <a href="#">Darfur rebels 'win major victory'</a> -- "<i>we defeated two battalions and chased them to within 7km [4 miles] of <b>el-Geneina</b> [extreme west of Darfur, Sudan]</i>".</p> <p><b>BALKANIZING THE BALKANS</b> -- <a href="#">Analysis: Inside the Kosovo negotiations</a> -- "<i>the <b>Kosovo</b> issue poses <b>one of Europe's</b> greatest trickiest <b>ethnic conflicts</b></i>".</p>
<p><b>Genocide</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>• [nothing significant to summarize -- see <i>News List</i>]</p>
<p><b>Other</b></p>	<p>↓ <a href="#">Nepal finds possible burial site of "disappeared"</a> -- "<b>Nepal's</b> human rights</p>

↓ deteriorated      • steady      ↑ improved      ↗ ALERT



**Atrocities**

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

commission said on [20 Dec 2007] it had found what may be a **burial or cremation site** of civilians who disappeared during the country's decade-long war against **Maoist rebels**".

"**Nobel Peace Prize laureate Rigoberta Menchu** lashed out Monday against a **Guatemalan high court decision** not to arrest or extradite former **military officers** accused of **genocide, torture and terrorism ...**" -- [Menchu Criticizes Guatemalan High Court](#).

"**Uruguay's last military dictator, Gregorio Alvarez**, was charged [17 Dec 2007] with the forced **disappearance** of political prisoners ..." -- [Former Uruguayan dictator detained](#)

[Nigeria 'carrying out secret executions'](#) -- "The Nigerian government has been **misleading the world**" said **Amnesty's Africa programme**.

**Proliferation**

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

- **DPRK** has already been receiving **fuel oil** since it shut down its main **nuclear facilities** at **Yongbyon** in July 2007, but new discoveries suggest there may be yet another **clandestine enrichment program** -- [Koreas, China to meet on NKorea energy aid - officials](#).

**Terrorism**

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

- [Terrorists to use virtual worlds to train](#) -- terror groups tend to be "**early adopters of new technologies** -- especially if they're cheap and easy to acquire."

**Al-Qaeda's** media arm, **al-Sahab**, has invited individuals, organisations and journalists to submit questions for an **open interview** with **Ayman al-Zawahiri**; "*It shows how this group with **7th Century ideology** is exploiting **21st Century media capabilities***" -- [Al-Qaeda to give 'open interview'](#).

Although **Sri Lanka's** deadly **insurgency** is plainly a **local ethnic** matter, Sri Lanka continues to be at pains to demonstrate it is one of '**international terrorism**' -- [Globalisation makes one country's terrorism the problem of others - Envoy](#).

[FBI, CIA debate significance of terror suspect](#) -- a detailed account of how the **CIA** and **FBI** account of the **questioning** of **Abu Zubaida** differs on almost all particulars.

A **British terrorist** suspect accused of plotting to blow up a dozen **transatlantic airliners** has slipped his cuffs outside an **extradition** hearing at an **Islamabad** court and **escaped** -- [Pakistan manhunt for escaped British terror suspect](#).

[The Waziristan Accord](#) -- a detailed investigation of the complex social contracts in north-west **Pakistan**.

**India** asks is "terrorism" spawned by **lack of development**, or by deeper **political** issues? -- [Indian officials clash on terrorism causes](#).

**Transnational Crime**

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

- [Phishing attacks net cybercriminals \\$3.2B](#) -- "3.6 million adults lost money in **phishing e-mail attacks** in the 12 months ending in August 2007, as compared with 2.3 million the year before".

[Brazilian drug traffickers open fire on Santa Claus](#) -- "**drug traffickers** opened fire on a helicopter ferrying a **Santa** to a children's party, after apparently mistaking it for a **police chopper**".

**Policy**

see [daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Policy](#)

**Agriculture**

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

- **USDA** says **India** will have the **highest increase** in **rice** production over the next 10 years; followed by **Thailand** and **Vietnam**; **China's** production, still largest in absolute terms, will decline slightly -- [India to see biggest rise in rice output by 2016](#).

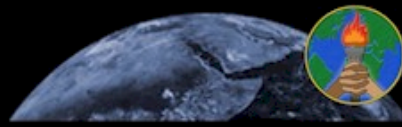
HEALTHY REVISION STIRS IN CUBA -- "[Acting Cuban President Raul Castro](#) said in

↓ deteriorated

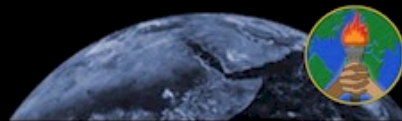
• steady

↑ improved

↗ ALERT



	<p>July [2007] the state of the state-dominated sector was unacceptable" -- <u>50%</u> of <b>arable land</b> lays fallow with <b>food imports</b> at <u>\$2B</u> annually -- <i>Cuba eyes more foreign investment in agriculture.</i></p> <p>A WAR AS BIG AS THE COMING WATER WARS -- <i>Seed Sharing or Biopiracy</i> -- brief excerpts from the book 'Biopiracy of Biodiversity: Global Exchange as Enclosure' with some key links on the subject.</p> <p>see: <b>Security</b> (New DHS post will focus on agriculture)</p>
<p><b>Diplomacy</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Israel Lobby Revisited</i> -- a detailed <i>Foreign Policy in Focus</i> paper (further to the <b>Mearsheimer</b> and <b>Walt</b> thesis ) that seems in part to be an apologia for the "<b>Israel Lobby</b>".</li> </ul> <p><i>Families pay as U.S. agents under attack fire tear gas into Mexico</i> -- "<b>Border Patrol</b> agents are firing <b>tear gas</b> and powerful <b>pepper-spray</b> weapons across the <b>border</b> into <b>Mexico</b> to repel what the agency says are an increasing number of <b>attacks</b>".</p> <p>TRADE AS DOCTRINE -- <i>U.S.-Colombia 'free trade' pact would bolster U.S. influence in South America</i> -- "the ratification of the [FTA] pact would send an unequivocal message to the people of <b>Colombia</b>, the opposition in <b>Venezuela</b> and the wider region that they do not stand alone against <b>Chávez</b>".</p> <p><b>Bangladesh</b> asks why all this obsessive pressure for "<b>democracy</b>" on <b>Pakistan</b> when the same shortcomings exist in <b>Myanmar</b>, <b>Bangladesh</b>, <b>China</b>, and other nearby nations -- <i>USA unnecessarily harassing Pakistan?</i></p> <p>"It is no secret that many in the <b>Pentagon</b> consider the <b>Somali</b> port city of <b>Berbera</b> as the ideal location for <b>AFRICOM</b>" -- <i>The Africa Command prospect and the partition of Somalia.</i></p>
<p><b>Economy</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <i>Ghost of stagflation past spooks Wall Street</i> -- "<b>Stagflation</b>, which refers to when <u>prices rise</u> and <u>growth stagnates</u>, was last seen in the late <u>1970s</u>".</p> <p><i>Americans got poorer in the past 6 Years' economic "Boom"</i> -- "<b>Deficits</b> didn't matter, people believed; <b>Dick Cheney</b> said so. It was <b>capitalism</b> without mistakes, where <u>no matter how stupid you were...</u>".</p> <p><i>Recession or not, economists glum about 2008</i> -- "this <b>recession</b> will be <b>deeper</b>, more <b>protracted</b> and <b>severe</b> than the last recession and the one in the 1990s.... <u>Others expect the nation to avoid recession, if only barely</u>".</p> <p><i>Congress mulling ways to spur weak U.S. economy</i> -- does that god-directed invisible hand in the marketplace need some hand-holding?</p>
<p><b>Education</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Story time fades from family life, study finds</i> -- blame it on <b>working parents</b> or <b>TV</b> ... US children are losing the vital age-old <b>human skills</b> of narrative, imagination, and creativity.</li> </ul> <p><i>Pre-school attracts more education dollars</i> -- "hoping for a future payoff of better schools and sharper students, states are aggressively expanding publicly funded programs to the youngest students — 4 or even 3 years old"; but there are skeptics.</p> <p>see: <b>India</b> (<i>Indian Dreams of Private Universities</i>)</p> <p>see: <b>Iran</b> (<i>Iraq seeks Iran education co-op</i>)</p>
<p><b>Energy</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President <b>Carter's Biomass Energy and Alcohol Fuels Act</b> of <u>1979</u> was buried soon after he lost office; short sighted politics prevail in the US over <b>INTRINSIC MERITS</b> of competing <b>energy strategies</b> -- <i>Oil Rigging Elections.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Fuel from waste</i> -- "a <b>portable system</b> that converts <b>coal</b>, <b>natural gas</b>, and <b>biomass</b></p>



into *diesel and jet fuel*".

A 140 acres of 72,000 solar panels using the *SunPower Tracker* technology will support over 12,000 military and civilians at *Nellis Air-Force Base* -- *Largest Solar Array in North America: Nellis AFB*.

*A snapshot of the U.S. wind industry* -- "*wind energy is now often directly cost competitive with fossil-fuel generation, and at times is a least-cost supply option*".

"*Carbon dioxide is a combustion product, so what we're doing is **reversing combustion***" says **Sandia National Laboratories** -- *Turning carbon dioxide into fuel*.

*Energy and political risk in 2008* -- a useful *futurecast*.

*America's energy future* -- "for those of us less engaged with any one of [the presidential candidates], the more important point is that the **post-Bush era** is at last upon us and it looks promising indeed".

"the **Bush** administration has identified **Central Asia** as a promising alternative to the volatile **Middle East** as a source for **oil and natural gas**" -- *Central Asia on front line in energy battle*. [Comment: **China** has also, and China is a neighbor.]

"If current trends prevail, the **Kremlin** could translate its **energy monopoly** into untenable **foreign and security policy** influence in **Europe** to the detriment of European-American relations" -- *Russia, Iran tighten the energy noose*.

**Family**  
news list|forecast

- *Fathers blew the budget for 2007. I think it's the best thing that could have happened to our country.* - German Family Minister

*German Family Minister Calls New Parental Leave Law a Success* -- One parent can take a year from work after the birth of a child and receive two-thirds of their pay from the state; "*Fathers blew the budget for 2007. I think it's the best thing that could have happened to our country.*"

*Paid family leave looms as major unfinished business* -- **New Jersey** may (or may not) become the third state, after **California** and **Washington**; **Federal law** already has provisions for workers in businesses with at least 50 employees.

**Health**  
news list|forecast

- *Creative work has health advantages, study shows* -- "*the health advantage of being somewhat above average in **creative work** (in the 60th percentile) versus being somewhat below average (in the 40th percentile) is equal to being 6.7 years younger*".

*NHS to curb health tourists* -- "*only **British** and **EU** citizens, and people ordinarily resident in Britain, are entitled to **full state care***" -- under public pressure, a **crackdown** is on. [NHS -- UK National Health Service]

MAJOR US STUDY CONFIRMS THE WAR ON POVERTY IS WORKING -- *Cancer survival linked to health insurance* -- -- cancer patients without health insurance were more than *one and a half times* as likely to die from the disease and cancers well detected by **early screening** were a particular cause of mortality.

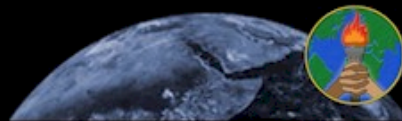
*Diet regimen of 'Medieval' humans is far healthier than the modern ones* -- "*medieval meals were perhaps much better than the much-touted '**Mediterranean**' diet enjoyed by the Romans*".

**Immigration**  
news list|forecast

- "*Arizona's stringent new **employer sanctions law** already is producing results, not all of which were anticipated*" -- a careful, useful examination of the immigration issue at the coal-face -- *Experts predict employer sanctions will hurt AZ*.

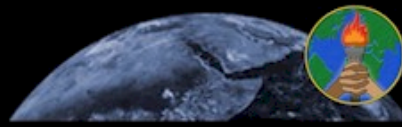
*Immigration issue more important than ever for U.S. presidential race* -- 81% of

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



	<p>Americans say the immigration issue is <i>important</i>, but a solution is no closer while the centre of the issue is a quagmire of <i>laissez faire</i> hypocrisy.</p> <p><i>Bad year for immigrants</i> -- "more than <u>one Mexican a day</u> <b>died</b> this year while attempting to cross the <b>U.S. border</b>, and there are no prospects for that number to drop over the next year".</p>
<p><b>Justice</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Several top positions at <b>Justice Department</b> unfilled</i> -- "the <b>White House</b> has made an abysmal effort to send <b>nominees</b> to the Senate to replace the <u>fired</u> <b>U.S. attorneys</b> and to fill vacancies in those districts and many others".</li> <li><i>Judge reluctant to probe tapes case</i> -- a <b>U.S. District Judge</b> notes that he must look at the referred matter only; he does not have powers of an <i>examining magistrate</i> [under <i>Code Napoleon</i>] to examine if <u>other crimes</u> had been committed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Security</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>New <b>DHS</b> post will focus on agriculture</i> -- "the <b>agricultural inspection</b> function [for aggressive <b>pests</b> and virulent plant <b>diseases</b>] was taking a back seat to efforts to secure the nation against <b>terrorism</b>".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Society</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <i>Uruguay OKs gay unions in Latin American first</i> -- "the <u>first nationwide law</u> of its kind in Latin America".</p> <p>"Blacks feel they are left out of the 'American Dream' and are being displaced by newcomers, and each group buys into the <b>negative stereotypes</b> about the other two" -      - 'Deep suspicion marks relations between minority groups in US'.</p>
<p><b>Water</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <i>Bahrain to host Gulf Water Conference</i> -- the issue of <b>nationalisation</b> of <b>water desalination</b> in the <b>GCC</b> countries will be discussed as a side-event. [Comment: <u>Privatization</u> of <b>desalination</b> is proceeding apace in <b>Saudi Arabia</b>.]</p> <p><i>For some, fluoridated water still hard to swallow</i> -- all about <b>tooth-decay</b> ... or attack of the black helicopters -- the debate has little changed in 50 years.</p>
<p><b>Challengers</b>      see <i>daily items with links to full stories on the web at <b>PDB-Challengers</b></i></p>	
<p><b>Brazil</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Brazil tells Bolivia all's forgiven with <b>US\$ 1 billion investment</b></i> – the move is "powerful political support from <b>Bolivia's</b> largest neighbor to embattled President <b>Evo Morales</b> who faces an "<b>autonomy rebellion</b>" from the country's <u>four richest provinces</u>".</li> </ul>
<p><b>China</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<p>↑ <i>U.K. Olympic teams hacked from China</i> -- "the suspicion was that they were out to steal <b>performance data</b> of the kind that might be useful to the team's competitors".</p>
<p><b>India</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Indian Dreams of Private Universities</i> -- "the nation is becoming a laboratory for <b>capitalism's</b> potential to provide <u>the answer for education</u>, but also a showcase for possible <u>pitfalls</u>".</li> <li><i>Colombia's growing tango with India</i> -- "As opposed to the odd <b>ministerial visit</b> every other year, 2007 has witnessed <u>four Indian ministers</u> finding their way to the 46-million strong country, which is often credited for having the <b>best-educated workforce</b> in South America".</li> <li>NAGALAND -- <i>Militancy on the wane in northeast</i> -- "he referred to the recent truce between the two factions of the insurgent <b>National Socialist Council of Nagaland</b> and said it was a harbinger for peace in the region."</li> <li><i>Rebel crisis continues in Manipur</i> -- "<b>Manipur</b>, bordering <b>Myanmar</b>, is the only state in India's restive <b>northeast</b> where <u>none</u> of the frontline separatist groups has entered into a <b>ceasefire</b> with the government".</li> </ul> <p><b>LAND DISPLACEMENT IS THE KEY TO MANY INSURGENCIES IN INDIA</b> -- <i>Report: Over</i></p>

↓ deteriorated      • steady      ↑ improved      ↗ ALERT



*1.4 million displaced by industrial projects in India* -- "over 72% of respondents during a survey that is part of the study said they opposed **displacement** while 86% said they resisted it through joining **people's movements**".

*Indian Maoists suffer serious jolt* -- "the arrest of Malla Raji **Reddy**, alias **Sattenna**, a member of the **Maoist Central Committee**, in Angamaly town, is considered a big blow to the Maoist movement".

*Naxalism is not a political issue: govt* -- "the meeting comes in the backdrop of a series of terror attacks, the latest being the **serial blasts** in three **Uttar Pradesh** towns last month".

*Maoists' capabilities increased* -- "... the rebels are carefully targeting all aspects of economic activity so as to cripple **transport** and **logistical capabilities** and also slow down **development** activity".

*Indian police raid terror training camp* -- "a joint camp of the banned **Hynniewtrep National Liberation Council** and the **National Liberation Front of Tripura** in Narpuh in a reserved forest along the **Cachar-Jaintia Hills** on the **Indo-Bangladesh border**".

... AND **ETHNIC ALIENATION** IS ANOTHER MAJOR CAUSE OF INSURGENCY -- *Politics of language* -- "Most **ethnic groups** of the **Northeast** want their **dialects** to be officially recognised under the **Eighth Schedule**".

*Last yr, one blast in less than 2 days: grim news on table today* -- "There were as many as 269 bombings across India last year ..."; quick **statistics** from across India.  
 see: **Terrorism**

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

- *Outrage over Bali bombers' prison party* -- Some are "outraged" at a **prison visit** to the men condemned for the **Bali bombing** -- on what basis a prison visit – for a "party" devoid of balloons or alcohol -- should be denied is unclear.



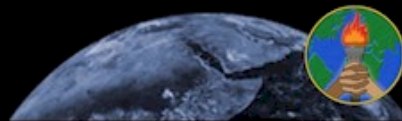
**Iran**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- *Iraq seeks Iran education co-op* -- "Iranian **school** construction benefactors are ready to visit **Iraq** as soon as possible to examine the potential for their charitable activities in the country". [Comment: Iran is **Shi'ite**, not **Wahhabi**.]

*Russia Ships First Lot of Nuclear Fuel to Iran* -- "the **Russian Foreign Ministry** expressed a similar view, saying that the deliveries mean Iran has 'no objective need' for its own **uranium enrichment program**".

*Iran's push into Nicaragua a worry for U.S., allies* -- "No one disagrees that old **grudges** and American **neglect** helped open the door for Iran".

Former commander of the **Revolutionary Guards** and other key **conservatives** are warning President **Ahmadinejad** that he must balance immense **infrastructure**



	<p><i>spending</i> against <i>inflation</i> now at <u>19.1%</u> -- <i>Iran conservatives slam Ahmadinejad on economy</i>.</p>
<p><b>Russia</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VLAD THE IMPALER GOES PLATINUM -- <i>Person of the Year: Russian President Putin</i>. ANOTHER CHESS MOVE -- <i>Vladimir Putin rejects hardliners to anoint Dmitri Medvedev as heir to Kremlin throne</i> -- Medvedev would be the <u>youngest leader</u> since <i>Tsar Nicholas II</i> and the first <u>without ties</u> to the <i>military</i> or the <i>secret police</i>. [Comment: Prime Minister Apparent Putin would be the sole conduit between a President Apparent Medvedev and those agencies.]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Venezuela</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Energy</i> (and <i>politics</i>) continues to be a leading element in Venezuela's growing web on <i>diplomatic alliances</i> -- <i>Chavez signs new energy deal, accords with Cuba</i>. A CASH-IN-SUITCASE SCANDAL HOTS UP -- <i>Venezuela says U.S. trying to divide Latin America</i> -- "<i>Chavez ... denied that three Venezuelan businessmen arrested in Miami last week in connection with the case were agents for the Venezuelan government, as charged by Washington</i>".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wild Cards</b>  <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAKISTAN -- <i>Why peace in Balochistan is crucial</i> -- "<i>Balochistan, which forms 42% of the entire territory of Pakistan, is the largest but also the least developed province in the country</i>". [Comment: Balochistan is also the location of the strategic <i>Sino-Pakistan</i> port project of <i>Gwadar</i>.]</li> <li>TURKEY -- <i>Turkish army deals 'heavy blow' to Kurd rebels in Iraq</i> -- "... began overnight after the army <i>"received images"</i> of a <i>rebel group</i> attempting to sneak across the <i>border</i>". [Comment: There is little doubt where the <i>imagery</i> originated.]</li> <li>MORE SELF-CRITICISM BY ISLAMIC INTELLECTUALS -- <i>Ignorance is our worst enemy</i> -- "<i>although the Muslim world may control 60% of the world's known oil reserves, its gross GDP stands at \$1,200B, a paltry sum compared with Germany's \$2,700B and Japan's \$5,600B</i>".</li> </ul>

20071224w [087]

**This is a free public service**  
to be included on the weekly email list, go to . . .  
[http://meta2.com/pdb/pdb\\_weeklysummarylist.htm](http://meta2.com/pdb/pdb_weeklysummarylist.htm)

**Free Decision-Support Training**  
<http://www.earth-intelligence.net>

**Free New Book on Collective Intelligence**  
[www.oss.net/CIB](http://www.oss.net/CIB)

.oOo.