

**GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

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

**Threat Summary**

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Environment.</b> UCLA Dean of Public Health points to looming health crisis from global warming.<br/> <b>Inter-State Conflict.</b> Al-Qaeda in Iraq drops from 600 to 20. Taliban rising \$100M from opium.<br/> <b>Proliferation.</b> Relationships help. Editor's note: Not as long as Security Council members sell arms.</p>  |
| <p><b>Poverty.</b> Access to information vital to the poor. Strategic move: focus on cutting food/cooking costs<br/> <b>Infectious Disease.</b> Mysterious new bird flu in Indonesia. US needle policy nuts. Bacteria in Japan.<br/> <b>Civil War.</b> More legacies of European colonialism. Bangladesh worse than ever. Sudan, Somalia.<br/> <b>Genocide.</b> Training local leaders in genocide prevention. Rwanda bans promotion of genocide.<br/> <b>Transnational Crime.</b> Nicaragua pledges cooperation. Better armed, more aircraft, than police.</p> |
| <p><b>Other Atrocities.</b> Landmines block development in Egypt. Southeast Asian human trafficking.<br/> <b>Terrorism.</b> Tide is turning within Islam, against Al Qaeda. US spy chief claims Al Qaeda everywhere.</p>  |

**Policy Summary**

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Diplomacy.</b> US presidential candidates on Latin America. Disconnect religion from extremism.<br/> <b>Security.</b> First responders need situational awareness. Spies move into cyberspace. Hacker scare.<br/> <b>Society.</b> Bush ignores troop-benefits including GI educational refreshment. E-voting not reliable.<br/> <b>Water.</b> Shortages could lead to violence. Editor: water scarcity coincides with ethnic fault lines.</p>   |
| <p><b>Economy.</b> US dollar known as the "Bernanke Peso," with 30% lost value in 7 years. Global risk.<br/> <b>Education.</b> Neither Clinton nor Obama have a sound educational policy. Gold rush abroad.<br/> <b>Energy.</b> Militarization of energy. Hydrogen fuel in India. Europe vulnerable. Bacteria energy.<br/> <b>Health.</b> Spouse's health and hospitalization has effects on partner's health.<br/> <b>Immigration.</b> Courts uphold local immigration laws. Facts on US. Issue not addressed by candidates.</p> |
| <p><b>Agriculture.</b> WTO seeks US reduction of subsidies while White House shuns agricultural community.<br/> <b>Family.</b> Military families can have more time once, not each year, for family and medical leave.<br/> <b>Justice.</b> Government withholding secret evidence while seeking to try 6 at Guantanamo.</p>  |

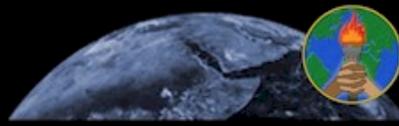
**Major Player Summary**

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Brazil.</b> Carnival Week. Our correspondent is running naked on the beach, seriously inebriated.<br/> <b>China.</b> Two fracture zones: Uyghur youth, and Tibet. Editor: <a href="#">Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion</a> is superb.<br/> <b>India.</b> LPG crisis. Deepens ties with Russia. Challenges Islamabad on gas pipeline transit fees.<br/> <b>Indonesia.</b> Considering intelligence reform. New Australia-Indonesia security pact.<br/> <b>Iran.</b> Iran is changing in complex ways, younger less powerful elite. Rocket reaches space.<br/> <b>Russia.</b> Needs \$1 trillion for economy. US missiles in Europe a stupid idea. See Memorandum<br/> <b>Venezuela.</b> High Court favors Exxon over President Chavez. He threatens nationalization of food.<br/> <b>Wild Cards.</b> Water distribution issues. Retired officers ask Musharraf to step down. NWFP/FATA.</p> |
|---|

**World Crises - monthly assessment by [International Crisis Group](#) - 01 February 2008**

|  |
|--|
| <p><b>Alert:</b> Chad, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan</p>  |
| <p><b>Deteriorated:</b> Chad, Kenya, Lebanon, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Zimbabwe</p>  |
| <p><b>Improved:</b> DR Congo</p>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unchanged:</b> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chechnya (Russia), Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India (non-Kashmir), Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel/occupied Territories, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somaliland (Somalia), Sudan, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara</li> </ul> |

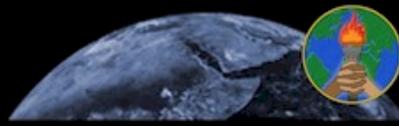
↓ deteriorated      • steady      ↑ improved      ⚡ ALERT



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

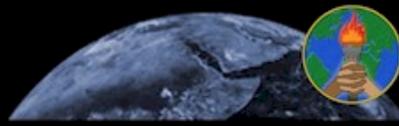
|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Poverty</b><br/> <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Rich-poor "digital divide" still broad, says UNCTAD</i> -- not bread alone – <i>subsistence</i> needs are one thing, true equal opportunity now includes <i>access to information</i>.</li> <li>• <i>Indonesia, India battle to cut cooking, food costs for masses</i> -- a very useful snapshot of <i>strategic measures Asian governments</i> are taking against <i>rising prices</i> of essential <i>food</i> items.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Infectious Disease</b><br/> <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>   | <p>↓ <i>Six die of incurable bacteria infection: Japan hospital</i> -- "<i>Pseudomonas Aeruginosa</i> is a common <i>bacteria</i> found in moist ground and water, usually not contagious to a healthy human body. But it can develop into an infection when an individual has a weak immune system".</p> <p><i>U.S. needle policy hurts AIDS sufferers</i> -- "while <i>HIV/AIDS</i> decimates our community, our nation has failed to implement a <i>national health policy</i> that addresses how this disease is spread. Nowhere is this discrepancy as great as over the issue of <i>needle exchange</i>".</p> <p><i>'Mysterious' bird flu baffles Indonesian scientists</i> -- "officials from the ministry of agriculture's <i>bird flu control unit</i> told a media briefing that the <i>risk factors</i> for human infection remained <i>unclear</i> after studies were conducted around victims' homes.... 'It's a <i>very difficult virus to control</i>".</p>   |
| <p><b>Environment</b><br/> <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>UCLA Dean of Public Health</i> says "<i>The United States has a window now to prepare for some of the health consequences of global warming</i>" -- <i>Preparing for global warming's health crisis</i></li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Inter-State Conflict</b><br/> <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Diary of an insurgent in retreat: al-Qaeda in Iraq figure lists woes</i> -- "he once had <i>600 men</i>, but now his force was down to <i>20 or fewer</i>, he wrote".</li> <li>• <i>Taliban to Raise \$100 Million From Afghan Opium Crop</i> -- "<i>Afghanistan provides more than 90% of the world's supply of opium</i> ..."</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Civil War</b><br/> <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>            | <p>↓ <i>War in Sri Lanka is the Legacy left by the European Colonialism [Interview]</i> -- "<i>Sri Lanka is an unfortunate case study of how the former colonial powers set one ethnic group against another in order to perpetuate their own power through divide and conquer strategies</i>" [in depth] <i>Sri Lanka may be heading for military stalemate</i> -- "... since mid-2007, the Sri Lankan ground forces have <i>not been able to show any notable successes</i> ..."</p> <p><b>Bangladesh:</b> "<i>The situation is so bad that many wish for the bad old days, when corrupt politicians ruled the roost</i> ..." -- <i>Bangla crisis is not 'fundamentalism'</i>.</p> <p>Sheik <b>Sharif Sheik</b>, former leader of the deposed <b>Union of Islamic Courts</b>, says there is <i>no government</i> to negotiate with in <b>Somalia</b> while it is under <b>Ethiopian "occupation"</b> -- <i>No government in Somalia, Islamist leader says</i>.</p> <p><i>U.N. compound in Somali capital attacked; no deaths reported</i> -- "the group attacked our headquarters using many different weapons".</p> <p><i>Ogaden crackdown carries high cost</i> -- "... is causing immense suffering by the local <b>Somali</b> population, according to <b>Human Rights Watch</b> ..."</p> <p><i>Sudanese militia attack Darfur towns</i> -- "the militia stand accused of widespread atrocities and the <b>International Criminal Court (ICC)</b> has issued <b>arrest warrants</b> for a <b>junior cabinet minister</b> and an <b>allied militia leader</b> accused of war crimes. <b>Khartoum</b> refuses to hand them over". <i>U.N. force in Darfur to get helicopters</i> -- "<i>Ethiopia</i> promised the use of three attack and two transport helicopters, while</p> |

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



|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p><i>Bangladesh's offer is less clear ..."</i></p> <p><i>If Chad coup succeeds, Darfur crisis could deepen -- Christian Science Monitor analysis on the interconnections.</i></p> <p>The <i>rebel</i> attempted <i>coup</i> in <i>Chad</i> seems to have been repulsed -- <i>Chad president declares victory, ICRC puts toll at 160 dead.</i></p> <p><i>Africa must boost Arab ties to build peace - AU -- "Africa [i.e. 'sub-Saharan' Africa] should deepen its ties to the Arab world to help end a <u>spate of conflicts in the regions of Africa where Africans and Arabs meet ..."</u></i></p>  |
| <p><b>Genocide</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Rwanda parliament votes to ban 'promotion of genocide' -- "the Rwandan Chamber of Deputies has passed legislation that would make promoting 'genocide ideology' a crime, punishable by life in prison for the worse offenders".</i></li> </ul> <p>A step towards <u>prevention</u> of future genocides: <i>Local leaders train in conflict management -- "ninety local leaders of Gatsata Sector, Gasabo District were recently trained in <b>conflict management, unity and reconciliation, development, Gacaca jurisdictions [traditional courts] and good governance</b>".</i></p> <p><i>Spain indicts 40 Rwandan soldiers -- "It is the first time <b>Tutsis</b> from the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) have been charged with <b>war crimes</b> committed in Rwanda ..."</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Other Atrocities</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Philippines: "... <b>traffickers</b> have been recruiting younger and younger victims because they command higher prices in the <b>sex trade</b>" -- <i>False promises lure more and younger victims, conference reveals.</i> "... scores of <b>young women</b> from the <b>Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta region in Viet Nam</b> had been enticed by promises of <u>well-paid work as waitresses in Malaysia</u>" -- <i>Malaysia, Viet Nam police to investigate human trafficking.</i></i></li> </ul> <p><i>Argentine dirty war trial opens -- "the last <b>army chief</b> from <b>Argentina's dictatorship</b> and five other retired officers went on <b>trial</b> [05 Feb 2008] ..." <i>Argentina arrests 2 in 1972 massacre -- "They face charges of <b>torture, homicide, attempted homicide and illegal detentions</b>".</i></i></p> <p><i>"A vast coastal strip in <b>Egypt's</b> northwest between the city of <b>Alamein</b> and the border with <b>Libya</b> cannot be developed because of an estimated <u>22 million landmines</u> ..." -- <i>Unexploded mines block development in northwest.</i></i></p> <p><i>Nepal hands kidney racket suspect to India -- "He is accused of <b>duping</b> or <b>forcing</b> hundreds of poor labourers into donating their <b>organs</b> to wealthy clients."</i></p> |
| <p><b>Proliferation</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Proliferation program effective? [Analysis] -- "IPP's real triumph lies in <b>relationships</b>, said Christina Chuen of the <b>Center for Nonproliferation Studies</b>, a non-governmental research organization".</i></li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Terrorism</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Qaida may be losing support among Muslims: intelligence chief -- "In the last year to 18 months, <b>al-Qaida</b> has had difficulty in <b>fund-raising</b> and sustaining themselves" <b>McConnell</b> said, while <b>Hayden</b> said there seems to be increasing willingness in the <b>Islamic world</b> to <u>question al Qaida's vision</u>.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>U.S. spy chief: <b>Iraq Qaida</b> making cells elsewhere -- "<b>al-Qaida</b> remains the <b>pre eminent threat</b> against the <b>United States</b>, both here at home and abroad" <b>McConnell</b> said.</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Transnational Crime</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Nicaragua pledges drug cooperation -- "we are seriously committed to the fight on <b>drug trafficking</b> because <u>the poorer the country, the more easily it can fall apart</u>" <b>Ortega</b> said at a meeting with <b>DEA</b> chief of operations.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Mexico drug lords armed to the hilt -- "... captured <b>AR-15</b> rifles have adaptations to</i></p>  |

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



make them into **grenade launchers** and the calibers are the ones exclusively used by the **Army**".

**FBI probes purchases of US aircraft by drug lords** -- "... a confederation of individuals whose job was to scout out U.S. aircraft desired by Venezuela-based drug traffickers and help **broker transactions** to buy them to **ferry cocaine** ..."

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

**Agriculture**  
 news list|forecast

• **WTO issues revised proposals on agriculture, NAMA negotiations** -- "... the WTO's **chief farm trade negotiator**, suggest that the **United States** reduce its **agricultural subsidies** to between 13 billion and 16.4 billion U.S. dollars".

**White House race seen shunning agriculture** -- "I have yet to hear anything mentioning the word agriculture... " [Comment: The **corn - ethanol - cattle-feed** nexus is a contentious **agro-energy** issue.]

**Diplomacy**  
 news list|forecast

• **Peace Corps, Fulbright Scholar asked to 'Spy' on Cubans, Venezuelans** -- "I was told to provide the names, addresses and activities of any Venezuelan or Cuban doctors or field workers I come across during my time here [in **Bolivia**]".

**2008 Candidates and Latin America** -- where the leading **U.S. presidential contenders** stand on **free trade** with **Latin America**.

"... instead of talking about **Muslim or Islamic extremism**, officials should instead say **'violent extremism'**" -- **Terrorism phrasebook to put officials on guard**.

**Economy**  
 news list|forecast

↓ **Bush Budget would bring Record Deficits** -- "**slumping revenues** and the cost of an **economic rescue package** will combine to produce a huge jump in the **deficit** to \$410 billion this year and \$407 billion in 2009 ...".

**Greenback has lost 30% in past 7 years, becomes "Bernanke Peso"** -- "they're so eager to avoid a serious correction that they are throwing caution to the wind - and the U.S. dollar too".

*Le Monde Diplomatique: Why the US has really gone broke* -- "the **economic disaster** that is **military keynesianism**.... Some of the damage can never be rectified".

**Many believe US already in a Recession** -- "**For-sale signs** are everywhere. In my area, 35 to 40 homes are standing there and aren't even complete. There aren't any buyers."

**G7 finance chiefs see growing risks to world economy** -- the G7 warned in a joint statement after a one-day meeting in Tokyo that "**risks have become more skewed to the downside**" in the **United States**.

**Education**  
 news list|forecast

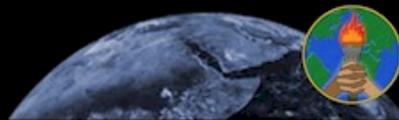
• **U.S. universities rush to set up outposts abroad** -- "In a kind of **educational gold rush**, American universities are competing to set up outposts in **countries with limited higher education opportunities** [as are **Australian and British** universities]."

**An education lesson for Obama and Clinton** -- "But **Clinton** does not threaten to mandate **universal college affordability** as she does **healthcare coverage**. Likewise, the same **Obama** who [tells Detroit to be **fuel-efficient**] has not thrown down the gauntlet to college presidents."

**Energy**  
 news list|forecast

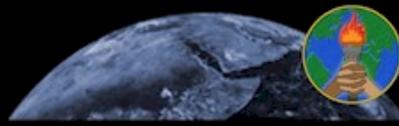
• "**Canada-based Eden Energy Ltd. announced plans to install and supply the first public hydrogen fueling station in India**" -- **Eden announces hydrogen pump in India**.

**The future of clean coal** -- **DoE** has abandoned **FutureGen**, a development project for advanced **coal-gasification**, may actually prompt the cleaning-up of existing coal



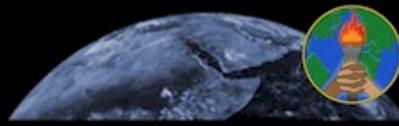
|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>technologies.</p> <p><i>Europe vulnerable without common energy policy</i> -- "... ways of <i>mitigating vulnerability</i> to challenges such as <i>political pressure</i> from <i>supplier countries</i> or <i>energy price shocks</i>". [Comment: Nobody said 'Russia'.]</p> <p><i>Ukrainian energy official accuses Moscow of political pressure in gas dispute</i> -- in dispute again: <b>Russian</b> state-controlled <b>Gazprom</b> threatens to cut off <b>gas</b> to <b>Ukraine</b> in a matter of <u>days</u> if agreement is not reached on a <i>debt</i> dismissed by Ukraine. <u>Europe's gas</u> is received through <u>Ukraine</u>.</p> <p><i>The militarization of energy security</i> -- an <u>in-depth analysis</u> of the new <i>global energy paradigm</i>.</p> <p><i>"Bacteria in termite guts could make ethanol from noncorn sources cheaper"</i> -- <i>Creating ethanol from wood more efficiently</i>.</p> |
| <p><b>Family</b><br/> <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ripped off: <i>New time-off rights for military families</i> -- the <i>Family and Medical Leave Act</i> has been amended - now <u>26 weeks</u> leave can be taken in relevant circumstances, raised from <u>12 weeks</u>; but the leave can now be taken only <u>once</u>, not each year.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Health</b><br/> <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Spouse's sickness bodes ill for partner's health</i> -- "<i>their findings, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, demonstrate the ripple effect of a spouse's hospitalization</i> -- across various illnesses -- on the partner's health".</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Immigration</b><br/> <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In reversal, courts uphold local immigration laws</i> -- the <b>Federal District Court</b> "...methodically rejected all of the contractors' arguments that the <b>Arizona law</b> invaded legal territory belonging exclusively to the <b>federal government</b>".</li> </ul> <p><i>Election-year politics: Why immigration reform will have to wait</i> -- "despite the public's cry for reforms, <i>election-year politics</i> will keep politicians from plain talk and solutions".</p> <p><i>Illegal immigration in the United States [Factbox]</i></p> <p><i>Australia ends "Pacific Solution" for refugees</i> -- "the policy was criticized by the <b>UNHCR</b> and <b>Amnesty International</b>, who both accused Australia of breaching its responsibilities under <i>international refugee conventions</i>".</p>  |
| <p><b>Justice</b><br/> <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>6 at Guantánamo said to face trial in 9/11 case</i> -- with glacial pace, a trial may 'soon' begin of "individuals who have been involved in some of the most grievous acts of violence and terror" but it is also a trial of the <i>raison d'être</i> of the Guantánamo solution itself.</li> </ul> <p><i>Secret evidence bogs down gitmo hearings</i> -- <i>defense attorneys</i> are demanding access to <i>interrogators</i>, <i>witnesses</i> and <i>records</i>; they claim the government is <u>withholding potential exculpatory evidence</u>.</p>   |
| <p><b>Security</b><br/> <a href="#">news list</a><a href="#">forecast</a></p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "<i>The president would spend at least \$294 million for the Homeland Security Department to protect federal networks from hackers</i> ..." -- <i>Borders, transit top security spending</i>.</li> </ul> <p><i>Spies' battleground turns virtual</i> -- "<i>The virtual world [e.g. Second Life] is the next great frontier</i> and in some respects is still very much a <i>Wild West environment</i>" a recent paper by the government's new <b>Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity</b> said.</p> <p><i>First responders say advanced technology critical for effectiveness</i> -- first responders say they need the same sort of <i>Situational Awareness</i> the <i>military</i> is developing.</p> <p><i>Open source intelligence advances</i> -- "<i>The DNI Open Source Center ... is steadily</i></p>   |

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



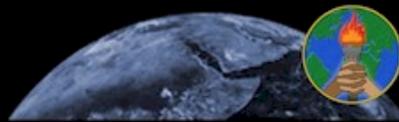
|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>growing in <i>capability and impact</i> ..." [Comment: Example: this weekly document is based on open source intelligence.]</p> <p><i>Airport security technology stuck in the pipeline</i> -- "... <i>But six years later, little has changed at airport checkpoints.</i>"</p>   |
| <p><b>Society</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>No funds in bush budget for troop-benefits plan</i> – a proposal announced by President <b>Bush</b> and widely welcomed by many to broaden the <i>GI education bill</i> is a good idea with <u>no budget</u>.</li> <li>• <i>The tenacity of American militarism</i> -- a balanced critique of the unique place of the <b>military</b> in US society.</li> <li>• <i>High tech e-voting problems plague Super Tuesday</i> -- the US again applies <i>Chadian standards</i> to its own <i>electoral process</i>.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Water</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Canadian judge to rule on Mexican water fight</i> -- "<i>more than 40 Texas farmers, ranchers and irrigation districts are gearing up to take their long-standing water war with Mexico to the next level ...</i>"</li> <li>• <i>Water shortages could lead to violence</i> -- "... violent crises in <b>Africa</b> and other regions are increasingly over basic human needs like water or <b>arable land</b> ..." <i>see: Wild Cards (Altaf wants 'justified' formula for distribution of water)</i></li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Challengers</b></p>                                       |  |
| <p><b>Brazil</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to summarize -- see <i>News List</i>]<br/> <i>[Carnival Week – few serious happenings]</i></li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>China</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of China's <i>fracture zones</i>: <i>Chinese curbs leave Uyghur youth in crisis</i> -- "<i>at home, they get traditional Uyghur language and Uyghur culture. Then, when they go to school, they are forced to study Chinese language and Chinese culture</i>".</li> <li>• Another of China's <i>fracture zones</i>: <i>China jails Tibetan monk for "inciting masses"</i> - - "... on suspicion of distributing leaflets calling for <b>Tibet's independence</b> and the <b>Dalai Lama's long life</b> ..."</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>India</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>India sends intel team to Spain</i> -- "... the decision to dispatch a team was made after the government failed to get <b>consular access</b> to <b>Indian suspects</b> who were allegedly members of an <b>Islamic terrorist cell</b> planning an <b>attack in Barcelona</b> ..."</li> <li>• <i>India is Russia's "trusted friend", says Russian PM Zubkov</i> – during a state visit, <b>Russia</b> confirms close ties, despite speculation of a marked cooling after India's <b>arms deals</b> with the <b>US</b>.</li> <li>• <i>India plays hard-ball: India declines to attend trilateral talks on IPI gas pipeline in Tehran next week</i> -- "... it wants to settle the <b>transit fee</b> issue with <b>Islamabad</b> first".</li> <li>• <i>India faces LPG crisis</i> -- "... gone into an <b>alert mode</b> following reports of <b>severe shortages</b> of <b>LPG</b>, which is used as a <b>fuel for cooking</b>".</li> <li>• <i>Army can't be deployed to contain Naxal threat: Antony</i> -- "<i>Army cannot be used against everything .... the forces are already coming in aid of <b>civil authorities</b>.... Army should be called in only as a <b>last resort</b>.</i>" [Comment: Clearly the Defence Minister regards this <i>insurgency</i> as a "<b>police</b>" or <b>militia</b> matter.]</li> <li>• <i>Dithering almost cost India its Tajik military facility</i> -- "... due to New Delhi's <b>tardiness</b> in fulfilling its 2002 commitment to pay various state-run Tajik institutions <b>\$500,000</b> and executing <b>infrastructure development projects</b> ..."</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Indonesia</b><br/> <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Munir case 'can push intelligence reform'</i> -- "<i>we need to push for intelligence reform that will allow for a <b>control mechanism</b> over the <b>intelligence bodies</b> so that</i></li> </ul>   |

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



|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p><i>they don't use state money to harm people"</i> [Background: Indonesian State Security, BIN, has been accused of involvement in the <b>murder</b> by poisoning of rights activist Munir.]</p> <p><b>Australia-Indonesia security pact comes into force</b> -- "known as the <b>Lombok Treaty</b>, the agreement replaces an earlier pact <b>turned up</b> by Indonesia eight years ago over Australian support for the independence of <b>East Timor</b>".</p> <p><b>Mily commander apologizes for attack on police HQ</b> -- "two <b>policemen</b> were killed and three others injured in an attack by a group of <b>soldiers</b> of the Masohi Infantry Battalion 731, in Central <b>Maluku District</b> ..." -- the clash was a "<b>misunderstanding</b>". [Comment: Such "misunderstandings" are not uncommon between the police and military in Indonesia.]</p> <p><b>Former Indonesian logistics chief gets 10 years for graft</b> -- "... critics have claimed that the <b>anti-graft campaign</b> has not taken on some powerful <b>vested interests</b> ..."</p>   |
| <p><b>Iran</b><br/>news list forecast</p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Iran's clerical old guard being pushed aside</b> -- Iran is <b>changing</b> but in <b>complex</b> ways producing a younger yet less powerful <b>power elite</b> beholden to the <b>Supreme Leader</b>. [A very good essay on the complexities.]</li> <li>• <b>Iran fires rocket from space center</b> -- "... laying the groundwork for what it says will be the future launch of its first <b>domestically produced satellite</b> ..."</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Russia</b><br/>news list forecast</p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Russia to respond effectively to U.S. missile shield - Ivanov</b> -- "if such a decision is taken, Russia's response will be <b>effective, adequate</b> and many times <b>cheaper</b> than the creation of a third positioning area [by the United States]".</li> <li>• <b>Russia warns as Kosovo independence looms</b>, -- "... <b>Europe</b> could open a '<b>Pandora's box</b>' if it recognized the move over Belgrade's [<b>Serbia</b>] objections".</li> <li>• <b>Russia needs \$1 trillion investment to modernize economy - Ivanov</b> -- " .... Russia must join the group of the world's <b>five largest economies</b> by <b>2020</b> in terms of <b>GDP</b>, with an income of more than <b>\$30,000</b> per Russian citizen" Ivanov said.</li> <li>• see: <b>India</b> (India is Russia's "trusted friend", says Russian PM Zubkov)</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Venezuela</b><br/>news list forecast</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A blow to President <b>Chavez: Court bars sale of billions in oil assets by Venezuela</b> -- "... <b>Exxon</b> won a court order from the <b>High Court of London</b> prohibiting <b>Petróleos de Venezuela</b> from selling assets worldwide up to a value of <b>\$12 billion</b> ...".</li> <li>• <b>Chavez warns he could nationalize food companies</b> -- "... he could nationalize large food <b>distributors</b> caught <b>hoarding</b> amid widespread <b>shortages</b> of groceries ..."</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Wild Cards</b><br/>news list forecast</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>PAKISTAN</b></li> <li>• <b>Altaf wants 'justified' formula for distribution of water</b> -- the <b>Sind</b> [south-east Pakistan] demands 'provincial autonomy', fairer treatment within Pakistan, and a greater share of <b>water</b> which is presently largely used upstream in the <b>Punjab</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Ex-generals aim to sabotage Pakistan poll</b> -- "these former generals, admirals, air marshals and other retired officers have formed the <b>Ex-Servicemen's Society</b>, which has demanded the <b>resignation</b> of the president before the <b>general elections</b>". <b>But: Several retired officers deny being part of anti-Musharraf resolution</b> -- "some of the <b>retired armed forces officers</b>, who were <b>claimed</b> by the Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Society to have been among the signatories of a resolution urging President Pervez <b>Musharraf</b> to step down, have <b>distanced</b> themselves ... "</li> <li>• Brief update on action in Pakistan's <b>North West Frontier Province</b> (NWFP) and the <b>Federally Administered Tribal Areas</b> (FATA) -- <b>Polls in parts of NWFP, FATA could be delayed: Pak Minister</b>.</li> </ul> |

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



"Pakistan's premier *military intelligence agency* has lost control of some of the *networks of Pakistani militants* it has nurtured since the *1980s*, and is now suffering the violent *blowback* of that policy ..." -- *Militants escape control of Pakistan, officials say.*

"... *Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan*, an *umbrella group* for *militants* operating in *tribal areas* along the border with *Afghanistan*, said that the *cease-fire* was declared following talks with the government" -- *Taliban group calls truce with Pakistan.*

*Force of blast killed Bhutto, not bullet - report* -- **Scotland Yard** confirms the earlier reports by the Pakistan government.

An update on the war in the *Swat Valley* , with a brief history of the lead-up to the present conflict -- *Twists and turns of Swat imbroglio: 300 including 80 security personnel killed in violence.*

20080211w [098]

**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.

**EIN Publishing Plan (Free Online and in Hardcopy at Amazon)**

| <b>Book Title (all edited except last)</b>                           | <b>Free Online</b> | <b>Amazon</b> |
|--|--------------------|---------------|
| <i>COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE: Creating a Prosperous World at Peace</i> | 15 Jan 08          | 1 Mar 08      |
| <i>PEACE INTELLIGENCE: Assuring a Good Life for All</i>              | 1 Mar 08           | 15 Apr 08     |
| <i>COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE: From Moral Green to Golden Peace</i>     | 1 May 08           | 15 Jun 08     |
| <i>WAR &amp; PEACE: The Seventh Generation</i>                       | 1 Jun 08           | 4 Jul 08      |

Each book will appear at [www.earth-intelligence.net](http://www.earth-intelligence.net) as a menu item on the date above.

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

↗ ALERT