

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

<p>Environment. Arsenic-eating super-bug. UAVs help earth-monitoring. US killing forests. GM fool.</p> <p>Inter-State Conflict. Israel expert recognizes Hamas as credible and reliable. Rail reopens in Iraq.</p> <p>Proliferation. US urged to curb use of radioactive cesium chloride, 1,000 machines across US.</p>
<p>Poverty. Clean Water is first, followed by Knowledge, Renewable Energy, & Transport Infrastructure.</p> <p>Infectious Disease. Gains from study of algae to understand malaria and other parasite-borne diseases.</p> <p>Civil War. Explanation for why West got Kenya so wrong. International overture to Sri Lankans.</p> <p>Genocide. Aboriginal genocides continues apace in Australia. Applies to all indigenous peoples.</p> <p>Transnational Crime. Mexico seizes aircraft, but why don't they all have factory-installed beacons?</p>
<p>Other Atrocities. 51 minefields in Nicaragua. US, Israel, Russia, China refuse cluster-bomb ban.</p> <p>Terrorism. US Navy penetrated by jihadist. Review of Musharraf's role in supporting Al Qaeda.</p>

Policy Summary

<p>Diplomacy. Editorial note: Bush's last failure in office could be his refusal to end embargo on Cuba.</p> <p>Economy. <u>Raised to RED.</u> Overview of US insolvency (Editorial Note: Comptroller General quits)</p> <p>Security. Computer coders not knowledge engineers. CIA blows up non-official cover program.</p> <p>Society. Overviews of apartheid in the USA, atheists as less likely to start wars of religion.</p> <p>Water. Singapore Water Expo sells out. Africa and Middle East not doing what's needed.</p>
<p>Education. US nose-diving across the board on true education, lowered to village idiot standards.</p> <p>Energy. Human-powered lamp. Green energy mainstream with US Governors. <u>Solar off the chart.</u></p> <p>Health. Arsenic spreading in food and water. Food security at individual level not assured at all.</p> <p>Immigration. Average migrant is over-qualified, overstay visas.</p>
<p>Agriculture. Global rice shortage. Need to restore community agriculture. Monsanto killing Uganda.</p> <p>Family. Early distinction emerging between marriage within a religion, and state-certified partnerships.</p> <p>Justice. US White House continues to defy courts and all common sense about moral standards.</p>

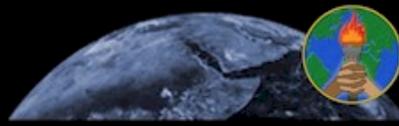
Major Player Summary

<p>Brazil. Cuba asks for help with US embargo. Nuclear deal with Argentina. 500 timber trucks seized.</p> <p>China. Worst polluters moving inland. 40% of rural water undrinkable. Olympic security unit trains.</p> <p>India. 44% of children under three are malnourished. Intelligence goes Wiki. Nuclear plant targeted.</p> <p>Indonesia. Japan extremely concerned over Indonesian gas cuts.</p> <p>Iran. Regional military alliance proposed. Editorial note: would be even better as "all in" commons.</p> <p>Russia. Reneging on aircraft carrier being refitted for India in Russia.</p> <p>Venezuela. Hugo Chavez crudely insulting Colombian President. National Citizen Security Council.</p> <p>Wild Cards. Latin American military alliance. ASEAN & SCO hold talks. Pakistan revolution?</p>

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

<p>Alert: Chad, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan</p>
<p>Deteriorated: Chad, Kenya, Lebanon, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Zimbabwe</p>
<p>Improved: DR Congo</p>
<p>Unchanged: 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</p>

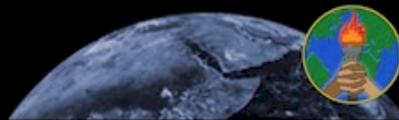
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Threats see *daily items with links to full stories on the web at* **PDB-Threats**

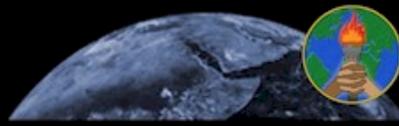
<p>Poverty news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water, water, and clean water precede all other needs: "<i>The problem of water and sanitation is a <u>problem for the world</u> and is closely related with a lot of issues such as poverty, education and sustainable development, ...</i>" -- Japanese FM calls for global cooperation to tackle "water and sanitation" issue. <p>Discovering the need for infrastructure for nation- building, rather than serial aid, the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa says transport infrastructure alone could require over \$250 billion over the next 15 years -- EU Urges on Infrastructure.</p> <p>African town gets wind power and knowledge -- a German group brings wind electricity -- <u>and transfer of the technologies necessary to sustain the program</u> -- to the 90% of Cameroon's population <u>not</u> connected to the grid.</p>
<p>Infectious Disease news list forecast</p>	<p>↑ Algae could reveal malaria cure -- "<i>Not only will this alga help us understand the transition to parasitism, we hope it can help us find and test new drugs against malaria and the other parasites ...</i>" says researchers at University of Sydney.</p>
<p>Environment news list forecast</p>	<p>↑ Agriculture chief's priority: avoid jail -- "<i>Rey's [Bush-appointed Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey] critics say talk of 'treatment' and 'thinning' is code for Rey's real goal: <u>cutting more trees</u> in service of his former timber industry cronies."</i></p> <p>GM exec stands by calling global warming a "crock" -- the expertise of General Motors Corp Vice Chairman Bob Lutz in management of automobile design is matched only by his expertise in climatology.</p> <p>↑ Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) save soldier's lives and now may save numerous cash-strapped earth-monitoring projects: Robotic planes may benefit marine mammal research -- "<i>In the medium to long term, smaller UAVs could reduce the cost of flights to just a few dollars an hour, while better <u>imaging software</u> could negate the need for <u>human analysis</u> at all</i>".</p> <p>↑ Arsenic-eating bug cleans up -- Nature again to the rescue: "<i>Australian scientist have discovered an amazing arsenic-eating super-bug that can chomp its way through the deadly leftovers of a century of mining and farming ...</i>"</p> <p>see Health (Arsenic threatens global health)</p>
<p>Inter-State Conflict news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey's biggest military incursion into the Kurdish-controlled north of Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein stretches relations with Iraq and the US -- Turkey sends troops into northern Iraq. <p>Ex-Mossad chief wants Israel to talk to Hamas -- "<i>I believe Hamas are evil people, but so far they are very credible and reliable</i>".</p> <p>The first true mark of high civilization returns to Iraq – the railway: "<i>Built by imperial German and British engineers [before 1920] in a race between Berlin and London to control the region, <u>Iraq's railways were once a vital link between Europe and the Middle East</u>" -- Baghdad-Basra train helps stitch up Iraq's wounds.</i></p>
<p>Civil War news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sri Lanka: International Crisis Group asks LTTE to give up separatism -- "<i>The international community should also support efforts to bring about a power sharing system that would address the legitimate grievances of the minorities ...</i>" <p>Seven Questions: What's the matter with Kenya? -- "... a former corruption czar in the office of President Mwai Kibaki, explains why the West got Kenya so wrong".</p>
<p>Genocide news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian aboriginal genocide continues despite historic apology -- a relentless proof that Australia's treatment of the continent's indigenous people [as throughout

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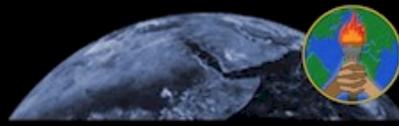
	the world] was genocidal , whether conscious or not.
Other Atrocities news list forecast	<p>↓ Disarmament-Nicaragua: landmine-free by 2009? -- "... 51 minefields have been discovered in the border zone with Honduras, an area where about <u>24,000 campesinos (small farmers)</u> live".</p> <p>Delegates at cluster bomb conference hope for decisive action -- <u>120 countries</u> attended the conference held in New Zealand; the world's top suppliers of cluster bombs -- United States, Israel, Russia and China -- did not attend.</p>
Proliferation news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. urged to curb use of 'dirty bomb' ingredient -- Radioactive cesium chloride, used in <u>1,000</u> machines at U.S. hospitals and universities, is a good bang-for-bucks ingredient in dirty bomb.
Terrorism news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A profile in terror, behind a keyboard -- ... Paul R. Hall, aka Hassan Abu-jihad, a Muslim convert who joined the US Navy and enthusiastically sent details of "movement and mission of a U.S. Navy battle group" to fellow jihadis. <p>Philippines authorities claimed they have found – in a grave – much-wanted Indonesian bomb-master Dulmatin: Informant identifies corpse in southern Philippines as Bali bomber -- "... DNA tests being carried out by the FBI and Philippine police will determine the body's identification". But ICG says it's not likely: Wanted Indonesian militant likely not dead: terrorism expert -- "We are pretty sure that Dulmatin is not dead, despite the fact that the Philippine military announced about <u>eight times</u> that he is".</p> <p>Musharraf's loss could be world's gain in fight against al-Qaeda – a review of Pakistan indispensable role.</p>
Transnational Crime news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Italy the Carabinieri fear the arrest days ago of Pasquale Condello, boss of the Calabrian mafia, will trigger a scum-on-scum fight for the succession -- Godfather's arrest fuels fear of bloody conflict. <p>Is Mexico's drug war escalating? -- "they may be trying to raise the political cost for Calderon of carrying out his campaign". Mexico seizes 106 aircrafts in anti-money laundering operation -- "Mexican troops have seized <u>103 airplanes</u> and three helicopters in hangars in Culiacan, capital of the northern Mexico state of Sinaloa..."</p>
Policy	see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Policy
Agriculture news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only way to health in the West may be coming full-circle from centuries of rural enclosure, monoculture agriculture and urbanization to Community Supported Agriculture; "... the best way to reclaim our health is to eat local, thereby establishing a relationship with food and the people who grow it... Nearly <u>half</u> of U.S. citizens live within striking distance of a farmers market..." -- We chow down on a diet salted with mystery. <p>The first worrying signs of an emerging global catastrophe: Philippines asks Vietnam to guarantee rice supply -- "President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has asked Vietnam to guarantee her country an unspecified volume of rice as <u>tight world supply</u> threatens its food security ..."</p> <p>Worldwide shortage of rice shoots prices soaring -- "from Kansas to Kabul, high rice and wheat prices are <u>worrying</u> officials and economists, and beginning to <u>hit consumers</u> ..."</p> <p>In Uganda the Monsanto cancer falls another victim: Privatisation of seeds moving apace [Analysis] -- "... seeds companies including the likes of Monsanto have been</p>

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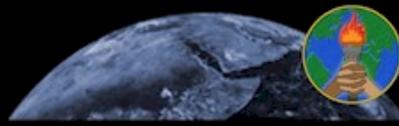
	<p><i>lobbying the government for such intellectual property protection".</i></p>
<p>Diplomacy news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Through <u>10 U.S. administrations</u> beginning with that of Dwight Eisenhower, Castro survived assassination attempts, an invasion by a CIA-trained exile army at the Bay of Pigs, and a standoff with Washington ..." -- <i>A profile of Cuba's Fidel Castro</i>. Also: <i>Castro's resignation will not affect U.S. policy for now</i> and <i>Fidel Castro retires</i> -- "In a deserted Revolution Square, site of many hours-long speeches by Castro to massive crowds, a lone soldier stood guard at government headquarters and the city was <u>calm</u>". <i>Buffer benefits in Spratly initiative</i> -- "a crisis in the Taiwan Strait could easily trigger a domino effect and escalate tensions in the South China Sea". <i>US shifts on AFRICOM base plans</i> -- "The US military has decided to keep the base of its new Africa Command in Germany for now, after only one African nation, Liberia, offered to host it".
<p>Economy news listforecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>The 44th president's \$4 trillion headache – a dry look at the bread-and-butter issues the next President will inherit.</i></p>
<p>Education news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No Child Left Behind / No Child Properly Educated; towards a nation of lowest common standards, not an educated self-learning nation: Reading, math eat up class hours -- "... less time is being devoted to social studies, science, art and music".</i> <i>EU multilingualism strategy to focus on language learning</i> -- the EU High Level Group on Multilingualism will propose a policy of encouraging European citizens to learn <u>two foreign languages</u>.
<p>Energy news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gravity powered lamp generates as much light as 40 Watt bulb. [Human-powered actually; a nice sample of technologies to come ...]</i> <i>Japan faces Indonesian gas cuts</i> -- "...But if a country that is geographically proximal to Japan like Indonesia drops out of the ranks of major suppliers, <u>Japan's energy security could suffer in the long term</u>". <i>US Governors act in spite of federal catatonia caused by corn alcohol: Governors try to advance clean energy</i> -- "this idea of clean, green energy is <u>no longer a tie-dyed T-shirt kind of idea</u>. This is <u>mainstream economics</u>". <i>Solar is unavoidable</i> -- "Solar energy's potential is <u>off the chart</u>. The energy in sunlight striking the earth for <u>40 minutes</u> is equivalent to <u>global energy consumption for a year</u>" -- <i>A Solar Grand Plan</i>.
<p>Family news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perhaps it's all just semantics: Let's leave 'marriage' at the altar "the state does not police people's vocabulary. It does, however, signify modern ideals through official nomenclature. For that, the state should use the language of partnership and leave marriage to religion".
<p>Health news listforecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>Arsenic threatens global health -- "The bad news is that it is <u>spreading</u> around the world in the expanding global food trade, exposing <u>millions</u> more people to risk".</i></p> <p>see Environmental Degradation (<i>Arsenic-eating bug cleans up</i>)</p> <p>see Agriculture (<i>We chow down on a diet salted with mystery</i>)</p>
<p>Immigration news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New tactics to control immigration are unveiled -- a virtual fence, e-Verify for employers, and more severe penalties, and prosecution rather than simple deportation ...</i> <p>The "average" migrant is <u>not</u> the great unwashed but is overqualified and willing to exchange <u>social status</u> for <u>country of residence</u>: <i>'Migrants more likely to be</i></p>

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	<p><i>overqualified'</i> -- "on average, <u>7.5%</u> of the population in OECD countries is foreign-born. The highest percentages were recorded for Luxembourg (32.6%), followed by Australia (23%) and Switzerland (22.6%)". In the US, not all the "illegals" are from Mexico: <i>Illegal emigres defy the image</i> -- "Fastest growing source? It's India ...They come here as professionals, most often in the H-1B program ..."</p>
<p>Justice news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>Waterboarding Focus of Inquiry by Justice Dept.</i> -- enquiries by US Senators are closing in on the morally-bankrupt Berkeley law professor John C. Yoo whose sub-standard legal opinions have corrupted US image abroad for generations.</p> <p><i>Inside the mind of a Gitmo detainee</i> -- "... if that debate [in Court] cannot take place, if we cannot learn the facts and share them with others, <u>the truth is only what the administration reports it to be</u>. We hope it has not come to that".</p>
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Apostrophes in names stir lot O' Trouble</i> -- "more than 50 years into the Information Age, computers are still getting confused by the apostrophe". [Comment: If this is so "hard", what of Arabic transliterated names? Still the tail wags the dog -- 'computer people' do not have the skills of knowledge engineers.] • <i>Amtrak to search bags, add special agents</i> -- "... since security measures are meant to protect people, many of them have been invisible to the passengers.... We are announcing this new initiative today because it will directly affect the passengers in the form of random baggage searches". • <i>Experts find fault with cyberdirective</i> -- "... reversed <u>21 years of policy</u> that had prevented the Defense Department and the National Security Agency from having oversight of civilian agency networks" • <i>CIA closes most "black stations" in Europe</i> -- "after spending hundreds of millions of dollars setting up as many as 12 of the companies, the CIA shut down all but two after concluding they were ill-conceived and poorly positioned ..." • <i>Network Warfare - New military technologies require new organizations</i> -- "now a similar enchantment accompanies a range of information technologies. It is a spell that can be broken only by remembering that new organizational forms and practices must develop along with new tools"
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shadow report documents U.S. racism, apartheid</i> -- Indian Country Today says "The report ... documents a wide range of human rights violations and systemic racial discrimination in the United States ..." • <i>Let us bow our heads in thanks for atheists</i> -- "Want to talk marginalized? How many atheists have there ever been in Congress or the White House? <u>Atheists don't start wars on behalf of atheism</u>".
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Africa must invest to secure clean water - GE</i> -- GE's Water and Process Technologies unit observes unsurprisingly that "Healthy water is not free". • <i>Singapore International Water Week trade expo sold out</i> -- the international water solutions event set for <u>June 2008</u> is already sold-out. • <i>North-east Africa: It's the water stupid! [part 2 of 2]</i> -- "Egypt would go to war if Ethiopia made a move to build a dam on Lake Tana or any irrigation projects that would affect Egypt's agricultural and settlement programs". [Comment: Water is also the "hidden" story behind the Israel-Palestine issue.] • <i>Thousands hit by water shortage</i> -- "thousands of families in Somalia's Middle Juba region need urgent help after being hit by a severe water shortage caused by catchment areas drying up and boreholes malfunctioning..."

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see **Poverty** (Japanese FM calls for global cooperation to tackle "water and sanitation" issue)

Challengers

Brazil

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

- **Brazil and Argentina create nuclear miniclub to enrich Uranium** -- the presidents of Brazil and Argentina have signed an agreement to establish a binational company for uranium enrichment "that will be an example to the world inflamed by the arms building temptation".

Welcome to Brazil, a paradise of impunity for all kinds of criminals -- "the objective of this article is to offer a broad account of the manifold deficiencies in the application of criminal laws in Brazil" - a lengthy authoritative item by a Constitutional Law academic at Murdoch University (Western Australia).

Cuba asks Brazilian President's help to end US embargo -- "Cuba's interim president Raul Castro requested advice and help from Brazil's President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, 'to accelerate the **political and economic transition process**' ..."

500 trucks of illegal logs seized after Brazil police retake town -- 450 **police** have retaken **Tailandia** in the **Amazon** permitting **EPA** officials chased out days before to seize **illegally-felled timber** worth an estimated **\$1.7M**.

China

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

- **China factories move inland to avoid green scrutiny** -- "... some of the country's worst **polluters** were opting to relocate inland rather than **clean up**".

Forty percent of Chinese rural drinking water unfit for consumption.

Chinese police announces strike against "terrorist" group -- "five policemen were also injured in the **raid** which was part of efforts against **Uighur separatists**".

Chinese military train for Olympic terror -- "In June [2007], Xinhua said, the Chinese military established a **security unit** for the games, consisting of personnel from all three services -- **army, navy and air force**".

India

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

- **'India has largest number of undernourished people'** -- "**Malnutrition** among children below the age of three is pegged at nearly **44%** against the **sub-Saharan** average of **25%** ..."

US resolution seeks UNSC membership for India -- "a Congressman has moved a resolution in the **US House of Representatives** asking the United Nations to admit India as a **permanent member of the Security Council**".

Intelligence agencies to go the 'wiki' way -- "the Indian **intelligence** apparatus is working on an ambitious project that aims to create an **information-sharing platform** for national intelligence agencies working within the country and overseas".

'Pakistan-Bangladesh militant nexus smuggling grenades to India' -- "along with **smuggling** to India, there has also been an influx of **explosives** and **grenades** from India's northeastern region into Bangladesh, according to the **Bangladeshi official**".

12 suspected terrorists held in Andhra Pradesh -- "they were targeting **Kaiga nuclear plant in Karnataka**, say cops".

India's Asian Security plan -- India's new strategy for Asian nations spells out three stage ... **dialogue, regional mechanisms, common solutions to common challenges**.

see **Russia** (Admiral Gorshkov: *Gone with the wind?*)

Indonesia

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

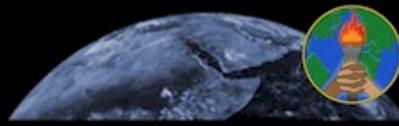
- see **Energy** (Japan faces Indonesian gas cuts)

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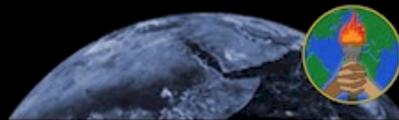
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<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Iranian prosecutor general suggests a regional military alliance -- "we will never encounter problems of the sort Iraq, Libya, and Palestine are grappling with".</i> • <i>Iran's regional military coalition proposal important -- "Secretary of Tajikistan's National Security Council announced here [16 Feb 2008] his country considers Iran's regional military coalition proposal <u>important</u> and <u>worth close consideration</u>".</i>
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Russia seems set to <u>renege</u> on a deal to supply a refurbished aircraft carrier to India, because it needs to, or to punish India for dalliance with the US: Admiral Gorshkov: Gone with the wind? -- "the Russian aircraft carrier, bought by India in a <u>\$1.5 billion deal</u> in 2004, is undergoing a refit in Russia. The entire contract had recently run into rough weather with the Russians demanding <u>another \$1.2 billion</u> ..."</i>
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Venezuela, Colombia, rhetoric and the threat of war -- "Peon," "liar," "coward" and "mafia boss" are some of the terms Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has used to insult the Colombian President Alvaro Uribe so far this year.</i> • <i>National Citizen Security Council created -- "we have to examine this repressive vision of security very carefully and leave it behind; we still have it here like a virus, like an old disease. Repression is a classist vision of the Bourgeois state to preserve the interests of the dominant class..."</i>
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>South American countries mull forming military alliance -- "Brazil and Argentina are seeking to establish a military alliance in South America that would implement a coordinated defense policy Ecuador, Colombia and Chile have also voiced their support ...".</i> <p>Continuing arrests only confirm that the Muslim Brotherhood is the only viable Opposition in Egypt: <i>Facts about Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood</i> -- "about <u>450</u> members of the Brotherhood are now in custody, most of them held over the last few weeks".</p> <p><i>The Association of South East Asian Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Opportunities and Perspectives</i>, - Vice. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan in the <i>Journal of Turkish Weekly</i> explores bloc-to-bloc links. <i>see Iran (Iranian prosecutor general suggests a regional military alliance)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">PAKISTAN</p> <p><i>Pakistan army chief ends role in politics</i> -- "the move includes plans to overhaul the role of the military intelligence agencies in national politics".</p> <p><i>Mullahs lose NWFP control after five years</i> -- "The Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) alliance, with <u>50 seats</u>, was the <u>third-largest grouping</u> in the previous parliament. But they had won just <u>three seats</u> out of 235 counted in unofficial results..."</p> <p><i>Ex-ISI chief foresees Iran-like revolution in Pak</i> -- "we don't want the army and people to be clashing on the streets. That would be a disaster - a civil war or if we are lucky a revolution, something like the Iranian revolution (against the Shah in 1979)".</p> <p><i>see Terrorism (Musharraf's loss could be world's gain in fight against al-Qaeda)</i></p>

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