

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

Environment. Renewable energy options rosier. Solar energy bi-products poison earth. Gore mugged.
Inter-State Conflict. Andean region on brink? US missiles into Somalia. Turkey-Irak-PKK jitters.
Proliferation. Modern data technology could be used to track all materials. Arabs out of NPI?

Poverty. 20 year high in food prices, street anarchy feared. More women, fewer employed.
Infectious Disease. No major stories. Editorial note: millions drink water contaminated with drugs.
Civil War. Serbian government collapses. Kosovo played on Georgia. Zimbabwe. Egypt.
Genocide. Israeli “collective punishment” on Gaza is genocide. Iran protests. USA hypocritical.
Transnational Crime. Wall Street and Russian mafia. Jamaica as transit point. Mexico, Thailand.

Other Atrocities. 40,000 children traded. Sadistic treatment of animals in USA out of control.
Terrorism. Demonization counter-productive. Arrests in vulnerable Saudi Arabia. Eco-terror.

Policy Summary

Diplomacy. NAFTA and Andean tensions dominate.
Economy. Dominates US election rhetoric, Iraq as issue marginalized.
Security. US military weaker, mental health issues skyrocket.
Society. US increasingly brittle. Elections matter to world, but no vote for world.
Water. Commoditization. Drugs found in drinking water supplies. Yemen water nightmare.

Education. World Education Bank proposed. Single sex classrooms could address differences.
Energy. EU worries over conflict with Russia about Arctic energy sources.
Health. Women’s health issues highlighted. Vaccinations a general good, an individual hazard.
Immigration. States addressing laws in absence of federal ability to control illegal immigration.

Agriculture. Could go to orange soon. Extraordinary waste in USA, rising expectations elsewhere.
Family. No major stories (but see Other Atrocities).
Justice. US jails one quarter of all prisoners (spend more than on education). Prison reforms fail.

Major Player Summary

Brazil. Could be peacemaker in Andean confrontations. Police death squad.
China. “Yellow dust” hits Korea and Japan. Diverting water for Olympics. Poor crisis capability.
India. Signs arms deal with Russia. Maoists on the rise. Cash to prevent abortions of girls.
Indonesia. President visits Iran. Violent protests over short-fall in democratic process.
Iran. Non-Muslims questions US motives and effectiveness.
Russia. Putin stands pat, those waiting for his successor unlikely to see changes.
Venezuela. Chavez calls Colombia the “Israel” of the region. Presidents agree to talk.
Wild Cards. Pakistan, Pakistan, Pakistan.

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

-  **Alert:** Armenia, Comoros Islands, Kenya

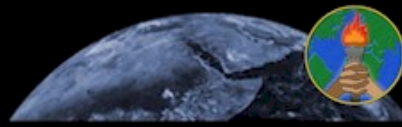
-  **Deteriorated:** Armenia, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros Islands, DR Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Israel/Occupied Territories, Philippines, Serbia, Somalia, Sudan, Timor-Leste

-  **Improved:** Cyprus, Kenya, Kosovo, Pakistan

-  **Conflict Resolution Opportunity:** Cyprus, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Uganda

- **Unchanged:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chechnya (Russia), Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), North Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

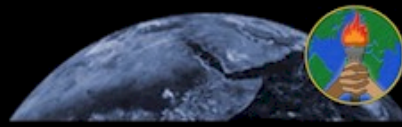
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Threats see *daily items with links to full stories on the web at* [PDB-Threats](#)

<p>Poverty news listforecast</p>	<p>↓ ILO says there are <u>1.2 billion women</u> working around the world, <u>200 million</u> more than a decade ago but the female share of the global <i>work force</i> has been stuck at <u>40%</u> -- <i>small loans</i> could help millions of poor women <i>create jobs</i> -- Small Loans Offer Glimmer of Hope to Poor Women: UN.</p> <p>World Bank approves new catastrophe loan facility -- "Countries stricken by <i>disaster</i> will be able to access funding of up to <u>\$500 million</u> once a state of emergency is declared. Countries may qualify for the loan facility if they have a <i>hazard risk management</i> program already in place ..."</p> <p>World food program warning on soaring food prices -- "... increases in <i>food prices</i>, which have been reaching <u>record levels</u>, are expected to continue until at least <u>2010</u>, fueling a 'new hunger' across the globe and <u>anarchy</u> on the streets of poorer nations" says WFP. Twenty-year high in rice prices sparks fears -- "Rice prices have surged to a <u>20-year high</u> in the latest sign of <i>global food inflation</i>, creating policy headaches in Asia, where more than <u>2.5 billion people</u> depend on cheap and abundant supplies of the grain",</p>
<p>Infectious Disease news listforecast</p>	<p>• [nothing significant to summarize -- see <i>News List</i>]</p>
<p>Environment news listforecast</p>	<p>• Climate skeptics roast Al Gore on global warming -- Robber barons are still saying: "<i>property rights</i> and <i>markets</i> do a better job than <i>government bureaucracies</i>". [Comment: Just like these god-given mechanisms built the <i>sewers</i> of Paris and cured <i>malaria</i> ...]</p> <p>Solar energy firms leave waste behind in China -- in China, <i>Silicon Tetrachloride</i>, a byproduct of making "clean, green" <i>solar panels</i> permanently destroys the land on which it is dumped; "<i>Human beings can never touch it</i>". [Comment: It's the <u>full Upstream</u> and <u>Downstream</u> costs Stupid!]</p> <p>Amid the debate, energy gets cleaner -- forget <i>global warming</i>; <i>peak oil</i> and death from <i>pollution</i> are real and sufficient reason for radical adjustment ... and the path into a <i>renewable fuel economy</i> seems now even a little rosier than expected.</p>
<p>Inter-State Conflict news listforecast</p>	<p>↓ South America on the brink of war [04 Mar 2008; with <i>Order of Battle</i> data.] see: Venezuela (<i>Venezuela resumes ties with Colombia</i> [09 Mar 2008])</p> <p>Americans fire missiles into Somalia -- "The missile strike was aimed at <i>Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan</i>, a <i>Kenyan</i> born in 1979 who is wanted by the <i>FBI</i> for questioning in the nearly simultaneous attacks on a hotel in <i>Mombasa</i>, Kenya, and on an <i>Israeli</i> airliner taking off from there, in 2002 ...". US warplanes target Somali town -- "the <i>AFP</i> news agency said the town of <i>Dhoble</i> was held by <i>anti-government fighters</i>. ... a town elder said on [03 Mar 2008] three bombs had been dropped on the town. He said houses had been hit and four <i>civilians</i> killed".</p> <p>Number of PKK militants killed in Turkey's operation rises to 153 -- <i>Iraq</i> national security adviser says "We need to avoid [clashes between <i>Turkish</i> and <i>Peshmerga</i> [regular <i>Kurdish</i> forces] at any cost. This has very serious consequences even if this happens by accident".</p>
<p>Civil War news listforecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>Note: 'Civil War' here includes internal instability.</i></p> <p>Serbia's government collapses -- "over an impasse between the <i>nationalist prime minister</i> and the <i>pro-Western president</i> on how <i>Kosovo's</i> independence affects the</p>

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Balkan country's pursuit of EU membership".

Tbilisi [Georgia] starts to feel the backlash of Kosovo independence -- "Georgia is confronting a new crisis involving Russia, which on March 6 announced that it no longer feels bound by a 1996 CIS agreement that imposed trade restrictions on the separatist-minded territory of Abkhazia". As Russia warned, Kosovo may set a precedent for regions breaking away from Georgia and elsewhere; "Russia is smartly playing a more subtle game than just formally recognizing breakaway provinces" -- Russia cashes in on Kosovo fears.

Deadly Fighting Erupts In Nagorno-Karabakh -- "the fighting appeared to be the most serious violation in years of the cease-fire agreement between Baku and Yerevan over the territory, which is dominated by ethnic Armenians and located within Azerbaijan".

NEPAL: A new revolution if Maoists lose the election, says Dr. Bhattarai -- "If we lose, there will be a new type of revolution".

Egypt's Brotherhood to contest elections from jail -- "the Brotherhood said those detained were picked up in sweeps coinciding with a 10-day registration period for candidates wishing to take part in the elections. Most of the detainees were likely candidates in the April 8 vote ...".

3 Somali radio stations off air -- "employees of Horn Afrik, Shabelle and Simba radios in the capital, Mogadishu, said troops took computers, cameras and radio equipment, accusing them of siding with and reporting the activities of the insurgents".

see: Inter-State Conflict (US warplanes target Somali town)

Zimbabwe enacts ownership law -- "a law requiring foreign- and white-owned businesses to hand over 51% control of their operations to black people ..."

"Chad's government is digging a 3-metre deep trench around the capital to prevent a repeat of last month's attack, when rebels in pickup trucks [technicals] rolled into N'Djamena ..." -- Chad digs trench round capital to foil rebel raids

Genocide
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ *Collective punishment and death under occupation continues in Gaza -- Life in Gaza 'at its worst since Israel invaded 40 years ago'.*

Iran calls on world parliament speakers to halt Gaza genocide -- a contentious claim, yet arguable given Israel's fear of an Arab population "time-bomb".

Other Atrocities
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ *"A new study released jointly by the Ministry of Family and Children and the UN in Benin shows that more than 40,000 children aged between 6 and 17 were trafficked in 2006" -- More than 40,000 children trafficked each year.*

The arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court against [Ugandan rebel] LRA Commanders will not be lifted as a condition of any peace agreement -- Warrants for Uganda rebels still stand - prosecutor.

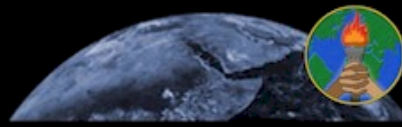
A US Senate Appropriations subcommittee has encouraged the indolent USDA to start doing its job to end the sadistic treatment of animals -- Agriculture Dept. vows to improve animal welfare.

Proliferation
[news list|forecast](#)

• *More than 70 experts say in a report published by the Royal Society that databases would make it easier to track and determine the source of radioactive materials -- Experts say shared databases could deter nuclear threat.*

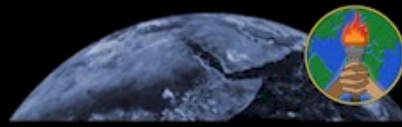
A diplomatic checkmate seems in the offing: Arab League vows to drop out of NPT if Israel admits it has nuclear weapons.

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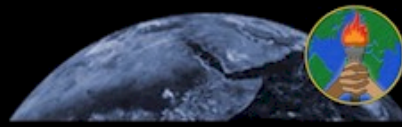
	<p>Another look at the Reagan question -- is <i>Nuclear Victory</i> possible? -- <i>Protracted Nuclear War</i>.</p>
<p>Terrorism news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ecoterrorism suspected in house fires in Seattle suburb</i> -- "five luxury homes in a subdivision marketed as "built green" near here were destroyed or severely damaged by fire early [03 Mar 2008]". <i>Tamil Tiger links with Islamist Terrorist groups</i> -- documentation of links of convenience between the long-lived Sri Lankan separatists and other groups throughout the world. SAUDI ARABIA: <i>28 Al-Qaeda Militants Arrested in Kingdom</i> -- "The latest arrests indicate that Al-Qaeda and other terrorist and extremist organizations are still trying to destabilize the Kingdom, the world's largest oil supplier". <i>Al Qaida chief slams intellectuals</i> -- "Ayman al-Zawahiri, has attacked his former radical colleagues in Egyptian prisons for abandoning armed struggle and turning their backs against violence". "Sir Richard Mottram, who retired as [UK] permanent secretary for intelligence, security and resilience in November, warned of the danger of playing into the hands of al Qaeda by talking up the scale of threat it poses" -- <i>Ex-security chief: Islamist terrorism not a global threat</i>. [Comment: Fear and uncertainty, as such, is the prime purpose of "terrorism" tactics.
<p>Transnational Crime news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Five killed in Mexico border city amid drug war</i> -- "Tijuana has suffered a spike in violence in recent weeks, with drug hitmen pinning messages on bodies that warn against Calderon's army-backed operation". <i>Mexico soldiers catch corrupt police red-handed</i> -- "Mexican soldiers caught six local police chiefs red-handed at a gas station sporting luxury watches and carrying envelopes stuffed with wads of cash ...". <i>Mexico seizes arsenal, drugs in Tijuana</i> -- "Troops seized 91 assault rifles - some with butts of gold and ivory - along with 18 grenades, the bulletproof vests ... " A good overview of serious crime in Mexico -- <i>Mexicans are the primary victims of crime and violence</i>. THAILAND: <i>Interior minister mulls talks with drug traffickers</i> -- "I will also try to encourage 200 Thai millionaires to donate money in order to help establish an agricultural business for these people". <i>Jamaica, land of sun, sea and weed</i> -- the US International Narcotics Control Strategy Report 2008 identifies Jamaica as a "major drug transit country and the Caribbean's largest producer of marijuana and marijuana derivative products". <i>Russian Mafia in bed with Wall Street, CEO says</i> -- natural companions, Wall Street and the Russian Mafia, pillage the market using "naked short selling".
<p>Policy</p>	<p>see <i>daily</i> items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Policy</p>
<p>Agriculture news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ "The real point is that there is <u>no justification</u> whatsoever for spending billions more on agriculture, no matter how it's paid for" -- <i>Stuck on the Farm</i>.</p> <p><i>As world's appetite soars, so do food bills</i> -- "everyone wants to eat like an American on this globe.... But if they do, <u>we're going to need another two or three globes to grow it all</u>".</p> <p>see: Poverty (World food program warning on soaring food prices)</p> <p>see: Poverty (Twenty-year high in rice prices sparks fears)</p>
<p>Diplomacy</p>	<p>↓ <i>The US-Mexico-Canada Security and Prosperity Partnership</i> -- "<i>the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP) builds on our successful NAFTA</i></p>

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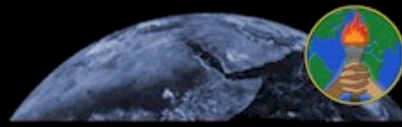
<p>news list forecast</p>	<p>partnership. NAFTA ..."</p> <p>Colombia's president Uribe goes dangerously ballistic -- "what is particularly worrisome about this entire scenario is the strong possibility of U.S. involvement in the incident and what role, if any, SOUTHCOM had in planning, supplying and carrying out the operation".</p> <p>Colombia says FARC documents show Correa ties -- "FARC rebel commander Raul Reyes was killed inside Ecuador in an army operation that has fuelled tensions between Washington ally Colombia and neighbours Venezuela and Ecuador ..."</p> <p>see: Inter-State Conflict (South America on the brink of war [04 Mar 2008])</p> <p>US backs Colombia's efforts against 'terrorist' rebels -- "the US on [03 Mar 2008] backed Colombia's efforts to respond to what it called a 'terrorist' group after Bogota staged a cross-border strike into Ecuador over the weekend".</p>
<p>Economy news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Iraq disappears: "Just <u>19%</u> of Americans consider the economy in good shape, the <u>most negative the public has been in 15 years</u>" -- Debate on economy grows more urgent.</p>
<p>Education news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some US states are thinking that Child Left Behind is not worth the trouble; "Virginia is among several states in which officials have argued that the federal government has failed to provide enough funding and flexibility to carry out the No Child Left Behind law ..." -- Assembly passes bill to allow 'No Child' opt-out. "California courts have held that under provisions in the Education Code, parents <u>do not have a constitutional right to home school their children</u>" -- Criminalizing home schoolers. Boys and girls rely on different parts of brain -- "our findings – which suggest that language processing is more sensory in boys and more abstract in girls -- could have major implications for teaching children and even provide support for advocates of single sex classrooms". Why we need a World Education Bank -- "a World Education Bank would raise the profile of education as a development goal. Its sole purpose would be to promote education at all levels in any country that asked for help. Developing countries would be prime beneficiaries".
<p>Energy news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU's own report 'Climate Change and International Security' sees the possibility of conflict with Russia over Arctic oil resources and crowds of desperate immigrants -- EU report warns of conflict with Russia over energy issue.
<p>Family news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to summarize -- see <i>News List</i>]
<p>Health news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 facts about women's health -- ten headline issues relating to goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals. U.S. health agencies stand behind safety of vaccines -- a settlement from the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is reminder that vaccination is an epidemiological good, but can have extreme risks for individuals - a moral question.
<p>Immigration news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislators in at least <u>eight</u> US states are now sponsoring legislation to address illegal immigration -- Immigration bills up but will they pass?.
<p>Justice news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ The unstudied art of interrogation -- "we don't have any idea — other than anecdote or moral philosophy — what really works," said Benjamin Wittes of the Brookings Institution.</p> <p>America behind bars: why attempts at prison reform keep failing -- the California</p>

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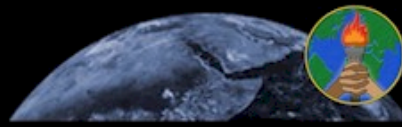


	<p><i>recidivism</i> rate of <u>70%</u> is alone enough to suggest not all is well.</p> <p><i>Uncle Sam</i> is feeding a <u>quarter</u> of the world's <i>prisoners</i>. Does he feel safe yet? "...it's <u>not showing a return on the money we spend</u> - in some states, <u>more than on education</u>" -- <i>American jails hold quarter of world's inmates</i>.</p>
<p>Security news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Some 60% of more than 3,400 [US] active and retired high-level command officers polled said they believe the US military is <u>weaker than five years ago</u> ..." -- <i>US military overtaxed by wars: poll of officers</i>. <p>"Nearly <u>one in three non-commissioned officers</u> in their third and fourth tours reported mental health problems, compared to <u>18.5%</u> of those in their <u>second tour</u> and <u>11.9%</u> of those in their <u>first tour</u>, according to the study" -- <i>Repeated combat tours take toll on troops' mental health: US army</i>.</p>
<p>Society news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Americans elect two presidents: one for them and one for the world</i> -- an obsequious and ill-thought <i>apologia</i> for the US down-home political process; "When they go to the polls, they carry with them the eager proxies of half the world " [Comment: But the proxies <u>don't get a vote</u>.] <p><i>When tolerance infringes on rights of others</i> -- a useful look at the <i>US conservative 'liberalism vs. religion'</i> obsession but slightly confuses <i>social custom</i> and <i>religion</i>.</p> <p><i>Is the '4.0' era is upon us?</i> -- [A largely ill-thought gesture towards "<i>the Future</i>", but with a useful overview of what people and <i>new technology</i> may mean.]</p> <p><i>America the resilient: defying terrorism and mitigating natural disasters</i> -- "<i>the United States is becoming a brittle nation. An increasingly urbanized and suburbanized population has embraced just-in-time lifestyles tethered to ATM machines</i> ..."; "<i>rebuilding resilience</i>" may be a pious but vain hope.</p>
<p>Water news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Water to be the next commoditised resource</i> -- "whether it is <i>Arizona</i> or <i>Darfur</i>, water rights have become an increasingly contentious issue ..." <p><i>Water aid to go public, a little</i> -- the European Commission is rethinking its <i>Water Facility</i> program because <i>private water enterprises</i> either work in the <i>poorest</i> and most needy areas, or the water they provide is entirely <i>unaffordable</i>.</p> <p><i>AP probe finds drugs in drinking water</i> -- "In the course of a five-month inquiry, the [Associated Press] discovered that [prescription] drugs have been detected in the drinking water supplies of <u>24 major metropolitan areas</u> — from Southern California to Northern New Jersey, from Detroit to Louisville, Ky".</p> <p><i>Yemen sleepwalks into water nightmare</i> -- "these women [water carriers] are at the sharp end of what Yemen's water and environment minister describes as a collapse of national water resources <u>so severe it cannot be reversed, only delayed at best</u>." <i>see: China (Beijing diverts water for Olympics)</i></p>
<p>Challengers</p>	
<p>Brazil news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ecuador lobbies for support in Andean crisis</i> [Brazil's diplomatic position is important in <i>Latin American</i> matters; in this case the "<i>war</i>" situation was resolved quickly.] <p><i>see: Venezuela (Venezuela resumes ties with Colombia [09 Mar 2008])</i></p> <p><i>Brazil cracks down on illegal death squad of police officers</i> -- a death squad made up of <i>civilians</i> and <i>military police officers</i> in the northern Brazilian state of <i>Para</i>.</p>
<p>China news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Beijing diverts water for Olympics</i> -- "Games accommodated at expense of <i>farmers</i>, and long-term problem" say critics.

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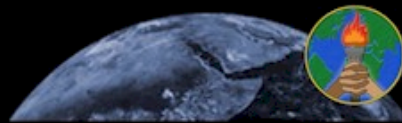


	<p><i>China's crisis-handling problem [Analysis]</i> -- nice analysis, with Taiwan chiefly in mind; "... the obsolete Chinese bureaucratic structure could not effectively coordinate a response amidst the wrangling between different internal interest groups".</p> <p><i>Plight of China's Uighur minority brought to Australia</i> [China's Uighur people refer to Xinjiang province as 'East Turkistan'.]</p> <p><i>China to raise 2008 military budget by a record 19.4%</i> -- China's 2007 defense budget is <u>1.4%</u> of the economy and <u>7.2%</u> total spending; in comparison, the US defense budget <u>4.6%</u> of the economy, <u>16.6%</u> of government spending. .</p> <p><i>China's killer "yellow dust" hits Korea and Japan</i> -- "the annual 'yellow dust' spring storms, which originate in China's Gobi Desert ... are blamed for scores of deaths and billions of dollars in damage every year in South Korea".</p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>[US] State Department gives India a deadline for a Nuclear Pact</i> -- "Opposition has come primarily from Mr. Singh's Communist Party allies, who objected that the deal would strengthen India's ties to the United States. Mr. Singh's coalition would <u>fall</u> without the Communists' support ..." • <i>India to pay cash for baby girls to stem abortions</i>, -- "UNICEF says India continues to lose almost <u>7,000 girls every day</u> through abortions ...". • <i>Maoist activities on the rise in India</i> -- "... there were 1,565 incidents and 696 casualties in 2001, compared with 1,509 incidents and 678 casualties in 2006". <i>'Keep Maoists out of Nandigram'</i> -- "Maoist guerrillas are trying to re-establish their strongholds in Nandigram in east Midnapore district and this has resulted in fresh violence there during the last couple of days". <i>Naxalites [Maoists] shift gaze to urban areas, think of car bombs, suicide missions</i> -- "... new evidence suggests that they are also trying to build urban guerrilla warfare capabilities like rigging remote-controlled explosives devices in cars, even human bombs". • <i>Russia's Psycho-war against India</i> -- "but it is not that India only needs Russia. In fact Russia, too, needs India". <i>India, Russia ink deal for MIG-29 upgradation</i> -- after a tense hiatus, India signs up a big arms deal with Russia.
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Indonesian president departs for Iran, to discuss nuclear issue</i> -- "[President] Yudhoyono's visit to Iran comes a week after Jakarta abstained from voting when the United Nations Security Council approved a new round of sanctions against Teheran over its refusal to halt technical development suspected to be related to nuclear weapons". • Democracy is alive, if sometimes lively, in Indonesia: <i>Angry mob sets fire to Golkar office in Malinau</i> -- "... after their representative was scrapped from the list of nominees for the province's governorship ..." [Comment: Golkar is the "establishment" party of Suharto, and the largest party in today's ruling coalition.]
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Iran's non-Muslims question U.S. motives</i> -- "for decades the United States has funded an effort intended to help Christians, Zoroastrians and Jews escape persecution in Iran"; this is changing the social fabric of Iran with little benefit for anyone.
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Putin warns the West not to get too excited about his "departure": Putin: Medvedev won't be easier on West</i> -- "Mr Putin said he had the feeling some world leaders were waiting for his presidency to end, as they found it uncomfortable to work with a former KGB spy".



	<p>see: Civil War (<i>Russia cashes in on Kosovo fears</i>)</p> <p>see: Civil War (<i>Tbilisi starts to feel the backlash of Kosovo independence</i>)</p> <p>see: India (<i>India, Russia ink deal for MIG-29 upgradation</i>)</p> <p>see: India (<i>Russia's Psycho-war against India</i>)</p>
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • see: Inter-State Conflict (<i>South America on the brink of war [04 Mar 2008]</i>) <p>Chavez: "<i>Colombia is the Israel of Latin America.</i>" -- "<i>Colombia is a terrorist state that is subject to the great terrorist, the government of the United States and their apparatus.</i>" <i>After deadly assault on guerrillas, Chávez orders troops to Colombian border</i> -- "<i>we are not going to permit the North American empire, which is the ruler, to allow his lapdog, President Uribe and the Colombian oligarchy, to divide or weaken us. We will not permit it.</i>" <i>Separating Chavez's Bite from his Bark: Seeking a Rational Hemispheric Security Policy</i> -- analysis by Council on Hemispheric Affairs.</p> <p>But finally ... <i>Venezuela resumes ties with Colombia</i> -- "<i>the presidents of Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia agreed [07 Mar 2008] to peacefully end the dispute at a meeting of the Rio Group in the Dominican Republic.</i>"</p>
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAKISTAN <p><i>13 killed as rival Sunni groups clash in Pakistan</i> -- "<i>the fight began when dozens of heavily armed militiamen from Lashkar Islami (the Army of Islam) tried to dismantle a local shrine in the Bara area of the Khyber Agency ...</i>"</p> <p><i>Besieged Fort, New Commander</i> -- "<i>Kiyani is walking on a minefield and will have to tread cautiously. Musharraf passed on the baton to him, but before he took off his uniform he made sure he retained the power of removing the army chief from office.</i>"</p> <p>As the wolves circle President Mushrraf, the army clarifies its loyalties: "<i>A false impression was being created about 'distancing of the army from the president,' army chief general Pervez Kiyani told a Corps Commanders' conference</i>" -- <i>Pakistan Army stresses support for Musharraf despite polls defeat.</i></p>

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