

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

Poverty. Speculators blamed for famine. Malaysia invests in food security. UN oblivious. IMF down.
Environment. Good news: fungi could transform depleted uranium. Bad news: homes being poisoned.
Inter-State Conflict. Sudan cuts Chad off after defeating proxy attack.
Proliferation. NATO to remove nuclear waste from rockets now in Uzbekistan.

Infectious Disease. Cyclone overwhelms Myanmar. Editor: CNN dumb. See *Acts of God* & links.
Civil War. Lebanon on brink. Thailand, Philippines, Myanmar. Pakistan, Afghanistan. Soft GWOT?
Genocide. Turkey—a 21st Century power—continues to deny Armenian genocide. Backgrounder.
Transnational Crime. Chinese prostitution expands. Mexico, Philippines at risk. UN on piracy.

Other Atrocities. Freedom House survey of repressive regimes. Maoists force child soldiers in India.
Terrorism. Mandela on US watchlist! Small boat attacks a worry. FBI: Al Qaeda no org. crime ties.

Policy Summary

Diplomacy. US Navy Fourth Fleet for South America. UN Preventive Diplomacy Centre.
Economy. China choking. Indian analyst spooks world economy on oil. UK home repossession.
Security. UK does not check airport security workers for foreign crimes. Internet crime gains.
Society. Fear in UK, elites rejected in Ireland. US veteran suicides may exceed battlefield deaths.
Water. Water wars, water price hikes loom, will make Peak Oil look like retrospective heaven.


Agriculture. Feed ourselves first—double world food production. EU to review policy.
Education. Museums making science fun for kids. Prioritize education, not prisons. Character.
Energy. Economist: Alternative energy should be treated as a WWII priority. New crops for fuel.
Health. US uranium poison gas set for broad expansion. Health care costs threaten US economy.
Immigration. It's official: legal immigration is a BIGGER PROBLEM than illegal immigration.

Family. Progressive family values conference at Yale. Editor: long over-due, a very good start.
Justice. Current slave labor exposed in Florida. Terror trials rushed by Pentagon (flawed).

Major Player Summary

Brazil. Aircraft company now a world player. Huge oil reserves possible not yet opened.
China. Nuclear submarine base covers Malacca Strait and Indian Ocean access. Monitoring EV71.
India. Commodity futures suspended. Withdrawing from Afghanistan. Space and missile power.
Indonesia. Losing US\$16 billion a year in natural resources theft. Fuel price hikes. Fighting malaria.
Iran. 5+1 favor dialog with major powers. US could derail Indian pipeline. Sponsors rival pipeline.
Russia. Putin confirmed as Prime Minister. Georgia says close to war with Russia over Abkhazia.
Venezuela. Buying Chinese aircraft, investing in Chinese refinery. Caracas-Colombia-Cocaine update.
Wild Cards. Pakistan Prime Minister tries to take control over Pakistani intelligence.

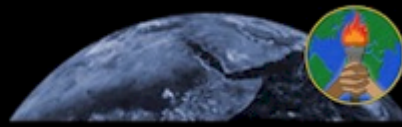
World Crises - monthly assessment by [International Crisis Group](#) - 01 May 2008

-  **Alert:** Burundi, Georgia, Zimbabwe
-  **Deteriorated:** Burundi, Georgia, Haiti, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Yemen, Zimbabwe
-  **Improved:** Cyprus, Nepal, Timor-Leste
-  **Conflict Resolution Opportunity:** Zimbabwe

- **Unchanged:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cameroon, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), China (internal), Colombia, Comoros Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India (non-Kashmir), Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Niger, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somaliland (Somalia), Sudan, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara

ISSUE -- an issue that is presently without a wise or obvious solution.

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

Poverty
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ *Aid offers pour in for cyclone-ravaged Myanmar [Factbox]* -- a plentitude of assistance has been offered.

Myanmar's misery -- "despite their appalling government, the Burmese people deserve all the help they can get."

see: **Infectious Disease** (*Cyclone overwhelms Myanmar doctors, disease threat*)

Insurrection of the famished – causes and possible remedies of the world hunger crisis -- "... there are people who are responsible for the famines that have struck thousands of men, women and children – the **speculators** and their logic of maximizing **profit**"

Malaysia to spend 778 mln dlr on food security: minister -- "... the money would be spent on increasing **rice farming** and raising **buffer stocks** of the grain to match growing local demand ..."

SOMALIA: *Plea for help as drought pushes people towards urban centres* -- "... severe drought being experienced in the region is forcing many **nomads** who lost their **livestock** - the principal means of survival - to abandon their homes and move to urban centres".

SENEGAL: *As protests swell, 'self sufficiency' plan is questioned* -- "[The government] has not set out a credible vision for **agricultural and rural development**. Their vision is not one that will really help develop the rural economy".

And the high-priced help increasingly looks helpless, and maybe pointless ...

Food crisis escapes Security Council scrutiny, Asian Tribune - Thailand, 20080507. [32308] "*The food crisis that has triggered street demonstrations and riots in nearly 30 countries ... continues to escape the scrutiny of the most powerful body at the United Nations: the Security Council*".

The IMF's dwindling fortunes -- The **Asian financial crisis**, the "**IMF-supervised Argentine disaster**" and internal mistakes should leave the US proxy open to change and "use some of its huge **gold reserves** for debt cancellation and limit the IMF's control over policy in **poor countries**."

Infectious Disease
[news list|forecast](#)

• *Cyclone overwhelms Myanmar doctors, disease threat*, Reuters - UK, 20080511. [32420] "we should be ready and prepared for a worst-case scenario. It means outbreaks of **cholera, malaria, dengue fever**." [Comment: As with a **pandemic**, it will be the **doctors** and other medical personnel that will be among the first victims, to disease or exhaustion.]

see: **Indonesia** (*Indonesia aims high in fight against malaria*)

Environment
[news list|forecast](#)

• *Are you trying to clean your home ... or kill it?* -- **toxic** cleaning agents can poison a home.

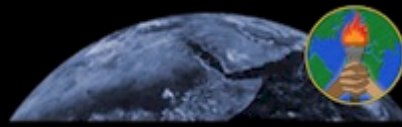
Fungi could reduce uranium risk -- "Now scientists at **Dundee University** have found that free-living and plant **fungi** can colonise **depleted uranium** surfaces and transform the metal into uranyl phosphate minerals".

Inter-State Conflict
[news list|forecast](#)

• *Sudan cuts Chad ties after Darfur rebel attack* -- "the government said it had repulsed the assault by the **Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)**, allegedly backed by Ndjamena [Chad], which saw the insurgents reach **Khartoum's** outskirts with the declared intent of toppling the regime."

Algeria says Morocco must stop plundering Western Sahara -- "Algeria continues to

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support the *Sahraouian* people's fight for *self-determination* under the aegis of the security council of *United Nations* ..."

Civil War
 news list|forecast



Note: 'Civil War' here includes *internal instability*.

LEBANON: *Lebanon teeters on edge of civil war* -- "Sectarian fighting rocked the Lebanese capital for a third day *Hezbollah* chief *Hassan Nasrallah* declared that a government crackdown on his group was tantamount to a declaration of war".

MYANMAR: Dictatorship defined: Where the interests of the State are put ahead of the interests of the population... -- *Burma Military Refusing US Aid*.

THAILAND: *12 injured in explosion in Narathiwat's Red Crescent fair* -- "... planted by insurgents in the annual Red Crescent fair ..."

PHILIPPINES: *British peace experts to help restart MILF-GRP talks* -- "Experts who were involved in the peace talks in *Northern Ireland* will be consulted over contact between the Philippines government and the separatist *Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)* ..."

PAKISTAN: '*FATA militants pose direct threat to US*' -- [FATA - **Federally Administered Tribal Areas**] "*The Pakistan army has been trained and equipped to fight India, while the Frontier Corps that is responsible for the tribal areas is under-trained, ill-equipped and in many cases are outgunned by their militant opponents*".

AFGHANISTAN: *Suicide bomb on poppy team kills 19 Afghans* -- **Taliban** militants killed 19 Afghans, including seven civilians, and wounded 41 more in a suicide bomb attack on a *drug eradication* team in eastern Afghanistan on [29 Apr 2008]. *Taliban score propaganda coup with parade attack* -- "a Taliban attack on an Afghan state parade was a propaganda victory undermining faith in the ability of President *Hamid Karzai's* government to protect itself ..."

SUDAN: *Beyond Darfur: Sudan's slide toward civil war* -- "long-standing tensions between the Arabs who populate the *Nile River valley* and have held power for a century and marginalized groups on the country's periphery are mutating into a national crisis once again."

Now even the *Stars and Stripes* discusses such "radical" rethinks: *Can a softer approach deter insurgency?* -- "with an endless supply of potential enemy fighters facing U.S. troops, it's the only strategy that makes any sense ..."

Genocide
 news list|forecast

- *Turkish denial and the forgotten genocides* -- a useful, very thorough backgrounder on the **Armenian** genocide.

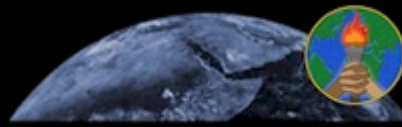
Other Atrocities
 news list|forecast

- *Colombia extradites paramilitary warlord to US* -- "Last year, the Colombian government stripped *Jimenez* of benefits offered during peace negotiations -- including protection from extradition -- because it said he was continuing to traffic drugs and run paramilitary operations from prison".

Survey lists world's most repressive regimes -- **Freedom House** lists the most *repressive regimes* as **Cuba, Libya, Myanmar, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan** and two 'restive territories', **Chechnya** and **Tibet**, "whose inhabitants suffer intense repression".

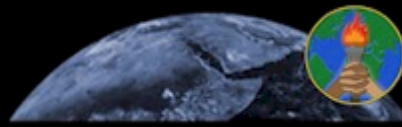
Spain says will not extradite Isabel Peron -- "... a court ruled [28 Apr 2008] that she was not linked to cases of *disappearance* and *torture* during her government in the 1970s".

see: **India** ('*Maoists forcibly recruiting child soldiers in Chhattisgarh*')



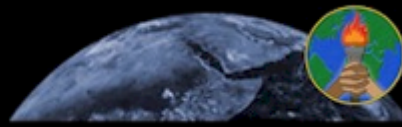
Proliferation news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATO to get rid of N-waste in Uzbekistan -- "... some \$1 million will be invested in the project and it is expected to be completed by September, 2008. The facilities are to be used to deactivate radioactive fuel waste from space rockets, under an agreement between NATO and Uzbekistan. "
Terrorism news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US govt may be getting the message - finally [Editorial], <i>The Nation</i> - Thailand, "it is better late than never, but the US government is coming around to its senses with its introduction of a new set of guidelines for its officials and diplomats - specifically, about what to say or not to say - in the global war on terrorism", Europol report Terror incidents up after Lal Masjid tragedy -- "the frequency of the terrorist attacks in Pakistan and its three fold increase from 2006 to 2007 was the result of July 11th Red Mosque operation in Islamabad ..." US issues strategy to prevent small boat attacks -- "The use of a small boat as a weapon is likely to remain Al Qaeda's weapon of choice in the maritime environment, given its <u>ease in arming and deploying</u>, <u>low cost</u>, and <u>record of success</u>". UNITED KINGDOM: Freezing terror suspects' assets 'unlawful' -- The Home Secretary said: "I am very disappointed. We must be able to use all the tools we can to tackle terrorism and to protect the public". FBI: No global crime link to core al-Qaida -- "we have not seen, to date, a direct link between what we would describe as international organized crime, traditional organized crime, and core al-Qaida".
Transnational Crime news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOLOMON ISLANDS: Are the Chinese triads taking over Honiara? -- "a senior Immigration official is said to be helping the Chinese businessman organise entry visas for the prostitutes". Mexico's Police Chief is killed in brazen attack by gunmen -- "Edgar Eusebio Millán Gómez, the public face of Mexico's offensive against drug cartels, became the <u>highest-ranking law enforcement official to be killed since the launch of the effort 17 months ago</u>". 'RP a money laundering haven for drug cartels, terrorists' -- According to the 2008 International Narcotics Control and Strategy Report published last March, the Philippines was included in the list due to "significant amounts of proceeds from serious crime". UN Security Council to discuss anti-piracy measures off Somalia -- "a draft resolution written by Britain, the United States, Panama and France was submitted to the 15-nation council, which would authorize states to cooperate with Somalia's provisional government for an initial six months to fight acts of piracy". <i>see: Terrorism (FBI: No global crime link to core al-Qaida)</i>
Policy <i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Policy</i>	
Agriculture news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to feed ourselves [Editorial] -- National policies that emphasize export destroy diversity and productivity as well as the ability for nations to feed themselves—witness Mexico and Canada. Family farms grow more food at less cost, without huge external costs induced by oil and chemicals used by mega-farms. Instead of wars of starvation, let us double food production! -- food riots in 40 countries, call to recognize global policy failure—imminent danger (days/weeks); activists say "Feed the World! Kill the WTO!" EU to review common agricultural policy in light of rising food prices -- ".. review

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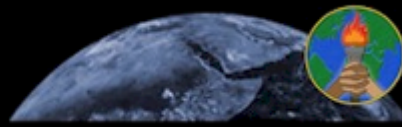


	<p><i>the common agricultural policy and step up food aid in response to soaring global food prices, and reiterated its support for biofuels as a way of combating the energy crisis". [Comment: All these platitudes are unlikely to help by lunch-time tomorrow.]</i></p> <p><i>The world's food insecurity</i> -- a rare serious attempt to dissect the crisis and point to ways forward, by professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University.</p>
<p>Diplomacy news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New US Fourth Fleet raises question: gunboat diplomacy?</i> -- US Navy recreates Fourth Fleet for South America after a <u>60-year hiatus</u>. • <i>Powerless US falls back on 'remote-control' diplomacy for Lebanon</i> -- the US finds it has few friends in Lebanon, the cross-roads of the Middle East. • <i>Slovak diplomat set to head UN preventive diplomacy centre in Central Asia</i> -- the new United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
<p>Economy news listforecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>China vice premier warns of inflation, global slowdown</i> -- China is choking on the filth of rapid, irresponsible industrialization -- something is bound to break.</p> <p><i>In animal shelters, reminders of the economy</i> -- American society as a cuddly brown dog; desperation, abandonment, tears of destruction.</p> <p><i>Mystery Indian analyst spooks world economy</i> -- "he predicted \$100 a barrel when it was in the 30's, and now predicts \$200 a barrel. His analysis is trenchant and frightening. He is a Goldman Sachs managing director."</p> <p><i>British home reposessions highest in 15 years</i> -- whose fault is this, when US and UK have same massive problem?</p> <p><i>Global free market for food and energy faces biggest threat in decades</i> - "As food and fuel riots spread across the world, a string of governments have resorted to steps that menace the free flow of food and key commodities".</p> <p><i>Global economy needs global rules</i> -- the need for an immediate international convergence on new rules for the new economy.</p>
<p>Education news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Education and character development</i> -- as decent social values are replaced by kewhler stuff like drive-by shootings, the cost to society is immeasurable. • <i>Make education, not prisons, a priority</i> -- a penny for education or a dollar for imprisonment? • <i>Experts see impact of museums in science education efforts</i> -- "What's really happening is that kids are learning about science and enjoying it."; a feature on "informal" or "free-choice" science learning outside the school. <p>see: Indonesia (Yudhoyono calls on youths to use their brains in facing global competition)</p>
<p>Energy news listforecast Algae</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More consumption isn't an oil strategy</i> -- to its immense danger, the US delays seeking a holistic, sensible energy strategy. • <i>Portrait of an oil-addicted former superpower</i> -- bleeding treasure for oil so others can buy non-oil treasure. • <i>Economist: Treat alternative energy development 'Like it's World War II'</i> -- "we have to be prepared to spend trillions of dollars – maybe that's what we spent to put a man on the moon – but yes, it's not a Manhattan Project, it's probably 50 or 100 Manhattan Projects". • <i>New crops change food vs. fuel debate</i> -- "Blade™ will be the first multi-crop seed brand supplying the new market for non-food, low-carbon biofuels feedstocks"

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	[Comment: But its cost in arable land and water need to be included in comparisons.]
Family news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive Family Values Conference at Yale -- the <i>Right</i> claims the field, the <i>Left</i> seeks to shine light on it.
Health news list forecast Food Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Uranium poison gas dispersal plants slated for widespread expansion -- plants in Idaho and elsewhere release poisonous gases into local atmospheres. <i>Study: health care costs threaten American businesses in global economy</i> -- the litany against doing anything useful grows daily, but no-one yet addresses the prime cause -- the <u>exorbitant costs of US health-care</u>.
Immigration news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's official! legal immigration is a bigger problem than illegal immigration! -- "with visa fraud raging, legal immigration has emerged as a bigger peril to American sovereignty than illegal immigration". <i>Majority of Americans oppose comprehensive immigration reform or amnesty</i> -- Amnesty is not an option many US citizens wish to offer to illegal aliens.
Justice news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our goal should be economic justice -- "the <i>Coalition of Immokalee Workers</i> has recently exposed several cases of slave labor in the agricultural fields of Florida"; more and more Americans realizing the few are looting the many. <i>Terror trials rushed, officer charges</i> – a former chief prosecutor for the war crimes court testified [28 Apr 2008] that the Pentagon rushed war-on-terror trials.
Security news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From national security to bedroom farce -- returning to power after over a decade, the Labor Party government in Australia may be about to restore its policy of excluding personal activities from the Top Secret vetting process for political staff, questioning whether "the policy is relevant to today's environment". Coast Guard [US] takes delivery of first National Security Cutter -- but still not interoperable with US Navy ... <i>US trains Pakistani killing machine</i> -- "some officers will then be selected to go to the US, where they will be trained in special operations," the official said. Foreign criminals work at [UK] airports unchecked -- "the vetting process checks only for crimes committed in Britain. Foreign workers – arriving from inside or outside the European Union – are <u>not checked in their country of origin</u>". US State Department loses a lot of laptops -- "If the missing ones might have contained classified data, this could be serious." Internet criminals gaining ground, experts say -- "the data came from more than 40 major financial companies around the world, including the United States, and was stolen from computers belonging to doctors and home users conducting online banking and, in some cases, from machines inside corporate networks that the hackers managed to penetrate and infect". Mandela on US terrorist watchlist -- "In the 1970s and '80s, the ANC was officially designated a terrorist group by the country's ruling white minority. Other countries, including the US, followed suit" White House plans proactive cyber-security role for spy agencies -- "<u>most of the 18 strategic goals laid out in the cyber initiative are currently classified, and few within the government have been fully briefed on the plan. But the official said the administration plans to release additional details on at least 12 of those goals next week ...</u>" Chernobyl coverage blows up in Radio Free Europe's face -- "... inundated with as



many as 50,000 fake pings every second ..."

'Tiny radio antennas' under skin could act as remote sensors of humans' emotional, physiological state -- "scientists at the department of Applied Physics of the **Hebrew University of Jerusalem** have discovered a method for **remote sensing of the physiological and emotional state of human beings**".

Microsoft device helps police pluck evidence from cyberscene of crime -- "The device contains 150 commands that can dramatically cut the time it takes to gather digital **evidence**, which is becoming more important in real-world crime, as well as cybercrime. It can **decrypt passwords** and analyze a computer's Internet activity, as well as data stored in the computer".

Pentagon seeks to fund research in national security -- **Social sciences** finally getting some respect; "we, as a **Defense Department**, don't have the **expertise** that we really need".

Back-doors: The hunt for the kill switch -- "the dwindling of domestic **chip** and electronics manufacturing in the United States, combined with the phenomenal growth of suppliers in countries like **China**, has only deepened the U.S. military's concern".

Society
 news list|forecast

↓ *Climate of fear in society, say MPs* -- climate of fear: fear induces **gridlock, cheating**, and other ills; **Government** is of little help to repair society but is all we have..

Who put these people in charge? It wasn't us -- Elites exclude, neighborhoods include - **Ireland** as a case of **Ruling Elites**; "The ultimate test of our progress will be the extent to which we can mobilise all of the people to think and behave in a manner that puts the **interests of society** as whole ahead of their own **private interest**".

Decline of the West: Hangover common in one in 10 brits at work -- "a new study has found that at least one in three Britons have turned up for work with a **hangover**, while one in ten go to work **drunk**."

Lie detectors will trap [UK] benefit cheats -- "Plans to use **lie detectors** to identify and deter **benefit cheats** are to be expanded ..."

Vet suicides may exceed battlefield deaths -- "it's quite possible that the suicides and psychiatric mortality of this war could trump the combat deaths" said Dr. Thomas Insel of the **National Institute of Mental Health**.

Water
 news list|forecast

• *Australia splashes \$12 bln to secure water supplies* -- "Australia, the **driest inhabited continent** on Earth, has been suffering more than seven years of **drought**, with water inflows into the nation's rivers at record lows and farmers facing tough restrictions on **irrigation**."

Water looms as "The Next Oil," warns MIT Sloan professor -- "But the pain caused by **high oil prices** is nothing like what looms as an even more basic and essential natural commodity — water -- faces dwindling supplies and growing demand" says MIT Sloan School of Management Professor.

The World faces "Water Wars" -- Wars over water everywhere—local, provincial, national, regional, starting today.

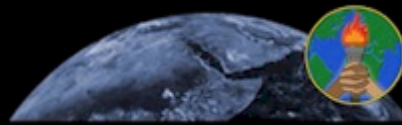
Challengers

Brazil
 news list|forecast

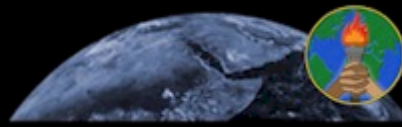
• *Brazilian aircraft maker Embraer up 32% in net revenues* – now with backorders of **\$20B**, Embraer becomes a significant world player.

Money in the bank, but still awaiting the key: *Brazil may have huge oil reserves but*

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	<p><i>not how to reach them</i> -- "Petrobras is betting on the Tupi and Carioca fields to become <u>one of the world's seven biggest crude exporters</u> but <u>until the tools needed to exploit the reservoirs are invented</u>, the crude will remain locked under the sea ..."</p>
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>China's new n-submarine base sets off alarm bells</i> -- "This has raised concern as the Chinese naval base, complete with an underground facility that can hide the movement of submarines from spy satellites, is barely 1,200 nautical miles from the strategic Malacca Strait and an access route to the Indian Ocean — a region that New Delhi considers its <u>personal security responsibility</u>". <p><i>China steps up monitoring of deadly virus outbreak</i> -- "the enterovirus 71, or EV71, which can cause hand, foot and mouth disease, began spreading in Anhui province's Fuyang city from early March [2008], Xinhua said, but was only publicly reported [27 Apr 2008]."</p> <p>see: India (China fleet in mind, Navy chief says number of n-subs cause for concern) see: Venezuela (Venezuela and China boost ties with refinery deal)</p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More items than usual as a checklist of India's multifold challenges on all points of the compass ...</i> <p><i>India suspends 4 commodity futures on price worries</i> -- "... trading in futures contracts in soyoil, potato, chana or chick pea, and rubber had been suspended for four months".</p> <p>see: Iran ('US may blow up the IPI pipeline')</p> <p><i>Terror forces India out of road projects in Afghanistan</i> -- "the Border Roads Organisation would begin withdrawing from its Afghanistan project, where India has already lost <u>five lives</u> in terrorist attacks sometime in July-August".</p> <p><i>India to help Nepal in rehabilitating Maoist combatants</i> -- "the combatants numbering around 20,000 have been lodged currently in 28 cantonments and are being monitored by the United Nations Mission in Nepal."</p> <p><i>India protests heavy firing from Pakistan</i> -- "an Indian Border Security Force border observation post in the Jammu region's Sambha sector came under heavy firing late [08 May 2008] from the Pakistani side. According to a BSF official, the firing was aimed at sending militants into strife-torn Jammu & Kashmir state, which India and Pakistan both claim".</p> <p><i>Rebels kill 11 railway workers in India's northeast</i> -- "Police said militants attacked a remote railway station in the state of Assam, killing three workers. They later raided a railway construction site and killed eight workers". ULFA's ceasefire proposal raises heckles in Assam -- "the Assam police is split in its opinion on the issue of dragging the jailed leaders of the 28th battalion into a truce pact". Militants in northeast using drug money to buy arms -- -- "in India's northeast, narcotics trade and insurgency are close allies with militants trading in heroin and other forms of drugs to procure arms to continue with their secessionist campaigns".</p> <p><i>'Maoists forcibly recruiting child soldiers in Chhattisgarh'</i> -- "it's a forced recruitment. Rebels are carrying away children without their parents` consent and are training them to handle even sophisticated weapons and use them for attacks on civilians and police installations". Policeman killed as Naxals show strength on Jharkhand roads -- "in the <u>first ever incident of its kind</u>, the Naxalites of Jharkhand took to the roads on Wednesday in a show of strength. Over 150 armed Naxals demonstrated on Hazaribagh- Vishnugarh road blocking the traffic ..."</p>



Stop war and start talks: plea for new tactics in India's Red Corridor -- "the report ... urges the reversal of the 40-year policy of refusing to negotiate with the **Naxalites**, as the **Maoists** are known, until they renounce violence". *Talk to Naxalites, says govt panel* -- "Admitting that the rise of **Naxalism** was a "political movement with a strong base among **poor peasantry** and adivasis", a high-powered government committee has ascribed its growth to **people's discontent and complete failure of the system** and asked for immediate winding up of the **Salwa Judum** [anti-Naxalite civil militia] "

'IPI to test India's foreign policy' -- "if the [Iran-Pakistan-India] pipeline deal goes through, then we will know we have an **independent foreign policy**," **Communist Party leader A. B. Bardhan** said.

'India to become major space power' -- "According to the study, the **US** ranks at the top of the 2008 **Space Competitiveness Index** followed by **Russia, Europe, China** and **India** in terms of the government's ability to provide structure and funds, human capital, ability of the manpower to develop space technologies and the ability of the industry to deliver space products and service". *India launches 10 satellites in a day* -- "the satellites were carried into space by India's **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle** which blasted off from a space centre off the country's eastern coast near **Chennai**".

China fleet in mind, Navy chief says number of n-subs cause for concern -- "... Navy Chief Admiral **Sureesh Mehta** said that more than the location of the facility, the growing number of new generation Chinese submarines armed with nuclear missiles is a cause for concern".

India tests ballistic missile capable of reaching China -- "India successfully tested a nuclear-capable missile [07 May 2008] that can hit targets deep inside China, joining the ranks of nations possessing **intermediate-range** missile capacity ..."

The Great Growing Lieutenant Shortage -- "the **Indian Army** is short 24 percent of its **officer strength**, while **China** has the numbers, it is seriously concerned with the **quality**".

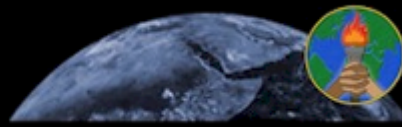
India among worlds most terror-afflicted nations: US State Department -- "the conflict in **Jammu and Kashmir**; attacks by extreme leftist **Naxalites** and **Maoists** in eastern and central India, assaults by **ethno-linguistic nationalists** in the north eastern states, and **terrorist strikes** nationwide by **Islamic extremists** took more than 2,300 lives this year".

RAW — weapon of hegemony – [Research and Intelligence Wing] "the techniques of manipulating public opinion and creating disinformation, propounded by Chanakya anticipated modern intelligence systems by several centuries". [Comment: A valuable review, from the **Pakistan** side, of the depth and breadth of India's 2,500 year experience in state security]

Indonesia
 news list|forecast

- *Thousands rally against fuel price hikes in Indonesia* -- "in the past, **subsidy cuts** have led to social unrest and a big fuel price increase was the spark that triggered rioting that helped topple the late president **Suharto** in 1998. Economists say inflation in Indonesia will soar once the government goes ahead with plans to put up the prices of subsidised fuels. The last time Indonesia raised the price of subsidised fuels was in October 2005".

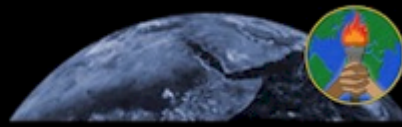
Indonesia losing US\$16 bln per year by natural resources theft -- "they are well-organized in carrying out **illegal logging, fish poaching and smuggling** (particularly **fuel oils**)".



	<p><i>Yudhoyono calls on youths to use their brains in facing global competition</i> -- Members of the younger generation, the head of state said, must not easily give up when facing monetary, energy or food crises. "They have to use the sharpness of their brain and, physical prowess to achieve their ends," he said.</p> <p><i>Indonesia aims high in fight against malaria</i> -- "we should not be content with decreasing numbers. We have to strive to reach a zero fatality" [President] Yudhoyono said.</p>
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Proposals show 5+1, Iran favor dialogue: analysts</i> -- "Iran has made a counterproposal to the major powers [on the Iran enrichment issue] which calls for negotiations on political, security, and economic issues as well as activities that have the potential to threaten global security by violating international law..." • <i>'US may blow up the IPI pipeline'</i> -- "In fact, if the argument of the protagonists of the Indo-US nuclear deal was based on this question of energy augmentation, then the <u>gas pipeline is the cheapest and the best option for India</u>". • <i>Energy: Turkmen, Iranian presidents moving ahead with rival pipelines</i> – a look at the pipeline jostling in Central Asia.
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Putin Is approved as Prime Minister</i> -- "Russia's Parliament overwhelmingly confirmed Vladimir V. Putin as prime minister [08 May 2008], completing his managed departure from the presidency in a manner that left him <u>the country's dominant politician, with a firm grip on power</u>". • <i>Georgia says "very close" to war with Russia</i> -- "Russia has said its troop build-up is needed to counter what it says are Georgian plans to attack Abkhazia". • <i>Russia 'no longer uses' nuke sub deterrent</i> -- "Russian nuclear submarines conducted only <u>three patrols</u> last year In comparison, U.S. nuclear subs conducted <u>54 patrols</u> in 2007, more than <u>three times</u> as many as all the other nuclear-weapon states combined".
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Venezuela's Chavez slams Germany's Merkel comments</i> -- the leftist leader, who famously called U.S. President George W. Bush "the devil" at a United Nations assembly, slammed Merkel for calling on Latin American leaders to distance themselves from Chavez. "She is from the German right, the same that supported Hitler, that supported fascism, that's the Chancellor of Germany today," he said. • <i>Venezuela's Chavez to buy Chinese K-8 planes</i> • <i>Venezuela and China boost ties with refinery deal</i> -- "the joint-venture refinery, <u>Venezuela's first such investment in China</u>, will advance Chavez's goal of shipping to China 1 million barrels per day of oil by around 2011, or <u>13 percent</u> of current Chinese oil demand". • <i>Governor: Venezuela's Chavez willing to 're-engage' in negotiations to free US hostages</i> [In Colombia] • <i>Caracas, Colombia, and Cocaine</i> – an update on a key element in Venezuela-US relations.
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pakistan PM takes control of spies</i> -- "... the Government ordered the country's intelligence agencies to report to Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and no longer to Mr Musharraf".

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New Book Reviews by Robert Steele (#1 Amazon Reviewer for Non-Fiction, #35 Over-All)

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