



DrumBeat: April 29, 2007

Posted by [Leanan](#) on April 29, 2007 - 9:19am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Rebels Bomb Fuel Facilities in Sri Lanka](#)

Tamil Tiger rebels bombed a fuel refinery and gasoline storage facility near the Sri Lankan capital early Sunday, and authorities cut power to the city, officials said. Hours later, the military pounded rebel positions in the north.

[As climate shifts, so does definition of security](#)

Growing concern surrounds a new national security threat, an insidious trend that could foster terrorism worldwide and draw our armed forces into messy regional conflicts in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

No, it isn't nuclear proliferation. Nor is it a new brand of religious fundamentalism.

It's global warming.

[Carbon-Neutral Is Hip, but Is It Green?](#)

“The worst of the carbon-offset programs resemble the Catholic Church’s sale of indulgences back before the Reformation,” said Denis Hayes, the president of the Bullitt Foundation, an environmental grant-making group. “Instead of reducing their carbon footprints, people take private jets and stretch limos, and then think they can buy an indulgence to forgive their sins.”

“This whole game is badly in need of a modern Martin Luther,” Mr. Hayes added.

[At Milepost 1 on the Hydrogen Highway](#)

ANY discussion of a future generation of hydrogen cars inevitably leads to the same question: Where will I fill the tank?

[EPA Proposal Allows Massive Pollution Increases](#) - *New Rule Defies Unanimous Supreme Court*

Decision

The Environmental Protection Agency today issued a supplemental rulemaking proposal that would allow coal-fired power plants across the country to increase their toxic emissions – thereby crippling a key provision of the Clean Air Act, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Specifically, the proposal would exempt coal-fired power plants from installing modern-day pollution controls when upgrading their facilities and increasing their annual pollution.

[Get Congress to pave way for U.S. alternative fuel sites](#)

Our country is facing a severe energy crisis. "Peak oil" was once considered a radical theory, but current research has given it a high degree of credibility. Some believe the peak already may have passed, while others think it will occur between 2005 and 2010. Not only are we running out of oil, we are running out of time.

[Ford exec says April sales 'terrible' for industry](#) - *Hard time explaining' why they're so bad; GM starts incentive program*

Pipas said the spillover from weaker housing to other areas of the economy and rising gas prices appear to be affecting consumers but added that many of these same factors were also present in March.

"I have a hard time explaining why April is so weak," he said.

[Is Saudi Arabia stealing Iraqi crude via the Iraq/Saudi pipeline?](#)

I recently became interested in the theory that the Iraqi Saudi pipeline (IPSA) was being used by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to pipe Iraqi crude to the KSA to be sold as Arabian light crude.

[Go west in the great Canada oil rush of '07](#)

Canada has launched a campaign to attract 100,000 new citizens in an appeal reminiscent of the great colonial migrations of the middle of the 20th century.

[World climate panel in Bangkok to recommend nuclear energy](#)

The United Nations Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which gathers in Bangkok this week is expected to throw its weight behind nuclear energy as a means of mitigating global warming, media reports said Sunday.

[The Honeymoon's Over for Bush and the Saudis](#)

What has happened to the love affair between Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah and President Bush? Two years ago, down on the Texas ranch, they were photographed walking hand in hand. It was the beginning of a beautiful relationship: Bush dropped his demand for democratization in the puritanical kingdom, and Abdullah did his best to moderate oil prices. The dowry was a new U.S. arms deal for the Saudis. A second honeymoon was scheduled for this month, when Bush planned to host Abdullah for his first state visit.

[A Saudi Prince Tied to Bush Is Sounding Off-Key](#)

Bush administration officials have been scratching their heads over steps taken by Prince Bandar's uncle, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, that have surprised them by going against the American playbook, after receiving assurances to the contrary from Prince Bandar during secret trips he made to Washington.

[Japan's Abe arrives in Saudi at start of Mideast tour](#)

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrived in Saudi Arabia on Saturday on the first leg of a Middle East tour aimed at bolstering Japan's presence in a region crucial for its energy needs.

[Missiles, Oil, and Europe Re-Divided](#)

Moscow is playing a game of "divide and rule" by exploiting Europe's dependence on Russian oil and gas supplies. As the EU's Russia policy is blocked by the Polish government's intransigence, Russia blithely continues to sign more bilateral treaties with individual EU member states, most recently with Greece and Bulgaria.

[China dream a nightmare for climate change](#)

At the age of 27, marketing executive Zack Chen is living the modern China dream. Holidays in Europe, modern appliances at home and a high-paying job with a foreign car company.

The problem for the world as it tries to tackle climate change is that more than one billion other Chinese want to be just like him.

[Saudi Arabia confirms goal of boosting exports to Asia](#)

In the past, we've noted Saudi Arabia and, more generally, OPEC's recent desire to capture market share in Asia rather than in the United States. Last year, Saudi Aramco boosted exports to China after lagging Angola as the number one exporter to the nation for the majority of the year. They regained their position as the top exporter to China last fall. Last week, Saudi Aramco's VP of Marketing and Supply described Asian demand as a "sleeping giant" ready to wake.

[Aramco, Shell refinery hitch](#)

Saudi Aramco and Shell have scaled back crude runs at their 305,000 barrels per day refinery in Jubail due to technical glitches, reported Reuters. The refinery, which focuses on the export market, had just resumed production following a month long routine maintenance break.

[Talk of 4th nuclear reactor on Delaware River draws criticism](#)

The last time the federal government considered how dangerous the Salem, N.J., nuclear complex could be, it came to this conclusion: In the unlikely case of a meltdown, 100,000 people in the region would die within one year, with 75,000 injuries and 40,000 later deaths to cancer.

[Experts meet on U.N. report: warming can be slowed](#)

After two gloomy United Nations reports on global warming, scientists and governments on Monday begin looking at how to fight climate change with green groups saying the time for bickering is over.

[Uganda: Joining walking class due to diesel shortage](#)

I left home on Monday morning, thinking that this week would be just like any other. I stopped at Engen in Bunga, only to be told there was no diesel. I passed by more than eight stations in Kansanga, Kabalagala, Nsambya and Kibuli only to be told the same "no diesel" story.

After Total in Kibuli, my car came to an abrupt halt, as it couldn't run on empty anymore. I abandoned it on the road and joined the walking class on my way to work.

[A Tale of Two Crudes](#)

One of the most unusual and interesting developments in the past two months has been the stark divergence in performance between two of the most common crude oil

benchmarks in the world--WTI and Brent crude.

[Gas reserves can last 3 centuries: Iranian official](#)

Managing director of National Iranian Oil Company has predicted that Iran, which holds the world's second largest known gas reserves, is able to exploit gas from its gas fields for the next three hundred years.

[Chavez and Big Oil gear up for struggle over Venezuela's oil future](#)

Forcing Big Oil to give up control of Venezuela's most promising oil fields this week will be relatively easy for President Hugo Chavez, but he will face a more delicate challenge in getting the world's top oil companies to stay and keep investing.

[Chavez aims to meet left's energy needs](#)

President Hugo Chavez said Saturday that Venezuela is ready to become the sole energy supplier to Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Haiti, presenting the countries with his most generous offer yet of oil-funded diplomacy in the region.

[Preparing for 'peak oil'](#)

The world has a big problem: It's running out of oil. According to a recent Government Accountability Office report, the long-awaited "peak oil" crisis will certainly happen by 2040 - and may be happening right now.

Fortunately, President Bush has a strong energy plan in place that can be easily augmented to respond to concerns in both the oil industry and the global warming community.



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