



## Drumbeat: November 26, 2011

Posted by [Leanan](#) on November 26, 2011 - 10:04am

### [China, India perform dangerous new dance of encircler, counter-encircler](#)

NEW DELHI — It was billed as a new assertiveness, when India's usually meek Prime Minister Manmohan Singh supposedly looked his Chinese counterpart in the eye at a summit in Bali last weekend and defended his country's "commercial" right to explore for oil and gas in the South China Sea.

But it was also a sign of rising frictions between India and China, and of what experts see as a dangerous new game between the world's most populous nations.

### [Book review: The End of Growth](#)

As the dark clouds gather over the eurozone and the UK economy shows the slightest signs of growth, the debate about the cult of economic growth and the future of the world has returned centre stage.

The fact is that a world that is bursting at 7bn, and is predicted to grow a further 2bn by 2050, what was once a secular macroeconomic theory has now become part of the discussion about survival.

### [New oil reserves pose threat to OPEC dominance](#)

While the world remained focused on Tahrir Square — another revolution of its kind has been in the making — impacting, changing and altering the global energy dynamics.

The issue of global energy security seems changing nexus now, resulting in uncertain call on Saudi and OPEC oil in medium term. Large new, conventional and unconventional reserves in North America, and elsewhere, are questioning the dominant role of OPEC in meeting the global oil thirst. These new developments have also sapped the urgency to develop the Kingdom's own reserves — further — at this stage.

### ['Unstable' gas supplies highlight potential energy crisis](#)

AMMAN - While casting doubt over stability in Egypt, ongoing attacks on the Arab Gas

Pipeline have put Jordan's drive for alternative energy sources at the front and centre of the public debate.

By severing gas supplies earlier this month, the seventh act of sabotage this year on the Arab Gas Pipeline exposed the weakness of Jordan's energy sector, which relies on Egyptian gas for over 80 per cent of its electricity needs.

### [Fuel shortage nearly cripples western Canadian trucking industry, but relief is in sight](#)

CALGARY, Alta. -- Trucking is considered by many to be the true "engine" of the economy - the driving force, so to speak - so if there isn't enough juice to power the engine of the economy's engines, it could be a big problem for everyone.

It's a situation that came very close to shutting down a major part of western Canadian trade in November, thanks to a nearly month-long shortage of diesel fuel. If it had gone on much longer - not that it's completely over yet - many trucks could have been idled and goods undelivered.

### [Gas supply remains suspended in Faisalabad for third consecutive day](#)

The gas supply to 600 industrial units and 380 CNG stations remained suspended for three consecutive days, on Saturday, as a result a large number of industrial workers most of them daily wagers became jobless for three days.

### [Arab League proposes sanctions against Syria, including freezing assets](#)

(CNN) -- Arab League finance ministers recommended Saturday that economic sanctions be levied against the Syrian government for its part in a bloody, months-long crackdown on civilian demonstrators, a senior Arab League official told CNN.

State-run Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) called the move an "unprecedented procedure (that) contradicts the rules of the economic and trade cooperation among the Arab countries and targets the Syrian people."

### [Argentine natgas plant operates normally - Apache](#)

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - An Argentine natural gas processing plant operated by U.S.-based Apache Corp (APA.N) was operating normally on Saturday after indigenous protests disrupted production this week, a company source said.

### [How big is Exxon's gamble in Kurdistan? \(Answer: BIG\)](#)

Has ExxonMobil -- the annoyingly prissy schoolboy who always obeys the teacher -- risked weakening one of its distinguishing pillars in order to break into a single oil patch? And if so, could that shake up the global oil market along with geopolitics?

### [The splurge factor: The case for strong holiday sales](#)

Richard Hastings, a consumer strategist at Global Hunter Securities, predicts retail sales in the November to January time period will rise 5.75 percent this year.

Hastings has been optimistic because consumers have been spending in recent months, but he recently trimmed its holiday forecast by 50 basis points to account for two factors: store traffic has slowed and crude oil prices have been on the rise and could cut into consumer spending.

### [To Sell Green, First Teach Green](#)

TURNS out the “House of the Year” is small, inexpensive to heat, and priced at a surprisingly low \$220,000.

A new 1,600-square-foot split-level on Voluntown Road, it is the Builders Association of Eastern Connecticut’s answer to a market in which new construction faces stiff competition from the surplus of houses for resale. The prototype is meant to showcase assets rarely found in older homes: ultra-greenness and affordability.

### [Toilet paper preparedness vs. true resilience](#)

A week after the first storm (and a few days before the second one), a well-meaning friend who lived several hours away called to check up on us. A keen follower of all developments related to climate change and fossil fuel shortages, he extended his hearty congratulations to my family. Our disaster preparedness was a sign of our resilience. We were passing a test that was a prelude to all the future calamities to come. We were survivors.

I bit my lip until it nearly bled in my effort to keep the words “screw you” from blurring out of my mouth. I politely ended the call, then slammed the telephone receiver on the desk, twice, before returning it to its cradle. Then I put my head down on my desk and wept. We didn’t pass any tests. We were damned lucky. That’s all. And too many people and places we care about were not.

### [John Michael Greer: Bringing It Down To Earth](#)

We’ve covered a lot of ground in the last two months or so, and at this point I want to summarize the territory thus explored and link it back into the core of this blog’s project —the search for a realistic understanding of the troubled future ahead of us, and a

meaningful way to respond to it. One crucial part of that response, I've suggested, relates to that tangled realm where consciousness meets the unconscious drives that shape so much of our experience of the world: a realm that contemporary thought addresses, however incompletely, through the science of psychology, and that the older lore of magic approaches in a much more comprehensive and potent way.

### [To Rethink Sprawl, Start With Offices](#)

IN an era of concern about climate change, residential suburbs are the focus of a new round of critiques, as low-density developments use more energy, water and other resources. But so far there's been little discussion of that other archetype of sprawl, the suburban office.

Rethinking sprawl might begin much more effectively with these business enclaves. They cover vast areas and are occupied by a few powerful entities, corporations, which at some point will begin spending their ample reserves to upgrade, expand or replace their facilities.

### [Crude Oil Advances as Europe May Increase Efforts to Contain Debt Crisis](#)

Oil rose on speculation that euro- area leaders will do more to fight the debt crisis and on concern that tension in the Middle East will disrupt supply.

Futures gained 0.6 percent, paring a second weekly loss, after Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti said that German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy would support Italy. Four people died in Saudi Arabia this week in clashes between Shiite Muslims and security forces.

### [Mexico's oil output rises in Oct-Pemex data](#)

(Reuters) - Mexico's state oil company Pemex said on Friday that oil production rose to 2.553 million barrels per day in October from 2.489 bpd in September.

Mexican monthly oil output has been little changed since 2009 as Pemex has slowed the rate of natural decline at its giant Cantarell oil field in the southern Bay of Campeche.

### [Nigerian crude exports set to rise in Jan](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - Nigeria is set to load around 1.93 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in January, according to provisional loading programmes, up slightly from planned levels last month due to higher supplies of the benchmark Qua Iboe grade.

Planned exports were 1.9 million bpd in December, although traders said actual exports will likely be higher because of three late additions to the Bonny Light loading

programme.

### [Norway gas plant online; platforms out until Monday](#)

(Reuters) - A key Norwegian gas processing plant, shut on Friday after a brief power outage, resumed operations overnight but a major storm is expected to keep several floating oil platforms shut until Monday, energy companies said on Saturday.

### [Reliance, Tata Face Energy Caps in \\$3 Billion Efficiency Market](#)

India has set targets for companies including Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and Tata Steel Ltd. (TATA) on energy consumption reductions in preparation for a \$3 billion-a-year market for trading efficiency credits.

Companies have been notified of their targets and audits of their energy consumption have started, said Ajay Mathur, director of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.

### [Analysis - EU may believe it can afford to ban Iran's oil](#)

(Reuters) - Europe is edging towards an Iranian oil embargo despite worries a ban would hit enfeebled euro zone members hardest, propel global crude prices higher and only hurt Iran by obliging it to rely on China to buy more crude at discounted prices.

As the political heat rises, Italy and France are pressing their oil companies to consider abandoning purchases from Iran, officials say.

Traders and analysts say a prerequisite for action is that the European Union gets Saudi Arabia on board to fill any gap from Tehran.

### [No dictation, please!](#)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan rejected on Friday the suggestion of US Ambassador Cameron Munter that the Pak-Iran gas pipeline project was not in its interest. Talking to the media, Information Minister Firdaus Ashiq Awan said that Pakistan would not take dictation from any one on the project and would do whatever was in the interest of the country.

### [Pakistan: 26 soldiers killed in NATO helicopter attack](#)

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) – Pakistan on Saturday accused NATO helicopters of firing on two army checkpoints in the country's northwest and killing 26 soldiers, then retaliated by closing the border crossings used by the coalition to supply its troops in

neighboring Afghanistan.

### [Syria faces sanctions but army stands by regime](#)

BEIRUT (AP) – The Syrian military vowed Friday to "cut every evil hand" that targets the country's security, a defiant stance by the regime as it faces the possibility of sweeping economic sanctions from the Arab League.

The military statement could signal darker days to come in an eight-month revolt against President Bashar Assad that is turning more violent by the day.

### [Officials: Egypt protester killed outside Cabinet](#)

CAIRO (AP) – An Egyptian demonstrator was killed early Saturday outside the country's Cabinet building, where protesters have camped overnight to prevent the entrance of the country's newly-appointed prime minister, witnesses and a medical official said.

The death came as a wave of protests against military rule was given extra impetus by the Egyptian military's decision on Friday to appoint a prime minister who served under deposed President Hosni Mubarak.

### [Gas Deal With Belarus Gives Control of Pipeline to Russia](#)

The Russian government agreed on Friday to offer Belarus loans and a discounted price on natural gas worth more than \$14 billion, tying Belarus, Russia's small, authoritarian neighbor, into an even tighter union with Moscow.

The loans and discounts represent an economic lifeline to Belarus's president, Aleksandr G. Lukashenko, helping his government to subsidize basic food items and imported goods to offset inflation and tamp down social unrest. In exchange, Belarus sold full control of its natural gas pipeline to Europe to Gazprom, the Russian energy giant.

### [Chevron keen for more Brazil oil, despite spill](#)

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) - Chevron said on Friday it planned to invest \$3 billion in Brazil over the next three years, despite uproar in the South American country after an oil spill this month caused by its offshore drilling.

### [Transocean Oil Rig in Collision With Ship Off the Coast of Newfoundland](#)

A Transocean Ltd. (RIG) offshore drilling rig working for Husky Energy Inc. (HSE) off



the coast of Newfoundland was struck by a supply ship and damaged yesterday, according to regulators.

### [Transocean drops upbeat tone on 2010 safety result](#)

(Reuters) - Transocean Ltd has formally dropped the upbeat language concerning its 2010 safety performance in light of the Macondo well blow-out that destroyed one of its rigs and killed 11 people.

### [Millions Spent in Albany Fight to Drill for Gas](#)

ALBANY — Energy companies have been pouring millions of dollars into television advertising, lobbying and campaign contributions as the administration of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo enters the final phase of deciding when and where to allow a controversial form of natural gas extraction that is opposed by environmental groups.

### [The end of coal's '1000 year Reich'?](#)

Economists, ever fearful for their next consultancy, have started to meekly return to analyze of what is 'peak oil' and 'peak coal' ie when will coal and oil production will start to run out. Despite the embarrassment of previous mistakes, countries and even planets run out of particular resources that can be extracted at anything like a commercially feasible prices.

### [What Peak Oilers Won't Tell You About Peak Oil](#)

M. King Hubbert is the father of Peak Oil theory. In a 1956, he paper correctly called the timing of the peak in U.S. crude oil production in the early 1970s.

Neo-Malthusians and Progressives make sure you know about Hubbert's pessimistic outlook for conventional crude oil. They made Hubbert a household name, the only oil technologist whose name they use without adding "sellout" or "whore".

But here's what they never tell you about what Hubbert's wrote...

### [Low Carbon Sustainable Means a Post Industrial Future](#)

The chances of the long-term future being truly postindustrial is high: as Albert Einstein said on the subject of war, industrial civilization makes it certain the third world war will be nuclear - but the fourth world war will be fought with sticks and stones. By a lot less people.

Cities like Copenhagen and Amsterdam are often heralded for being so bicycling and public transit oriented, with travel by car constituting a minority of trips, (despite still high rates of automobile ownership). It is often assumed that such cities in Europe have always had bike cultures and we can never emulate their travel mode shares.

What many don't realize is that many world cities that we associate with bicycling today were once beginning to follow in the foot steps of American cities. Like us, they began destroying neighborhoods to make way for express highways, paving over public spaces for parking lots, and vehicle miles traveled rapidly increased. Some of the most happening outdoor cafes with adjacent cycle paths in Copenhagen today, were ugly and crowded parking lots in the 1970's.

### [Feds probe new battery fires in Chevrolet Volt](#)

WASHINGTON—The government is investigating new fires involving the lithium-ion batteries in General Motors Co.'s Chevrolet Volt to assess the fire risk in the electric car after a serious crash.

One Volt battery pack that was being closely monitored following a government crash test caught fire Thursday, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in a statement Friday. Another recently crash-tested battery emitted smoke and sparks, the statement said.

### [German Power Grid at 'Edge of Capacity' as Country Exits Nuclear](#)

Germany's power grid is nearing the "edge of its capacity" as the nation switches to renewable power because of the decision to exit nuclear generation, and after slow modernization of the network, the regulator said.

### [China Looks Into U.S. Energy Trade Policies](#)

HONG KONG — China's ministry of commerce announced on Friday that it had opened an investigation into whether American subsidies and other policies in the solar, wind and hydroelectric sectors had unfairly hurt the industrial development of China's renewable energy industries.

The announcement comes two weeks after the United States Department of Commerce said that it had accepted a request by SolarWorld Industries America and six other companies in the United States for an investigation into whether Chinese solar panel manufacturers had obtained export subsidies from the Chinese government, or had dumped solar panels in the United States for less than it cost to manufacture and distribute them.



## [EU Opens Dumping, Anti-Subsidy Investigation Into U.S. Bioethanol](#)

The European Union is threatening to impose duties on imports of bioethanol from the U.S., saying American sellers may be using trade-distorting government aid to sell in the EU below cost, a practice known as dumping.

## [Independent review of US energy loans starts on Mon](#)

(Reuters) - Former investment banker Herb Allison will begin on Monday to review the U.S. Energy Department's \$35.9 billion loan portfolio, after two companies that received loan guarantees went bankrupt, a White House spokesman said on Friday.

## [With wind power the EU can cut carbon emissions by 30%](#)

According to the latest EWEA research, wind energy can cover nearly one-third of the EU's 2020 target to reduce carbon emissions by 20%. That's one technology accounting for 31% of the 20% cut, alone. The calculation, contained in a report called 'wind energy and EU climate policy', is based on European Commission figures which show that coal, gas and oil emitted on average 696g of CO2 per KiloWatt hour of power production in 2010.

## [Clean air, water rules spark different responses](#)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Large and small companies have told Republican-led congressional committees what the party wants to hear: dire predictions of plant closings and layoffs if the Obama administration succeeds with plans to further curb air and water pollution.

But their message to financial regulators and investors conveys less gloom and certainty.

## [Warning over melting ice at North Pole](#)

Sir David Attenborough has warned that there will be "open water at the North Pole in summer within the next few decades" if the current rate of global warming is allowed to continue.

In his bleakest comments yet on the fate of our warming planet, the veteran naturalist, who visited the pole for the first time last year, said that the consequences of melting sea ice would be dire for wildlife and humanity alike.

## [Climate change affects Africa's poorest small-scale farmers, making them poorer and hungrier](#)

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — As she surveys her small, bare plot in Zimbabwe's capital,

farmer Janet Vambe knows something serious is happening, even if she has never heard of climate change.

"Long ago, I could set my calendar with the date the rains started," the 72-year-old said. Nowadays, "we have to gamble with the rains. If you plant early you might lose and if you plant late you might win. We are at a loss of what to do."



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