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Weblog latest

Weblog: July 2002

Kabila on the Rwandan peace deal
July 31: The presidents of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Paul Kagame and Joseph Kabila, signed a peace deal yesterday after four years of war. In return for Rwanda's withdrawal from its borders, Congo has promised to round-up and repatriate the Rwandan Hutu militias that have been fighting against the Kagame government - many of whom, Mr Kagame says, are responsible for the genocide of Rwandan Tutsis in 1994.
Asked by allAfrica.com if the deal will hold, Mr Kabila said: "It is peace we want and it is peace we shall get."
allAfrica.com
Special report: Congo

Tony's world
July 25: David Goodhart's interview with Tony Blair, in Prospect this month, is a must-read. In it, the prime minister explains Britain's position in the world in terms of power politics: "If we are powerful within Europe we are of greater use as an ally to America. It works the other way too. If Europe knows that on issues of foreign and security policy America speaks most intimately to the British, that's helpful to us within Europe." Around that fulcrum, Mr Blair develops his views on Iraq, Africa, the UN and the question of British identity.
Prospect

The stateless
July 25: As part of the US clampdown on immigration from Mexico, it has been working with the Mexican government to deport migrants to their countries of origin even before they reach the border. So how come a group of Indians ended up languishing in a detention centre in Guatemala? The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists describes the plight of people who are effectively 'stateless'.
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
Special report: refugees

Perejil: the original Hispania?
July 25: 'In this -until now - humble and almost forgotten islet in the straits, we find Spain's supposed father, who gave us our name, and set us apart from other nations. We might even call Spain the Parsley Peninsula,' El País reprints an article first run in 1902 by the literary giant Miguel de Unamuno, about a French scholar who identifies the island of Perejil with Homer's Calypso - and who says that it is to the islet that Spain owes her name. (In Spanish.)
El País
Special report: Spain

Thirst for justice
July 24: Hundreds of migrants have been killed on the US-Mexican border since the late 1990s, reports **Mother Jones** magazine, after a US clampdown led them to take their chances in the desert. So a local priest, Robin Hoover, has decided to do something to stop deaths from dehydration - by placing 60-gallon water tanks at strategic points.
Mother Jones

Ethiopia on September 11
July 24: Nicholas Jubber and Michael Hirst travelled from Venice to Ethiopia in search of 'a land of wonder' - a mythical eastern kingdom where salamanders and unicorns lived alongside the 'twelve tribes of Israel, the Amazon warriors and the elixir of life'. As their travelogue **100days.org.uk** records, their arrival at Lalibela, a northern town with thirteen Orthodox churches hewn from stone, coincided with a day of awful revelation in the western world.
100days.org.uk

Trust in troubled times
July 24: For the past year, the English-language **Daily Star** in Lebanon has been distributed with US newspaper the International Herald Tribune. Although the papers have published differing leader lines on the Middle East crisis, a Star editorial today says the association has 'helped to spread fuller understanding of the region's problems and aspirations'.
Daily Star (Lebanon)
International Herald Tribune

The cowardice of November 17
July 24: Greek newspaper **Kathimerini** - also distributed with the Herald Tribune, this time in Greece and Cyprus - condemns the cowardice at the end of November 17, the organisation that has killed senior US officials, Greek public figures and most recently the British diplomat Stephen Saunders. "The members of November 17 broke easily, and just as easily betrayed others as well as their belief in their alleged ideals. Quite simply, because they had never believed in them."
Kathimerini

A voice for women in China
July 23: What is it like to host a radio programme in for women in China? **OpenDemocracy** talks to broadcaster and author Xinran, whose show 'Words on the Night Breeze' the stories of ordinary women across the country. "When I said the word "love", she says, 'my face became red, because no one at all used this word."
OpenDemocracy
Special report: China

An Israeli view of international media coverage
July 19: Immediately after the double suicide bombing in Tel Aviv's Neve Sha'anan district, CNN, the BBC and Sky News all went over to live broadcasts from the site of the blast,' writes Rogel Alper in **Ha'aretz**. But on Fox News - newly aired in Israel - he finds such attacks are less newsworthy than disgraced baseball players.
"Stains of mourning" in Emmanuel - Jerusalem Post
Reviving the Arab peace initiative - Daily Star (Lebanon)
Fence at the heart of Palestine - Al Ahram (Egypt)
Special report: Israel and the Middle East
Weblog special: Israel and the Middle East

Why Morocco must look north
July 18: Spain and Morocco continue to argue over Perejil, the disputed island occupied by a group of Moroccans last week, and then recaptured by Spanish troops. But what does Morocco hope to gain from the spat? As Bradford Dillman writes in the Moroccan-American site **Wafin.com**, the north African country must grow closer to Europe to secure its economic future.
Wafin.com
Spain is right, but must be flexible - El Mundo (in Spanish)
Spain's anachronistic aggression - Le Matin (Morocco, in French)

Northern Ireland: a fine line
July 18: Last night's **Belfast Telegraph** maps out the 'fine line' that Tony Blair will have to tread with republicans, after the IRA's apology to the families of 650 'non-combatants' killed in its 30-year campaign of violence. Both the apology and the two decommissioning events, it says, could be seen as new dawns or political ploys: in common with other commentators, it says action must match the gestures.
Welcome apology - Irish Independent
Statement must be given a guarded welcome - Belfast Newsletter
Special report: Northern Ireland

Gordon opens the coffers
July 16: "All have won and all shall have prizes," said the Dodo in Alice in Wonderland, and so it was with Gordon Brown's spending review,' writes Ben MacIntyre in a **Times** sketch, after the chancellor unveiled a £61bn increase in spending over the next three years. Switching metaphors with disdain, he then depicts Mr Brown as a drunk Father Christmas running amok in a department store. For a more sober view, read today's independent leader (link below).
Mr Brown's plans are admirable - leader, Independent
Full coverage: spending review
Weblog special: spending review 2002

Behind the scenes at Camp David
July 16: Shlomo Ben-Ami, head of the Israeli negotiating team at the failed Camp David talks, has given a fascinating interview to **Bitter Lemons**. The Israeli prime minister, Ehud Barak, he says, 'is incapable of reading cultural lines' and 'has difficulty functioning in a hostile cultural environment.' Yasser Arafat, on the other hand, is 'the most impossible man you can imagine'.
Bitter Lemons
Special report: Israel & the Middle East

Why bin Laden is dead
July 16: Osama bin Laden is dead, writes Amir Taheri in the **New York Times** - and so is his brand of politics. After September 11, he says, the conditions do not exist for Bin Laden's 'cynical misinterpretation of Islam' to survive.
New York Times (registration required)

Multi-ethnic football in Bosnia
July 16: A decade ago, Yugoslav football clubs were among the best in Europe, writes Julie Poucher Harbin in **IWPR.net**; but when the country fragmented, so did the footballing structure. But now an all-Bosnian, multi-ethnic premier league is being set up, ending a period of 'footballing apartheid'.
IWPR.net

Turkey's political crisis
July 9: Turkey's ruling coalition is on the brink of collapse, after a series of resignations and defections left prime minister Bulent Ecevit as a minority partner in his own coalition. But by saying he wants to continue as premier until 2004, says the Turkish **Daily News**, Mr Ecevit is standing against the tide: his only option, it says, to accept early elections and try to lead the country to the polls.
Turkish Daily News
Return of the "sick man" - Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Switzerland)

Attack on Iraq still brewing in Washington
July 5: First it looked as though George Bush had backed away from plans to launch a new gulf war and oust the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein. Then the Washington Post reported that Bush had given the CIA the green light to assassinate Saddam. Now the **New York Times** claims to have seen US military plans for a three-pronged attack on Iraq. The mystery deepens. (Registration required).
New York Times
Special report: Iraq

The stigma of HIV
July 4: Rita Domingos is 22, lives in Angola, and is HIV-positive. But although she is one of a million people in her country with the virus, she is shunned by her neighbours, and struggles to cope within a culture of 'silence and prejudice'. As the UN's **IRIN** information unit reports, such stigma is one of the reasons for the spread of the disease: 'People are afraid to be tested, to disclose their status and to seek help, thus driving Aids underground.'
Rethink strategy on HIV/Aids - Daily Nation, Kenya
Unaids report (PDF reader required)
Special report: Aids

A question of identity
July 3: The home secretary, David Blunkett, will today reveal proposals for a national identity card. George Kerevan of the **Scotsman** presents the case against.
Scotsman
The European experience - Times

America and the death penalty
July 3: No one should be deprived of life without the due process of law, says the US constitution - so a district judge has concluded that the death penalty is unconstitutional, because it always violates the due process of law. He's right on the last point, says the **Washington Post** - but the phrasing of the constitution still assumes that the death penalty exists. Legislative reform is needed, it says, not judgments that will be overturned by a rightwing supreme court.
Washington Post
Special report: George Bush's America

The real World Cup final
July 3: What happened when the US played the EU in Yokohama, courtesy of **OpenDemocracy**. The prize, global domination: the result, a grievous injustice.
OpenDemocracy
Brazil 2, Germany 0: minute-by-minute match report

Why Israel opposes the ICC?
July 2: The international criminal court opened for business this week in the Hague - without the support of either US or Israel. 'One can only imagine,' says the **Jerusalem Post** in backing its government's stance, 'what this would mean for Israel vis-a-vis its recent military operations against Palestinian terror: an effective quarantine of Israel, with our military personnel and reservists constantly under threat of arrest when travelling abroad.'
Jerusalem Post
Special report: Israel & the Middle East
Weblog special: Israel and the Middle East

The risk of a 'dirty bomb'
July 2: Two radioactive generators are missing from the former Soviet republic of Georgia, the international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has reported. As experts assess the risk that such radioactive sources could be used in a so-called 'dirty bomb' (see link below), Georgian military leader Valeri Chkhetiya has condemned Moscow for its **'criminal nonchalance'** over the issue. From **EurasiaNet**.
EurasiaNet
Assessing the threat - Mohamed El Baradei, Washington Post

As the WorldCom turns
July 1: It hasn't taken long for bloggers everywhere to mine the rich seam of journalism that emerged after the WorldCom scandal came to light. Dotcom Scoop's daily WorldCom Weblog is devoted to the subject, providing dozens of links to comment, analysis and news on the foundering company.
Dotcom Scoop
Special report: WorldCom

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