

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The prospect of nuclear war is frightening beyond imagination. We talk in the abstract about the millions who would die but are reluctant to accept the reality that the worst might someday come true. Such talk echoes through the media whenever the question arises of who might strike first. We're accustomed to hearing aggrieved expressions of doubt and sensitivities. Such talk assumes urgency as the US considers whether to adopt a policy of "no first use", meaning it would not initiate a nuclear holocaust.

Source: <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3154860/world-needs-talk-about-more-dangerous-problem-climate-change>

2. North Korea has conducted artillery firing exercises to bolster its defense capability, state media reported on November 7, its latest weapons test as Pyongyang continues to pressure Washington and Seoul to abandon what it calls their hostile policy toward it. An artillery firing competition among mechanized units was held on November 6, with senior government and military officials present, the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/north-korea-stages-artillery-firing-drill-in-latest-weapons-test/article37364275.ece>

3. Iran has begun annual war games, state TV reported on November 7, less than a month before a scheduled fresh round of talks on reviving the landmark Iran nuclear deal. The report said navy and air force units as well as ground forces were participating in a more than 1 million-square-kilometer area east of the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Nearly 20 percent of all oil shipping passes through the strait to the Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean.

Source: <https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-war-games-nuclear-deal/31549633.html>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. The House and Senate are taking the week off partially in observance of Veterans Day on Thursday, one of the few federal holidays that is held on the same day every year, November 11, instead of the nearest Monday to the holiday. It honors military veterans on the anniversary of the end of World War I, November 11, 1918. Before leaving, the House passed one of the two infrastructure bills, the one that funds physical infrastructure projects like roads and bridges. The Senate had already passed it so it is now ready for signature by the President. The “human infrastructure” bill did not make it, though. That’s the one with **\$1.115 billion for NASA**. The House will try again next week after the Congressional Budget Office weighs in on how much it will cost and whether that cost is covered by the revenue measures in the bill.

Source: <https://spacepolicyonline.com/news/whats-happening-in-space-policy-november-7-13-2021/>

2. The chief of the German navy has said he is looking to dispatch vessels to the Indo-Pacific every two years to help maintain peace and order based on international law in the region. Germany has been enhancing its defense cooperation with Japan and other partners amid China's military buildup and assertive territorial claims in the area.

Source: <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/11/45454f7563be-kyodo-news-digest-nov-7-2021--1-.html>

3. The Minister-President of the German state of Bavaria Markus Soder has urged to launch the Nord Stream 2 pipeline as soon as possible to ensure stable gas supplies ahead of the cold season. "A wise strategy to ensure power supplies is necessary. In this regard, there are good reasons to launch the Nord Stream 2 pipeline soon to bring gas prices to a normal level," Soder said in an interview with Funke Mediengruppe, published on Sunday. "We cannot just stand aside and watch prices grow ahead of the cold winter," he added.

MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. The air defense team of the Black Sea Fleet's frigate Admiral Essen held drills to protect a naval base from a notional enemy missile strike, the Fleet's press office reported on Sunday. Currently, two US warships are operating in the Black Sea: the flagship, command ship Mount Whitney and the guided missile destroyer Porter. The Russian Black Sea Fleet's forces and capabilities are keeping a close eye on the US warships in the Black Sea. The US 6th Fleet earlier announced that the warships had deployed to the Black Sea for joint operations with NATO allies and partners in the region.

Source: <https://tass.com/defense/1358389>

2. Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi on Sunday criticized an assassination attempt carried out by a drone targeting his official residence and called for a calm dialogue among all Iraqis for the future of the country. Al-Kadhimi confirmed in a video posted on his official Twitter page that he and other workers at his residence are safe, stressing that "cowardly missiles and cowardly drones do not build a homeland or a future (for the country), and we are working to build our homeland by respecting the state and its institutions and creating a better future for all Iraqis", reports Xinhua news agency. "I call on all parties to resort to calm dialogue to build Iraq and its future," al-Kadhimi said in his speech, which was also aired by the official Iraqiya channel.

Source: <https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=891169>

3. Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT), the U.S.-based global technology leader, will present its vision for 21st-century security solutions at Dubai Airshow 2021, focusing on network-centric technologies. In addition to showcasing the world's most advanced defence platforms, Lockheed Martin will present advanced network-based capabilities to counter evolving security threats across all domains - land, air, sea, cyber, and space. The company will

showcase how Multi-Domain Operations or Joint All-Domain Operations (MDO/JADO) can synchronise major systems such as aircraft, ships, ground vehicles, satellites, and missile defence systems to improve situational awareness and accelerate decision-making in the field. Robert (Bob) S. Harward, Chief Executive for Lockheed Martin in the Middle East, said, "The Dubai Airshow presents a great opportunity to meet with our customers and industry colleagues from around the world and is even more anticipated this year because of the disruptions brought on by the pandemic. We are ready to showcase some of our most innovative capabilities and look forward to engaging with our partners to discuss their priorities and how we can advance national security and human capital development agendas." Lockheed Martin is also a Gold Sponsor of Dubai International Air Chiefs' Conference (DIACC) 2021, held this year under the theme, 'Beyond Joint: The Expanding Role of Air, Space, and Cyberspace in Multi-Domain Operations'. It is hosted by the Ministry of Defense, Air Force and Air Defence, and will take place on 13th November at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai.

Source: <http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302990003>

UN REFORMS

1. Behind the headlines touting new emissions and finance commitments, the U.N. climate talks in Glasgow are facing a battle for credibility. Over the last week, rich countries were accused of repeatedly breaking promises. Big polluters traded barbs. And environmental campaigners have cried betrayal, as years of U.N. climate negotiations to rein in climate-warming carbon emissions and protect the world's most vulnerable have had little effect.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/with-cop26-credibility-stake-some-urge-ratcheting-up-schedule-2021-11-07/>

2. Tens of thousands of Ethiopians rallied in Addis Ababa on Sunday to support Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government as federal troops fight rebellious forces threatening to march on the capital. Some demonstrators denounced the United States, one of the foreign powers that has

called for a ceasefire to a year-long war, which has intensified amid advances by rebellious forces in the past week.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/rally-back-militarys-campaign-ethiopians-denounce-us-2021-11-07/>

3. There is now a clear link between climate-related emergencies and forced displacement, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, said today, imploring leaders to change words to action and step up support for people forced to flee, and their hosts, to avert and mitigate loss and damage in the most vulnerable regions. As the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) enters its final week, and focuses on adaptation, UNHCR called for more assistance to the countries and communities most impacted by the climate emergency yet most neglected in terms of support. The focus needs to be channeled to community-based adaptation projects to help the millions grappling with the catastrophic effects of climate change, many of whom have been displaced, often multiple times.

Source: <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2021/11/618561b24/unhcr-urgent-steps-needed-mitigate-climate-impact-displaced-people.html>