

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. General Fusion's Fusion Demonstration Plant (FDP) prototype system has successfully shown a key component of the company's unique Magnetised Target Fusion (MTF) technology.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Prototype-machine-demonstrates-plasma-compression>
2. Amid fierce disagreement, the European Commission indicated Monday that it would need more time to agree on plans to identify energy from nuclear power and natural gas as "green" investments.
Source: <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/european-union-needs-more-time-for-green-nuclear-energy-proposal/88826548>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. According to South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Boo Seung-chan, South Korea has the capability to not only identify but also intercept what North Korea claims was a hypersonic missile in the current launch.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/south-korea-says-capable-of-detecting-intercepting-kim-jong-un-s-new-hypersonic-missile/>
2. Saudi Arabia is said to be experiencing a severe shortage of interceptor missiles for the Patriot air defence system, which is provided by the United States. The kingdom's vulnerability has grown as cross-border attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels have risen.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/patriot-missile-how-missile-defense-systems-shot-down-fighter-jet/>
3. Intrusions by the Chinese into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) have become commonplace. Unprovoked hostility has become a common occurrence with a consistent pattern of behaviour.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/xperts-decode-why-us-most-advanced-f-16-viper-crashed-in-the-sea/>
4. After a first round of talks over Ukraine this week, the US urged on Russia to stay at the negotiating table and continue discussions, including on issues like arms control.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/united-states-urges-russia-continue-talks-over-ukraine-arms-control-2022-01-12/>
5. On Thursday, the Kremlin issued a bleak assessment of Russia's security discussions with the US and NATO this week, calling them "unsuccessful" and claiming significant disagreements.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/kremlin-gives-bleak-assessment-security-talks-with-us-nato->

6. Slovakia's government ratified a defence pact with the United States on Wednesday, laying the groundwork for the NATO partner's possible use of its air bases but not resulting in any specific deployments.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/slovak-government-approves-defence-treaty-with-united-states-2022-01-12/>
7. After a successful year in which India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) ushered in the New Year with the successful testing of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile and the man-portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM).
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/brahmos-cruise-missiles-is-a-game-changer-for-indian-military/>
8. According to local officials and commentators, Taiwan has displayed some of its indigenously manufactured warships at an event intended to send a message of deterrence to China.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/taiwan-drills-01102022142322.html>
9. According to Japan's largest newspaper, Japan has begun conducting its own "freedom of navigation operations" in the South China Sea "to warn China," albeit cautiously.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/japan-southchinasea-01122022144855.html>
10. Five North Korean nationals living abroad were sanctioned by the US Treasury Department on Wednesday for allegedly assisting the country's ballistic missile and weapons of mass destruction programmes.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/korea/tests-01122022163701.html>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Bennett to Putin: The international community must remain united in its opposition to Iran's nuclear advancement.
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog-january-13-2022/>
2. If Russia engages in hostilities against Ukraine, US Senate Democrats unveiled a bill on Wednesday that would slap sweeping sanctions on top Russian government and military officials, including President Vladimir Putin, as well as important banking institutions.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-senate-democrats-unveil-russia-sanctions-bill-washington-post-2022-01-12/>
3. According to Gabriellus Landsbergis of the Financial Times, China's confrontation with Lithuania over its links with Taiwan has intensified to include harassment of European companies who utilise Lithuanian-made components. He said he would inform EU foreign ministers about the harassment during a meeting on Thursday and Friday.
Source: <https://www.ft.com/content/ebdc84c8-46a5-4b56-bdab-edef154c7441>

4. In indirect nuclear discussions, Iran and the US are showing little flexibility on major issues, raising doubts about whether a resolution can be reached soon to renew a 2015 agreement that may alleviate worries of a wider Middle East war, diplomats say.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-us-lock-horns-over-sanctions-relief-nuclear-curbs-vienna-talks-2022-01-12/>
5. Poland's Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau warned on Thursday that Europe is closer to war than it has been in the last 30 years at the start of his country's year-long chairmanship of the region's main security organisation.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/europe-greatest-risk-war-30-years-poland-warns-2022-01-13/>
6. After being deployed in Kazakhstan to preserve order amid violent protests, Russian troops have begun to withdraw. The "collective peacekeeping forces" have begun to depart, according to the Russian defence ministry. After violent protests over a fuel price hike in Kazakhstan, President Putin dispatched roughly 2,000 troops to the country.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/russia-led-csto-peacekeepers-begin-pullback-from-kazakhstan-444341>

UN REFORMS

1. According to a satellite image analysis conducted for Reuters, China has intensified settlement-building along its border with Bhutan, with more than 200 structures, including two-story buildings, under construction in six locations.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-steps-up-construction-along-disputed-bhutan-border-satellite-images-show-2022-01-12/>
2. Owen Chow is held in North Point Police Station for video recorded interview. He is accused of violating bail conditions during his regular visit to police as his court bail over #NSL case requires. Chow is one of the 47 pro dem charged of "conspiracy to subversion".
Source: <https://twitter.com/XinqiSu/status/1481218410059300865>
3. As China prepares to host the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing in February, concerns regarding the safety and liberty of Chinese women's tennis star Peng Shuai continue.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/safe-01122022125108.html>
4. After being re-arrested, a Hong Kong pro-democracy activist, who was among a group of 47 activists accused with conspiracy to commit subversion, had his bail revoked on Thursday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/hong-kong-activist-bail-re-arrested-remarks-endangering-national-security-2022-01-13/>
5. His lawyer said on Thursday that the first person convicted under Hong Kong's national security law and sentenced to nine years in prison last July has dropped his decision to appeal.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/first-person-convicted-under-hong-kongs-national-security-law-drops-appeal-2022-01-13/>

6. In a document released amid rising tensions with China in the South China Sea, the US State Department slammed President Xi's government's "unlawful" claims. China claims the disputed islands in the South China Sea, but other countries such as Vietnam, Taiwan, and the Philippines also claim land around the sea, putting them at odds with China's dictatorship.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/chinas-claims-in-south-china-sea-gravelly-undermines-rule-of-law-us-state-department-study-444266>
7. Hong Kong's leader declared Wednesday that the city will create a slew of new national security offences as she presided over the first session of a new "patriots only" legislature devoid of political opposition. The bill would be added to a broad national security statute imposed directly on Hong Kong by Beijing, which has reshaped the international financial center and empowered authorities to crack down on dissent in the city.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/hong-kong-to-create-more-national-security-crimes-444247>
8. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has stated that Afghan women's and girls' rights require more support than ever before.
Source: <https://tolonews.com/pa/afghanistan-176289>
9. Ugandan finance minister Matia Kasaija, was hauled into parliament and grilled over the terms of a \$200m Chinese loan for the expansion of Entebbe airport, which serves the capital Kampala, he apologised to the assembled lawmakers. "We shouldn't have accepted some of the clauses," he said. "But they told you. . . either you take it or leave it."
Source: <https://www.ft.com/content/ebdc84c8-46a5-4b56-bdab-edef154c7441>
10. Human Rights Watch slammed US President Joe Biden and other Western leaders on Thursday for failing to defend democracy and failing to address concerns ranging from the climate catastrophe and the COVID-19 epidemic to poverty, inequality, and racial injustice.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/human-rights-watch-criticises-biden-others-weak-defense-democracy-2022-01-13/>
11. Afghani women took to streets to highlight the female representation is necessary in Afghanistan and voiced for non-exclusion of women from government formation.
Source: <https://tolonews.com/pa/afghanistan-176280>
12. According to a Canadian research institute, the cell phones of nearly three dozen journalists and activists in El Salvador, some of whom were investigating alleged state corruption, have been hacked since mid-2020 and implanted with sophisticated spyware typically available only to governments and law enforcement.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/technology/salvadoran-journalists-phones-hacked-with-spyware-report-finds-2022-01-13/>
13. Heavy rains have forced an indigenous community in Brazil to flee their homes once more. Three years ago, the tailings dam at an iron ore mine collapsed, forcing them to relocate to higher land.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/heavy-rains-leave-brazil-indigenous-group-homeless-again-2022-01-12/>