

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. As he observed building activity at Hinkley Point C, UK energy secretary Kwasi Kwarteng stated the country was "firmly committed to deploying new nuclear." It comes after the House of Commons passed the Nuclear Financing Bill, which policymakers hope will make fresh nuclear financing more appealing to British funds and institutions.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/y>
2. After the initial five units planned, Ukraine's Energoatom would like to licence Westinghouse's AP1000 technology, according to the company's CEO, Petro Kotin, in an interview with EnergoBusiness magazine. Energoatom is actively evaluating its supplier choices for its programme.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Kotin-elaborates-Ukraine-s-AP1000-plans>
3. Last year, a pilot test of a nuclear technology in a neighbourhood of Havana, Cuba's capital, reduced mosquito counts by up to 90%. Early data indicate that mosquito-borne disease cases were fully eradicated in the trial's final two months.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Nuclear-technique-cuts-mosquito-numbers-in-Cuba-t>
4. Kazatomprom's assets have been able to operate throughout recent events in Kazakhstan thanks to lessons learnt from the COVID-19 outbreak. The current period of instability has had a modest impact on the company's business, but pandemic-related supply chain difficulties remain a concern, it said.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Supply-chain-challenges-remain-as-Kazakh-emergency>
5. Rolls-Royce, a British engineering company, has opened new headquarters at Space Park Leicester to expand its expertise in nuclear power for space applications. Being based there will allow Rolls-Royce staff to better collaborate with University of Leicester scholars.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Rolls-Royce-moves-into-Leicester-space-research-ce>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. The US Air Force has started developing an IRST, or infrared search and track sensor, for its stealthy F-22 Raptor air dominance fighter. The IRST technology, which allows for the detection and tracking of other stealth aircraft, drones, and missiles at great ranges without the use of radar, was originally intended for the Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF) programme.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-22-raptor-worlds-most-stealth-fighter-jet-to-get-irst/>

2. North Korea appears to have fired at least two missiles on Friday. This comes only hours after it slammed the US for attempting to impose fresh sanctions. For quite some time, the government has been conducting missile launches. It has also warned that the penalties would be met with a severe response.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/show-of-power-continues-north-korea-fires-two-missiles-to-target-cloud-of-us-sanctions-444625>
3. The UK Navy Command Secretariat told RIA Novosti that the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) has no records of Royal Navy submarines being stationed at the site of the Russian submarine Kursk sinking in the Barents Sea in August 2000.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/worlds-second-deadliest-nuclear-submarine-accident-kursk/>
4. A prominent US lobby named Mexico's foreign minister and government the 2021 arms control persons of the year on Friday in appreciation of a lawsuit they brought against numerous American arms manufacturers.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-arms-control-group-makes-mexico-minister-person-year-after-gun-lawsuit-2022-01-14/>
5. The Hungarian Air Force's Saab Gripen fighter jets are due for an upgrade. The aircraft, which is leased from Sweden, was last upgraded in 2017. Hungary's fleet of 12 Saab Gripen C and one D type will be upgraded to the latest MS20 Block 2 standard, according to the original equipment manufacturer.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/gripen-jas-39-fighter-jets-leased-by-sweden-to-hungary-upgrades/>
6. Even as the country's largest and most modern destroyer, the Lhasa, conducts a series of drills in the Yellow Sea, China is reportedly creating two more Type-055 destroyers.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-destroyer-gets-combat-ready-navy-to-get-more-of-type-055/>
7. The US Navy has unveiled their proposal for a next-generation destroyer, the DDG(X), which can carry hypersonic missiles and laser weaponry.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/hypersonic-missiles-lasers-us-navys-next-generation-ddgx-warship/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Even as discussions between Russia and the US and its NATO allies over Ukraine have come to a halt, Poland's foreign minister has warned that if tensions are not resolved quickly, Europe could be pulled into war.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/with-no-breakthrough-between-us-and-russia-over-ukraine-poland-warns-of-risk-of-war-444860>

2. On Friday, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan expressed their deep worry about Russian forces massing on Ukraine's border.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/uks-johnson-turkeys-erdogan-discuss-ukraine-situation-2022-01-14/>
3. Iran created an animated movie depicting former US President Donald Trump being targeted by a drone on a golf course in an unusual gesture. The video, which appeared to show a robot ordering a drone strike on the former US president, was posted on Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's official website.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/iran-releases-mock-video-of-drone-strike-on-trump-444572>
4. On Friday, Ukraine was hit by a "massive cyber attack," with at least ten official websites, including the foreign affairs and education ministries, going offline. Despite the fact that the source of the cyber attack is unknown, authorities in Ukraine's government alluded to a "long record" of Russian cyber attacks against Kyiv.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/ukrainian-govt-websites-fall-prey-to-massive-cyber-attack-russian-hand-suspected-444713>
5. Russian officials said on Thursday that they may quit diplomatic efforts to address the security crisis surrounding Ukraine, bringing a gloomy finish to a hectic week of European diplomacy and dash expectations that negotiators could find a route toward lowering tensions in Eastern Europe.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/russia-at-an-impasse-with-the-west-warns-it-is-ready-to-abandon-diplomacy-444701>
6. 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/>
7. CNN reported on Friday that Russia is planning a false-flag military operation in Ukraine to establish a pretext for an invasion, citing an anonymous US official.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russia-preparing-for-false-flag-operations-in-ukraine-invasion/>
8. The nuclear tragedy that devastated Japan's north-eastern region a decade ago continues to plague the country's collective conscience. After Chernobyl, the world's second worst nuclear disaster forever transformed Japan's attitude toward nuclear energy.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-ambitious-nuclear-power-project-could-fuel-japanese-industry/>
9. Over the past week, three high-level negotiations between the US and Russia have reportedly failed to resolve the standoff over Ukraine, an impasse in which Russia appears to be holding all the cards.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-warns-russia-sanctions-ukraine-will-putin-be-winner/>

UN REFORMS

1. China struck a contract with Syria months after President Xi Jinping and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad spoke over the phone to push the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the Middle East.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/in-middle-east-push-china-makes-syria-sign-up-to-its-belt-and-road-initiative-444691>
2. Hong Kong's police force will convert from British marching drills to goose-stepping style marching drills, which are commonly seen on the Chinese mainland, in a major shift intended to highlight officers' "patriotism." The police department has "actively planned for the full rollout of Chinese-style foot drills in order to show patriotism and foster love for our motherland and Hong Kong," according to AFP.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/in-a-bid-to-showcase-patriotism-hong-kong-police-to-switch-to-chinese-style-march-drill-444811>
3. On Thursday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that he will attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics next month, emphasising that the event "must be an instrument of world peace."
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/un-chief-attend-opening-beijing-winter-olympics-2022-01-13/>
4. Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod announced on Friday that Denmark will not send an official diplomatic team to the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing owing to human rights concerns in the host country.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/denmark-join-diplomatic-boycott-beijing-olympics-over-human-rights-2022-01-14/>
5. According to the United Nations, at least 108 civilians have been killed in a series of airstrikes in Ethiopia's war-torn northern Tigray region this month. The UN also warned that a humanitarian calamity was approaching in the region, with its food delivery operations on the edge of collapsing.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/at-least-108-civilians-killed-this-year-in-tigray-airstrikes-says-un-444714>
6. Several female students in eastern Nangarhar province expressed growing dissatisfaction with the lack of access to public universities, career possibilities for women and girls, and the country's unclear future in general for Afghan girls and women.
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-176300>
7. Rights of Afghan Women, Girls 'Under Attack': UN. Taliban occupied Afghanistan witnesses more protests from Afghani women.
Source: <https://twitter.com/TOLONews/status/1481880927651381251>
8. According to the United Nations human rights office, at least 78 human rights activists were slain in Colombia in 2021, with more instances still being investigated.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/about-80-rights-defenders-killed-colombia-2021-un->

9. During a crackdown on some of those who took part in last year's enormous anti-government demonstrations, relatives and rights groups say young Cuban protesters from Havana's poorest districts fear decades behind bars in impending trials.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/cubas-poorest-neighborhoods-youths-could-face-decades-jail-after-protests-2022-01-14/>