

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. There have been efforts to repeal Australia's long-standing ban on nuclear power, which emits no greenhouse gases. Nuclear power accounts for around 10% of the world's energy demands, however there is none in Australia. Nuclear power, according to critics, is uneconomic due to high building costs and long lead times.
Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-01-15/nuclear-power-climate-change-key-or-white-elephant/100684314>
2. When EDF, the French state-owned utility company and the world's largest nuclear power operator, announced another delay in commissioning its EPR, the third-generation pressurised water reactor it has been trying to build at Flamanville (pictured) in France and a couple of other sites in other countries, the week started on a bad note. The plant's completion date has been pushed back to 2023, and the cost has risen to €12.7 billion.
Source: https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/business/story/Why_nuclear_power_can_never_be_green-SNG_278882044/
3. On Thursday, the French government announced that it has ordered state-owned utility EDF to sell more of its low-cost nuclear power to smaller competitors in order to keep electricity rates in France from rising.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/french-power-price-increase-will-remain-capped-4-2022-minister-2022-01-13/>
4. With European energy prices soaring and pressure mounting on the European Union to reduce carbon emissions more swiftly, it was only a matter of time before the argument over zero-carbon nuclear power resurfaced, bringing old differences between EU member states with it.
Source: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/01/13/nuclear-energy-green-europe-eu-climate/>
5. According to Claude Mayoral, the application and interpretation of the same safety objectives into specific national regulatory requirements and guidelines leads to considerable changes in the same reactor design when deployed in different nations. To enable the widespread deployment of small modular and advanced reactor designs, a more standardised regulatory approach will be required.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Viewpoint-Collaboration-the-key-to-streamlining-nu>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. A succession of "hypersonic missiles" recently tested by nuclear-armed North Korea triggered rapid talk of preemptive attacks and arms races amid concerns about the security of US troops and allies in



Asia.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/nkoreas-hypersonic-missile-tests-raise-military-stakes-asia-2022-01-14/>

2. The Philippines has finalised a deal to acquire a shore-based anti-ship missile system from India for nearly \$375 million in order to strengthen its navy, according to the Southeast Asian nation's defence minister.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/philippines-acquire-missile-system-india-375-mln-2022-01-15/>
3. The Philippines is ordering 32 S-70i Black Hawk helicopters from PZL Mielec, a subsidiary of Sikorsky Aircraft located in Poland, to supplement its existing fleet of 12, according to the country's defence chief on Sunday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/philippines-acquire-32-new-black-hawk-helicopters-2022-01-16/>
4. North Korea fired a railway-borne missile during its firing drills on Friday, according to official media KCNA on Saturday, amid a US drive for further penalties following a series of nuclear tests.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/north-korea-used-railway-born-missile-fridays-test-kcna-2022-01-14/>
5. A bipartisan bill proposed in the United States Senate on Friday would require defence contractors to stop buying rare earth minerals from China by 2026 and instead utilise the Pentagon to build a permanent reserve of the crucial minerals.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/exclusive-us-bill-would-block-defense-contractors-using-chinese-rare-earths-2022-01-14/>
6. According to an announcement issued on Friday, the US State Department has approved the sale of sensor pod suites and other equipment to France for roughly \$88 million.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-approves-possible-88-million-sale-intelligence-equipment-france-2022-01-14/>
7. According to Defense Minister Delfin Lorenzana, the Philippines has signed a deal with India to buy three BrahMos ground-based missile systems for over \$375 million to strengthen its navy.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/philippines-completes-purchase-of-three-batteries-of-brahmos-supersonic-missile-systems-from-india-defense-minister/>
8. France's Future Combat Air System (FCAS), which was conceived as a cooperative effort to produce a next-generation combat aircraft, has just received a big boost. Despite the fact that it has been in the pipeline for some time, it has now moved forward thanks to a reinvigorated push and equal dedication from all parties involved. This new development has the potential to be a game-changer for the FCAS programme.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/france-tests-new-generation-fighter-ngf-engine-rafale-typhoon/>
9. The 'White Swan,' a fully upgraded Tupolev Tu-160M strategic bomber, made its maiden flight recently. The Tu-160M was originally used by the Soviet military in the 1980s, and manufacture continued until 1995. The Tu-160M was originally used by the Soviet military in the 1980s, and manufacture continued until 1995.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. China reaffirmed its opposition to unilateral sanctions by the United States against Iran as the Chinese and Iranian foreign ministers announced the launch of a 25-year cooperation agreement aimed at strengthening economic and political ties.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-reaffirms-opposition-us-sanctions-iran-2022-01-15/>
2. Melanie Joly, Canada's foreign minister, will visit Kyiv next week to reiterate Canada's support for Ukrainian sovereignty and to bolster efforts to discourage Russia's "aggressive actions," Ottawa announced on Saturday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/canadian-foreign-minister-visit-ukraine-vows-deter-russian-aggression-2022-01-15/>
3. Iran's and three European countries' chief negotiators returned to their capitals on Friday for consultations as expert talks continue, providing the latest evidence that international talks in Vienna to save the Iranian nuclear deal are progressing.
Source: <https://newsaf.cgtn.com/news/2022-01-16/Iran-nuclear-talks-progressing-amid-better-atmosphere--16QZ6Hn8bmM/index.html>
4. On Friday, Ukraine's official security office, the SBU, claimed it had seen indicators that the recent cyber attack on Ukrainian government computer resources was related to hacking organisations linked to Russian intelligence services.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-some-signs-that-cyber-attack-linked-hacker-groups-associated-with-russia-2022-01-14/>
5. Increased tensions between NATO and Russia, as well as a recent deployment of Russian landing craft in the Baltic, prompted Sweden's military to expand its conspicuous activity on the Baltic Sea island of Gotland on Thursday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/sweden-boosts-patrols-gotland-amid-nato-russia-tensions-2022-01-13/>
6. Foreign policy specialists say that while US President Joe Biden's week of diplomacy failed to ease tensions between Russia and Ukraine, he has maintained unity with European allies against Moscow as Russian President Vladimir Putin looks to expose gaps.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-rallies-united-front-against-russia-putin-seeks-cracks-2022-01-14/>
7. According to a senior Ukrainian security officer, a hacker organisation linked to Belarusian intelligence carried out a cyberattack this week against Ukrainian government websites, using malware similar to that used by a group linked to Russian intelligence.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/exclusive-ukraine-suspects-group-linked-belarus-intelligence-over-cyberattack-2022-01-15/>

8. With Ukraine suffering a catastrophic cyberattack and Russia rehearsing force deployments, a flurry of East-West talks this week produced no resolution on the Ukraine problem, and tensions are perhaps higher than before.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-crisis-what-next-after-week-talks-tension-2022-01-14/>

UN REFORMS

1. ChengYuan and WuGejianxiong were sentenced 5 years & 3 years respectively on a "subversion" charge for their work with the public health NGO Changsha Funeng, illustrating the Chinese government and Communist Party's attack on civil society.
Source: <https://twitter.com/CECCgov/status/1482416050448875524>
2. In 2018, QinYongmin, a senior democracy advocate who had previously spent over 20 years in political detention, was sentenced to 13 years in prison on the accusation of "subversion of state power," purportedly for leading the monitoring group China Human Rights Watch.
Source: <https://twitter.com/CECCgov/status/1482017169512751109>
3. In a letter to the Taliban's director of information and culture in Ghazni, Khalifa Mohammad Ishaq Akhundzadeh, the Taliban governor, declared that living in a "European-style" manner was "unattractive" for Afghan women.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/134901/taliban-governor-in-ghazni-european-style-living-is-not-suitable-for-afghan-women/>
4. Alia Azizi's disappearance under the Taliban regime has created panic among former military women.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/134913/is-alieh-azizi-alive/>
5. A source acquainted with the proceedings stated on Friday that Myanmar's deposed former leader Aung San Suu Kyi and ousted President Win Myint will face five more allegations of corruption, each carrying a potential sentence of 15 years in jail.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmars-suu-kyi-hit-by-5-new-corruption-charges-source-2022-01-14/>
6. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should continue to exclude Myanmar's junta from its meetings until it cooperates on agreed-upon peace initiatives, according to Singapore's leader.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/singapore-pm-backs-continued-exclusion-myanmar-junta-asean-meetings-2022-01-15/>
7. The bodies of 225 people killed in unrest in Kazakhstan last week, including 19 security forces members, were delivered to morgues across the nation on Saturday, according to the prosecutor

general's office.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/kazakhstan-says-225-bodies-delivered-morgues-during-unrest-2022-01-15/>

8. Hundreds of Hondurans and Nicaraguans arrived at the Guatemalan border on Saturday, but were stopped by Guatemalan security forces from crossing. This is the first such U.S.-bound migrant caravan to assemble in Central America this year.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/hundreds-us-bound-migrants-set-off-honduras-first-caravan-2022-2022-01-15/>