

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Scientists at Russia's Bochvar Institute have devised a more efficient method of decontaminating laboratory equipment, reducing both the amount of radioactive waste produced and the residual radioactivity.
<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/New-method-for-decontamination>
2. Westinghouse Electric Company has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with ten Polish enterprises to work together on the prospective deployment of AP1000 nuclear power plants in Poland and other Central and Eastern European countries.
<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Westinghouse-forms-strategic-partnerships-with-Pol>
3. Posiva Solutions, a subsidiary of the business that is handling the job on behalf of Finland's utilities, will look into the basic criteria for disposing of old nuclear fuel in Lithuania.
<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Finland-s-Posiva-to-support-Lithuania-used-fuel-di>
4. Amid objections from some politicians and countries, the European Union's proposed plan to classify gas and nuclear reactors as green investments risks producing confusion and inaccurate financial reports, according to expert advisers to the EU.
<https://news.trust.org/item/20220124085657-fq0zp/>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. Authorities say the United Arab Emirates and the United States military intercepted two ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels over the skies of Abu Dhabi early Monday, the second attack on the Emirati capital in a week.
<https://www.dailynews.com/2022/01/24/uae-us-intercept-houthi-missile-attack-targeting-abu-dhabi/>
2. On the same day that two US Navy Carrier Strike Groups began a coordinated operation in the South China Sea, China flew 39 military aircraft into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). According to Taiwan's defence ministry, the Chinese missions included 34 J-16 and J-10 fighter jets, four Y-8 and Y-9 electronic warfare aircraft, and an H-6 bomber.
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/usa-southchinasea-01242022143747.html>
3. Early Monday, authorities in the United Arab Emirates said they intercepted two ballistic missiles claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels over the skies of Abu Dhabi, the Emirati capital's second attack in a week.
<https://www.wionews.com/world/watch-two-ballistic-missiles-fired-by-houthis-intercepted-over-abu-dhabi-uae-447123>

4. NATO announced on Monday that it will send additional forces to eastern Europe, including ships and fighter jets, in an effort to strengthen defences as Russia continues to build up its forces near Ukraine. A number of NATO member countries have pledged soldiers and equipment. Spain will send ships to join NATO's standing maritime force, while Denmark is sending a frigate to the Baltic Sea and deploying F-16 warplanes to Lithuania, according to NATO.
<https://www.wionews.com/world/in-a-move-to-enhance-defence-nato-sends-extra-force-to-eastern-europe-447169>
5. Russia has accused the US and NATO of inflaming tensions in Ukraine by spreading "information hysteria" about army deployments. "As for specific actions, we see statements by the North Atlantic Alliance about reinforcement, pulling forces and resources to the eastern flank. All this leads to the fact that tensions are growing," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.
<https://www.wionews.com/world/russia-accuses-nato-of-escalating-ukraine-tensions-through-hysteria-and-ramping-up-deployments-447193>
6. As fears of a Russian invasion grow, the UK is pulling back some of its personnel from the Ukraine embassy. The Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) has indicated that some personnel in Kiev and their families will begin to leave in response to Russia's "increasing threat."
<https://www.wionews.com/world/ukraine-crisis-uk-begins-evacuation-of-diplomats-from-kiev-amid-war-fears-447259>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Tehran calls on Washington to 'announce its decisions on removing sanctions and the remaining issues,' predicting this will result in a 'lasting, reliable agreement'.
Source: https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-time-for-us-to-make-political-decisions-in-nuclear-talks/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter
2. China has begun to expand its presence in the Middle East by assisting the region's countries in their weaponization efforts. The Americans are concerned that their efforts to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions may be for vain, as China is set to accelerate its nuclear-weapons development.
<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/chinese-influence-growing-in-the-middle-east-report20220124163923/>
3. According to sources, the Biden administration is considering sending tens of thousands of troops, as well as warships and aircraft, to NATO allies in the Baltics and Eastern Europe in response to fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine. The US president is expected to make a decision as early as this week, the New York Times has reported citing unnamed Pentagon officials.
<https://www.wionews.com/world/biden-mulling-to-deploy-thousands-of-troops-to-eastern-europe-baltics-amid-russian-invasion-fears-report-447037>
4. Iran accused the United States on Monday for the sluggish pace of talks in Vienna between Tehran

and world powers. According to the senior nuclear deal negotiator, Washington has made it plain that it will only agree to restore the nuclear bargain with Iran if Tehran releases four US citizens.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/iran-blames-united-states-for-the-slow-pace-of-talks-between-tehran-and-world-powers-447211>

UN REFORMS

1. The Olympics in Beijing are not your typical sporting event. They take place against a backdrop of Chinese government atrocities against ethnic Uyghurs, repression in Hong Kong and Tibet, and unparalleled hazards to athletes in the contemporary Olympic era. Human Rights Watch has begun a video series with Badiucao, a Chinese-Australian artist, to put the upcoming Winter Olympics in context.
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/24/gold-medal-censorship-china>
2. The trial of Hunan democracy activist Ou Biaofeng will take place on January 27, 2022, at the Zhuzhou Detention Center in Hunan, and it will be closed to the public.
<https://twitter.com/CHRDnet/status/1485723853103849474>
3. Melikizat and Patigul Memet, two Muslim Uyghur sisters, serving lengthy prison sentences for participating in religious gatherings in northwestern China's Xinjiang region are being held in a women's prison in the town of Sanji (in Chinese, Changji), detention center officials said.
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/memet-sisters-01242022143519.html>
4. The Winter Olympics 2022 in Beijing will begin in only ten days. However, due to local Omicron cases, China is dealing with a new wave of infections. The Chinese authorities have taken some draconian measures as part of its stringent zero Covid push to stop the virus from spreading further.
<https://www.wionews.com/world/china-is-so-desperate-that-health-workers-now-taking-swab-tests-of-garlic-plants-report-447095>
5. The Taliban's enforced disappearance of Tamana Paryani, Parwana Ibrahimkhel, and other Afghan women activists has revealed their intention to silence critical women's voices through the use of unlawful force. The women's arrest has been denied by Taliban authorities, raising fears about their safety and speedy release.
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/24/afghan-womens-rights-activists-forcibly-disappeared>
6. Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi told Peru's Foreign Minister today that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will send experts and sophisticated monitoring equipment to help the South American country assess and limit the environmental damage caused by a major oil spill in its coastal waters.
<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-to-support-peru-in-battling-oil-spill-director-general-grossi-says>
7. Following confirmation by Phnom Penh of sand dredging activities at the facility, the US government

demanded complete transparency from Cambodia concerning Beijing-backed refurbishments at its Ream Naval Base. Chad Roedemeier, a spokesman for the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, told RFA's Khmer Service in an emailed statement that Washington is aware of independent reporting that China is working on "a significant, ongoing construction project at Ream Naval Base," outside of Sihanoukville, Cambodia's main port city.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/base-01242022185554.html>

8. According to her husband, Nguyen Thuy Hanh, a well-known Vietnamese activist in Hanoi who raised money to support the families of jailed political prisoners before being arrested herself nearly 10 months ago, was forced to undergo a month-long psychiatric evaluation while being held in pre-trial detention.
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/nguyen-thuy-hanh-01242022151050.html>
9. According to an investigation by RFA's Myanmar Service, two bombs exploded in Myanmar's commercial metropolis Yangon on Saturday, raising the total number of explosions triggered by pro-democracy militants in the city since the February 2021 coup to 121.
<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/blasts-01242022180405.html>
10. A spill produced by unusual waves from a volcano eruption in the south pacific prompted the Peruvian government to declare an environmental emergency on Saturday. Last Saturday, a massive undersea volcano in Tonga erupted, unleashing tsunami waves that reached as far as the United States.
<https://www.wionews.com/world/peru-calls-environment-emergency-as-oil-spill-threatens-vulnerable-humboldt-penguins-thousands-of-birds-447022>
11. Following reports that Burkina Faso President Roch Kabore had been arrested at a military barracks by mutinous soldiers, several presidential fleet armoured vehicles were spotted near the president's home on Monday morning (January 24), smeared in blood and damaged by gunshots.
<https://www.wionews.com/world/burkina-faso-unrest-blood-stained-bullet-riddled-vehicles-of-president-seen-near-his-residence-447194>
12. Authorities in Greece have been accused of inciting a hunger crisis in refugee camps by denying people food. Martha Roussou of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), in a report by The Guardian said, "It is unthinkable that people are going hungry in Greece. Through no fault of their own they have fallen through the cracks and all because of a problem created by gaps in legislation and policy."
<https://www.wionews.com/world/greek-government-accused-of-causing-hunger-crisis-in-refugee-camps-447238>
13. Burkina Faso's troops said Monday on state television that they had taken control of the country and dissolved the government and parliament. They also claimed that the country's borders had been closed, promising a "return to constitutional order" in a "reasonable time." Burkina Faso's army had claimed earlier in the day that President Roch Kabore had been overthrown, the constitution had been suspended, the government and national assembly had been dissolved, and the country's borders had been sealed.
<https://www.wionews.com/world/watch-burkina-faso-soldiers-announce-military-takeover-on-state-tv-447286>
14. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid says the group has the right to detain its protesters and opponents in

Afghanistan.

Source: <https://twitter.com/subhekabul/status/1485192870470598660>

15. The Taliban have implemented rights-violating policies that have erected significant barriers to women's and girls' health and education, limited their freedom of movement, expression, and association, and deprived them of their ability to make a living.

Source: <https://www.albawaba.com/news/afghanistan-taliban-deprive-womenlivelihoods-identity-hrw-1463226>

16. Women activists continue to disappear under Taliban regime, with no accountability whatsoever. No one knows their whereabouts.

Source: <https://twitter.com/raminanwari/status/1485276780143468551>