

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Two storage tanks at Japan's devastated Fukushima nuclear power plant lost around four tonnes of coolant solution intended to form an ice wall that kept groundwater from seeping in, according to the station's operator.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/wall-ice-fukushimas-crippled-nuclear-plant-2022-01-25/>
2. West Virginia House Speaker Roger Hanshaw says the state is ready for a sliver of nuclear energy production. "Nuclear is certainly one of those. We've in an environment now in which technology is evolving really quickly, and many of the companies that are expanding their facilities around the world are looking at how they'll generate power, not just in the next decade but in the next century." Small modular reactors, which can generate power at a fraction of the scale of a typical nuclear power reactor, were mentioned by Hanshaw.
Source: <https://wvmetronews.com/2022/01/24/legislature-fast-tracks-bill-to-end-decades-old-nuclear-energy-production-ban/>
3. Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation (USNC) recently licenced a new process for 3D printing refractory materials created by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), which are highly resistant to intense heat and deterioration. The new technique will allow the company to significantly speed up its timeline to develop and deploy its advanced microreactor design.
Source: <https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/ultra-safe-nuclear-licenses-new-method-3d-printing-advanced-reactor-components>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. A fighter-jet mishap onboard an American aircraft carrier in the South China Sea injured seven personnel, according to the US Navy. The "landing mishap" occurred on Monday aboard the USS Carl Vinson, but the pilot successfully evacuated from his plane and was collected by a US military helicopter, according to a statement released by the US Pacific Fleet's public affairs office from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/injures-01252022133013.html>
2. A total of 13 People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft, including eight J-16 fighter jets, a Y-8 anti-submarine warfare aircraft, two H-6 bombers, and two J-16D electronic warfare aircraft, entered Taiwan's ADIZ on Monday while two US aircraft carriers were conducting joint operations in the South China Sea, according to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense. According to the report, two more Chinese aircraft entered the ADIZ on Tuesday.



Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/taiwan-adiz-01252022131145.html>

3. An F-35C warplane had a "landing mishap" on the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson in the South China Sea on Monday, injuring seven US military personnel, according to the US Navy.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-navy-pilot-ejects-7-hurt-f-35-south-china-sea-landing-mishap-2022-01-24/>
4. Western countries have increased military exports to Ukraine, but the country claims it still requires more to counter Russia's larger and better-equipped army.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-gets-weapons-west-says-it-needs-more-2022-01-25/>
5. The leader of Germany's navy has resigned after making contentious remarks about Ukraine. The assumption that Russia wants to invade Ukraine, according to Kay-Achim Schönbach, is absurd. He went on to say that President Vladimir Putin only wanted respect.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60099924>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. As the urgency to salvage the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement grows, a top member of the US team negotiating with Iran has resigned amid reports of differences of view on the path forward.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-repeats-its-willing-meet-iran-directly-nuclear-issue-2022-01-24/>
2. For the first time on Monday, Iran announced it was open to direct nuclear discussions with the US, which said it was ready to hold talks "urgently".
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/iran-nuclear-talks-iran-nuclear-deal-iran-nuclear-talks-2015-on-nuclear-talks-iran-says-ready-as-us-asserts-direct-meeting-2727848>
3. Tensions between Washington and Tehran have gradually grown since the United States unilaterally withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018. Iran has spent decades developing nuclear technology. Iran has long been suspected by the US of using its civilian nuke program as a cover for developing weapons.
Source: <https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/attacks-inside-one-of-irans-most-secure-nuclear-facilities-are-the-latest-blows-in-a-shadowy-battle-with-israel/articleshow/89083652.cms>
4. Richard Nephew, the US Deputy Special Envoy for Iran, and two other diplomats have resigned from the team tasked with reviving the Iran nuclear deal. Nephew and his colleagues wanted existing sanctions to be strictly enforced, as well as for Washington to pressure the International Atomic Energy Agency to point out Tehran's numerous breaches of its promises.
Source: <https://nypost.com/2022/01/25/a-clear-sign-that-biden-is-going-to-let-iran-go-nuclear/>
5. After Iran's foreign minister stated Tehran would consider meeting but made no decision, the US State Department reiterated on Monday that it is open to meeting with Iranian officials directly to discuss

the nuclear deal and other issues.

Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2011111/middle-east>

6. According to a source, two US officials participating in negotiations to renew the 2015 Iran nuclear deal have pulled back from the talks, while a third has left the team entirely due to internal disagreements about how tough the White House should be with Tehran.
Source: <https://nypost.com/2022/01/25/iran-nuclear-talks-in-turmoil-us-officials-step-back-after-pushing-for-tougher-stance/>
7. On Tuesday, 110 House Republicans called on President Joe Biden to call off the Vienna talks aimed at salvaging the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and instead "strongly reinforce" current sanctions.
Source: <https://nypost.com/2022/01/13/gopers-have-a-good-idea-for-iran-talks-scrap-them/>
8. The US is unlikely to reach an agreement with Iran to maintain the 2015 Iran nuclear deal until Tehran releases four US citizens held hostage, according to the senior US nuclear negotiator, who spoke to the Reuters news agency on Sunday. Robert Malley, the US Special Envoy for Iran, reiterated the US view that the four people detained in Iran are unrelated to the nuclear talks. He did get a little closer to declaring that their release was a precondition for a nuclear deal.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/24/iran-nuclear-deal-unlikely-without-us-prisoner-release-report>
9. NATO announced on Monday that it was putting soldiers on alert and bolstering eastern Europe with extra ships and fighter jets in response to Russia's troop build-up on the Ukraine border, which Russia called "hysteria."
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/nato-sends-ships-jets-eastern-europe-ukraine-crisis-2022-01-24/>
10. If Russia invades Ukraine, Britain would not hesitate to impose further sanctions and will look to contribute to any NATO deployment, Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned on Tuesday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-will-not-hesitate-toughen-sanctions-russia-johnson-2022-01-25/>
11. British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said on Tuesday that talks to resuscitate a 2015 nuclear deal between Western powers and Iran are nearing a hazardous stalemate. "This negotiation is urgent and progress has not been fast enough. We continue to work in close partnership with our allies but the negotiations are reaching a dangerous impasse," Truss told parliament.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/iran-nuclear-talks-approaching-dangerous-impasse-uks-truss-2022-01-25/>

UN REFORMS

1. Salih Hudayar, a Uyghur-American political activist and refugee, slammed venture capitalist Chamath Palihapitiya's allegation that "no one cares" about the Uyghur genocide in China. "He is engaging in essentially genocide denial and that needs to be addressed," Hudayar told Fox News Digital in an interview on Thursday. "It's very, very discouraging at the very least ... to see business elites like Chamath Palihapitiya, businesses, corporations, make vile statements and ... completely ignore what's happening by saying that they don't care."
Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/uyghur-american-golden-state-warriors-anti-uyghur-comment>
2. The Chinese government's forcible separation of children in Xinjiang is possibly the cruelest aspect of its persecution. In this heartbreaking video, Chinese police grabs children from their mothers' laps.
Source: https://twitter.com/PalkiAggarwal_/status/1485821261338988545
3. After multiple courts rejected their refugee applications, dozens of Christians on South Korea's Jeju Island face forcible repatriation to China. In 2019, 60 members of the Shenzhen Mayflower Church escaped to Jeju, despite language problems and a lack of medical care, in order to protect their children from the ruling Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) "patriotic education" and anti-religious propaganda in schools.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/asylum-01252022093217.html>
4. Martina Navratilova has slammed the Australian Open administrators for "capitulating" to Beijing by prohibiting spectators from wearing T-shirts with the message "Where is Peng Shuai?" during the tournament. Tennis Australia security and police asked fans at a match on Saturday to take off shirts supporting the Chinese former world doubles No. 1, who has been largely isolated since accusing a former vice premier of sexual abuse.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/banned-01242022130028.html>
5. In a rare in-person meeting with a foreign visitor during the pandemic, Chinese President Xi Jinping met with International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach on Tuesday, little over a week before the commencement of the Winter Games.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/chinas-xi-meets-international-olympic-commissions-bach-beijing-2022-01-25/>
6. President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia and China had same principles and that both nations condemned the diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, which will begin on February 4th.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/putin-backs-china-rejecting-olympic-diplomatic-boycott-2022-01-25/>
7. Taiwan will not send any officials to the Beijing Winter Olympics, but its athletes will compete as usual, according to the administration, which also called on China not to "interfere" with the event or "belittle" Taiwan.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/taiwan-says-no-officials-will-go-beijing-winter-games-2022-01-25/>

8. Fans are welcome to wear "Where is Peng Shuai?" t-shirts during the Australian Open, but they must not be "disruptive," Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley said on Tuesday, following criticism of the Grand Slam organisers' previous attitude on the matter.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/where-is-peng-shuai-shirts-welcome-australian-open-2022-01-25/>

9. On Monday, Hong Kong's top judge declared the city's lauded judicial independence "a fact," addressing international and domestic concerns as prosecutions under a Chinese-imposed national security law ramp up.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/hong-kongs-top-judge-defends-citys-rule-law-face-international-concern-2022-01-24/>

10. Seven Bangladeshi migrants died of hypothermia while on a boat from Libya bound for the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, according to Agrigento Prosecutor Luigi Patronaggio.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/least-7-migrants-boat-bound-lampedusa-die-hypothermia-2022-01-25/>

11. A potential Russian invasion of Ukraine would have ramifications across a range of markets, from wheat and energy prices to sovereign dollar bonds in the region, as well as safe-haven assets and stock markets.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/how-russian-ukraine-conflict-might-hit-global-markets-2022-01-25/>