

DAILY TRACKER**NUCLEAR ISSUES**

1. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and the Japan Atomic Energy Agency have agreed to collaborate with TerraPower, a firm founded by Bill Gates, on a next-generation nuclear energy project.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/japan-s-mitsubishi-energy-body-join-gates-nuclear-project-122012700438_1.html
2. From the beginning, when early work on nuclear fission became part of the US-led effort to produce the first atomic weapons, which were later used against Japan in 1945, the world has had an uneasy relationship with nuclear power. The peaceful civilian nuclear business, which aimed to use the power of the atom to provide the world with all of the energy it required, was never able to throw off its ominous origins. Nuclear power, which accounts for around 10% of worldwide electricity generation, has "historically been one of the largest global contributors of carbon-free electricity," according to the International Energy Agency.
Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2013421>
3. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries announced on Thursday that it will collaborate with Japan's atomic energy agency to provide technical help to a Bill Gates-led US start-up developing a next-generation nuclear reactor in Wyoming. Gates is the founder and chairman of TerraPower, a company that wants to build a plant in the US state by 2028 utilising a new technology called Natrium, which is being marketed as a "carbon-free, reliable energy solution."
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/japan-to-assist-bill-gates-next-generation-nuclear-power-project-2733464>
4. Net Zero, Energy and Transport Secretary Michael Matheson expressed his feelings after being prompted by a Holyrood inquiry. "Nuclear power is a bad deal for consumers," he told MSPs, adding that his government would prioritise energy alternatives such as windfarms.
Source: <https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/climate-change-snps-dismissal-of-nuclear-energy-is-virtue-signalling-that-will-drive-bills-up-and-harm-drive-towards-net-zero-carbon-emissions-liam-kerr-msp-3544122>
5. The recent publication of the Complementary Delegated Act, which recognises nuclear energy's inherent sustainability and puts it into the EU's sustainable finance taxonomy, is commended by the World Nuclear Association. Now, according to World Nuclear Association Director General Sama Bilbao y León, the Commission must demonstrate its commitment to a truly technology neutral framework and ensure that criteria are consistent and scientifically justified.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Viewpoint-Europes-clean-energy-dreams-should-incl>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. India and the Philippines sealed a \$374.96 million missile contract on Friday, under which New Delhi will sell BrahMos missiles to the ASEAN nation. Manila has done the acquisition of shore-based anti-ship missile system for the Philippines Navy. The missiles will be used primarily by the Philippine marines' coastal defence regiment. The deal was conceived in 2017, and its inclusion in the Horizon 2 Priority Projects was approved by the Philippines President's office in 2020.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/india-philippines-sign-374-million-brahmos-missile-deal-contract-448345>
2. North Korea has started launching missiles, exhibiting a bewildering assortment of weapon types, launch locations, and increasing sophistication. The tests, which included hypersonic missiles and long-range cruise missiles launched from railcars and airports, illustrate the nuclear-armed state's fast increasing and improving arsenal in the face of delayed denuclearization talks.
Source: <https://www.news18.com/news/explainers/explained-flurry-of-missile-tests-displays-north-koreas-increasingly-diverse-arsenal-4707101.html>
3. North Korea has carried out six weapons tests since the beginning of the year, including hypersonic missiles, in one of the most furious barrages in a calendar month on record, despite US offers of discussions.
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/north-korea-missile-test-north-korea-hypersonic-missile-north-korea-says-it-test-fired-long-range-cruise-missiles-2734126>
4. According to Iraqi police reports, at least three rockets landed in the Baghdad International Airport compound and near a nearby US airbase, damaging one derelict civilian airliner. There was no other damage or injuries reported by police authorities. According to them, the damaged plane was an Iraqi airways plane that was no longer in service.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/rockets-hit-baghdad-airport-compound-no-casualties-448370>
5. Due to national security concerns, the UAE summoned numerous people who posted images of Houthi rebel attacks on Abu Dhabi. Social media footage of its soldiers intercepting missiles fired by Houthi rebels, according to the public prosecutor's office, were detrimental to the country's "national security and stability."
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/uae-summons-people-after-videos-appear-on-social-media-of-missile-interception-448362>
6. The United Arab Emirates was previously on a US list of "do not travel" places owing to the COVID-19 epidemic, but the US State Department has added the "threat of missile or drone attacks" to a travel alert. On Thursday, the department added the additional potential danger to its travel warning for the UAE, which was already at the highest category, "do not travel."
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/27/us-warns-of-missile-or-drone-attacks-in-uae-travel-advisory>
7. As Communist regime prepares to host the Winter Olympics next month, the state-run Global Times



28 January

stated that the PLA "is ready to deal with any US military provocations" during the games, citing the Chinese defence ministry.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/us-provocations-ahead-of-winter-olympics-pla-conducts-drills-in-south-china-sea-448299>

8. North Korea announced on Friday that its two most recent rounds of weapons tests performed this week were successful, achieving its goal of demonstrating military power. It also intends to hasten the creation of more powerful warheads.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/north-korea-confirms-two-tactical-guided-missiles-tests-kim-visits-munitions-factory-448286>
9. The Indian Defence Ministry said on Friday that India has signed a \$375 million contract with the Philippines for the sale of three BrahMos ground-based anti-ship missile systems. "BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) signed a contract with the Department of National Defence of the Republic of Philippines on January 28, 2022 for the supply of Shore Based Anti-Ship Missile System to the Philippines," the ministry said in a press release.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/brahmos-missile-india-signs-deal-with-the-philippines-indo-russian/>
10. Despite the near prospect of Russian invasion, massive help has been flowing in Ukraine from NATO countries. Any hypothetical strike, according to US President Joe Biden, would be an event that would change the globe forever and would be the largest since World War II.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russian-invasion-of-ukraine-countries-support-vladimir-putin/>
11. The joint initiative to develop Europe's sixth-generation fighter, known as the Future Combat Air System, appears to have halted due to a disagreement among both Airbus and Dassault Aviation over "division of labor" (FCAS).
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/europes-6th-gen-fighter-jet-program-dassault-airbus/>
12. The Houthi rebels' latest attacks on the UAE appear to have provoked a geopolitical paradigm change in the area. According to reports, the UAE had "quietly and unofficially asked Israel about acquiring missile defence systems to help protect it from Houthi missile attacks."
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/uae-could-acquire-indian-israeli-air-defense-system-to-thwart-houthi/>
13. So far, North Korea's renewed barrage of missile launches has been welcomed with a shrug in Tokyo. North Korea's missiles this time were all short-range and landed in the sea, far from the Japanese coast. For the time being, Kim Jong-un appears to be holding back. But if he doesn't receive the results he wants, that might change.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-60150121>
14. The US Navy is racing against the clock to reach one of its downed fighter jets before the Chinese do it first. The \$100m (£74 m) F-35C jet crashed in the South China Sea following a "mishap" during take-off from the USS Carl Vinson, according to the Navy. The aircraft is the Navy's newest and is packed with sensitive technology. It is theoretically fair game because it is in international waters.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-60148482>



15. The RIA news agency quoted Moscow's ambassador in Havana as stating on Friday that Russia and Cuba will continue to enhance their technological military cooperation.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/russia-cuba-will-keep-developing-technical-military-cooperation-ria-2022-01-28/>
16. North Korea conducted tests of an enhanced long-range cruise missile and a tactical guided missile warhead this week, according to state media KCNA, as leader Kim Jong Un toured a munitions facility manufacturing a "major weapon system."
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/nkorea-tested-an-updated-cruise-missile-warhead-tactical-guided-missile-kcna-2022-01-27/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. According to White House officials, US President Joe Biden has warned of a "distinct possibility" of a Russian invasion of Ukraine next month. On Thursday, Trump made the remarks during a phone discussion with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/us-president-biden-warns-russia-may-invade-ukraine-next-month-448385>
2. Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelensky, has warned the West against fomenting "panic" as Russian troops mass on the country's borders. He warned reporters that Russian invasion warnings were putting Ukraine's economy in jeopardy.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60174684>
3. The Vienna discussions on resurrecting the Iran nuclear deal have been suspended to allow delegates to return to their respective governments for consultations, with the EU and Russia declaring that now is the time for political decisions.
Source: <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2296593-iran-nuclear-talks-break-for-domestic-consultations?backToResults=true>
4. The current round of talks in Vienna to save the Iran nuclear deal have been paused, according to European Union coordinator Enrique Mora, who called for "political decisions" to break the impasse.
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/political-decisions-are-needed-eu-says-iran-nuclear-talks-put-on-pause/>
5. South Korea's ruling party presidential candidate's senior security adviser said his team intends to overcome previous failures in linking North Korea and the US by presenting a more "persuasive" strategy to jumpstart nuclear talks.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/skorea-ruling-party-candidate-seeks-outdo-moon-with-nkorea-nuclear-talks-2022-01-28/>

UN REFORMS

1. China's foreign ministry said the United Nations human rights chief is welcome to visit Xinjiang but not for the purpose of an investigation, when asked about a report the commissioner was invited to come in the first half of 2022.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-says-un-rights-chief-welcome-xinjiang-not-investigation-2022-01-28/>

2. According to her office, the UN's human rights chief is in talks with China on a possible travel to the Xinjiang region, which may provide rare external scrutiny of allegations of atrocities against ethnic Uyghurs.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-agrees-xinjiang-vist-by-un-rights-chief-early-2022-south-china-morning-2022-01-28/>

3. According to South China Morning Post, citing anonymous sources, China has agreed to let the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit Xinjiang this year, but only after the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 are completed.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/china-allows-un-rights-chief-visit-to-xinjiang-but-after-winter-olympics-2022-report-448312>

4. Lieutenant Colonel Paul-Henri Damiba, Burkina Faso's new military leader, stated on Thursday that the West African country will return to constitutional order when the conditions are perfect. Damiba spoke on national television for the first time since spearheading the rebellion that toppled President Roch Marc Kabore on Monday.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/burkina-faso-will-return-to-constitutional-order-when-conditions-are-right-military-leader-says-448292>