

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Copper Valley Electric Association (CVEA) and Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation (USNC), two Alaskan cooperative utilities, have agreed to investigate the possibility of constructing Alaska's first commercial Micro Modular Reactor (MMR) Energy System.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Feasibility-study-for-microreactor-in-Alaska>
2. The US wants to put nuclear fission engines in its military satellites to make them more maneuverable, faster, and resistant to anti-satellite missiles. Satellites with nuclear propulsion would have effective maneuver warfare capabilities in orbit, boosting their versatility for both offensive and defensive operations, as well as their survivability against anti-satellite weapons from China or Russia.
Source: https://asiatimes.com/2022/02/us-gunning-for-nuclear-edge-in-military-satellite-race/?mc_cid=3c6dbdb77d&mc_eid=00400db71d

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, the chief of US Central Command (CENTCOM), announced on Tuesday that the US will send a squadron of F-22 jets to the United Arab Emirates to counter drone assaults launched by Houthi rebels in Yemen.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-22-raptors-us-to-deploy-its-most-powerful-fighter-jets-to-the-uae/>
2. The Biden administration has agreed a \$100 million support contract with Taiwan's government to help the island's defences against an increasingly hostile China. It entails the sale of equipment and services.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/to-boost-defences-against-aggressive-china-us-approves-100-million-support-deal-with-taiwan-451360>
3. According to local media accounts, a French naval Rafale-M fighter plane was forced to make an emergency landing in Malta after experiencing problems with mid-air refuelling.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/rafale-m-accident-french-marine-jet-faces-mid-air-snag/>
4. Three months after displaying "superior flying skills" at the Dubai Air Show 2021, India's indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas is preparing to take to the skies for another event.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/india-eyes-debut-contract-for-lca-tejas-fighters-with-malaysia/>

5. According to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the UK is considering deploying Eurofighter Typhoon planes and Royal Navy warships to secure southeastern Europe and bolster the British battlegroup in Estonia.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/uk-could-deploy-eurofighter-typhoons-naval-warships-russia/>
6. IAC Vikrant, India's first indigenously developed carrier, is set to induct later this year. In addition to the Indian Navy's current INS Vikramaditya, this is the country's second aircraft carrier.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/world-best-naval-fighters-47-aircraft-carriers-14-navies-but-which-marine/>
7. During the COP26 meeting in Glasgow last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised that India would achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is already helping to reduce carbon emissions, as promised by the Prime Minister. In November last year, the home-grown technology of bio-jet fuel was formally approved for use on IAF aircraft.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/indian-air-force-gives-green-signal-to-bio-jet-fuel/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. After a 10-day hiatus, indirect discussions between Iran and the US on salvaging Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers resumed on Tuesday, but envoys offered no indication whether they were any closer to resolving many problematic concerns.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/talks-salvage-iran-nuclear-deal-resume-quietly-vienna-2022-02-08/>
2. After a brief pause to return to their capitals for talks, Iran's negotiators and the remaining parties to the accord — the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and China — got back to work. Due to the US withdrawal from the accord in 2018 under then-President Donald Trump, it has only had an indirect role in the discussions. President Joe Biden has expressed his desire to rejoin the deal
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-business-iran-donald-trump-united-states-9f8868d28eee456e2492563f495314c9>
3. Senators were cautioned Tuesday by the Army general nominated to take over as the top US commander in the Middle East that if Russia invades Ukraine, as many fear, it could cause widespread instability in the Middle East, including Syria. However, he made it plain that Iran continues to pose the greatest threat to the United States and its partners in the area.
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-islamic-state-group-afghanistan-russia-iran-e9c1db10ba16245065df4ebcd538594e>
4. According to a source, Russian authorities are concerned about President Vladimir Putin's intention to invade Ukraine, claiming that it will be bloody and difficult.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/some-russian-officials-feel-ukraine-invasion-will-be-bloodier-than-anticipated-report-451425>

5. According to Colombia's Foreign Minister and Vice President Marta Lucia Ramirez, Russia has assured that military equipment delivered to Venezuela would not be used to attack Colombia, destabilise Latin America, or end up in the hands of illegal armed groups.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/russia-says-military-aid-venezuela-will-not-be-used-attack-colombia-2022-02-08/>
6. The Pentagon announced on Monday that the US has cleared a prospective \$100 million sale of equipment and services to Taiwan to "sustain, maintain, and improve" its Patriot missile defence system, drawing an angry threat of retaliation from Beijing.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/us-approves-100-million-sale-taiwan-missile-upgrades-2022-02-07/>
7. On Monday, the US urged North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and focus on the needs of its own people.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-urges-nkorea-focus-needs-its-people-not-missiles-2022-02-07/>
8. On Tuesday, Japan's parliament passed a resolution denouncing any attempt to change the status quo through force and encouraging Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government to do all possible to assist achieve peace.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-parliament-resolution-ukraine-condemns-changing-status-quo-with-force-2022-02-08/>
9. President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan felt obligated to act when Russia massed soldiers near Ukraine's borders. She established a task force to investigate how the conflict in Europe, thousands of miles away, would affect Taiwan's long-running struggle with its larger, far more powerful neighbour.
Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/07/world/asia/taiwan-china-ukraine-russia.html>

UN REFORMS

1. According to a leaked Nepalese government report, China is advancing on Nepal's border. The report was commissioned last September following claims that China has been trespassing in the district of Humla.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/videos/leaked-report-accuses-china-of-encroaching-along-nepal-border-451539>
2. The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) underlined on Monday that a recent interview in which Peng Shuai denied accusing anyone of sexual assault did little to alleviate concerns about the Chinese player's safety.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/wta-says-latest-peng-interview-does-not-ease-concerns-about-her-safety-2022-02-07/>
3. The United Nations human rights office demanded on Tuesday the release of four Afghan women activists and their relatives who were jailed or kidnapped last month during protests over women's rights since the Taliban gained power.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/un-rights-office-demands-release-afghan-women-activists-2022-02-08/>
4. On Tuesday, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson highlighted his displeasure with China's allegedly oppressive trade actions against Lithuania.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uks-johnson-disappointed-by-chinas-treatment-lithuania-2022-02-08/>
5. The choice of a Uyghur athlete to carry the Olympic torch cannot be used as a diversion from China's "human rights abuses, the genocide" against the Uyghurs, according to White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/white-house-chinas-use-uyghur-athlete-should-not-distract-abuses-2022-02-07/>
6. India summoned South Korea's ambassador on Tuesday to convey its concern with a social media remark by a Pakistani partner of Hyundai Motor (005380.KS) against Kashmir, which is a part of India.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/hyundai-says-regrets-offence-caused-indians-after-pakistani-partners-tweet-2022-02-08/>
7. On Monday in the United Nations Security Council, the US and its allies clashed with Russia and China over the utility and impact of UN sanctions, which are currently imposed on countries ranging from North Korea to Yemen and Congo, as well as al-Qaida and Islamic State extremist groups and their affiliates and supporters.
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/business-africa-middle-east-russia-europe-4c77a04335dd595a94b144b79ba5a44d>

8. Due to al-past Qaida's ties to the recently emboldened Taliban, Afghanistan has the potential to become a safe haven for extremists, and "terrorist groups enjoy greater freedom there than at any time in recent history," according to a report released Monday by the United Nations.
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/islamic-state-group-afghanistan-asia-united-nations-syria-55a15d0a370f657aa60ccc1282b603c6>
9. Despite Washington and the West's present focus with a probable Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Biden administration is attempting to remind China that the US remains engaged and active in the Indo-Pacific.
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/winter-olympics-russia-ukraine-sports-russia-asia-78c7605f0b04d69edf6fd60e00185998>
10. Zhang Haitao was sentenced to 19 years in prison for making critical comments about Chinese government policies on the internet and providing interviews to foreign media. His lawyer and wife claim that he was tortured and mistreated while in custody.
Source: <https://twitter.com/CECCgov/status/1491185088847089666>
11. According to a dossier released to the BBC by the Nepalese government, China is encroaching into Nepal along the two countries' shared border. The research was commissioned last September in response to allegations that China had been intruding in Nepal's far west, in the district of Humla.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-60288007>
12. On January 22, the Chinese SJ-21 satellite was detected moving from its customary orbit to approach the defunct spacecraft Compass-G2. SJ-21 joined to G2 a few days later, changing its orbit. In April 2021, US Space Command Commander James Dickinson stated that technology like China's SJ-21 "could be used in a future system for grappling other satellites."
Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/chinese-space-cleaner-spotted-grabbing-and-throwing-away-old-satellite/a-60658574>