



DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The US Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) has awarded contracts to Ultra Safe Nuclear Technologies and Avalanche Energy to demonstrate the next generation of nuclear propulsion and power capability for small spacecraft.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Contracts-to-demo-novel-space-propulsion-technolog>

2. Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) has endorsed Tokyo Electric Power Company's (Tepco's) plan to discharge treated water from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea. It will give its official approval of the plan following a 30-day public comment period.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Regulator-backs-Fukushima-water-discharge-plan>

3. Bernard Doroszczuk, President of France's Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire (ASN), told a parliamentary hearing that the "discovery of unexpected stress corrosion" had led to checks of 35 welds so far, a third of the total to be examined by the end of June.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/French-regulator-gives-update-on-corrosion-issue>

4. EDF has strengthened operational safety at its Civaux nuclear power plant by addressing the findings of an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) review which took place in 2019, a follow-up mission has concluded.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-sees-improved-operational-safety-at-Civaux>

5. Finland's Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) has started reviewing Posiva Oy's operating licence application for the world's first used fuel disposal facility after concluding the company has provided sufficient material.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Review-of-Finnish-used-fuel-disposal-facility-lice>

6. The Magnox reprocessing plant at Sellafield will end its operations in July, marking the completion of the UK Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) Magnox Operating Programme.



Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/UK-reprocessing-plant-to-end-operations>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. U.S intelligence shows there could be a North Korean nuclear test, or a long-range missile test, or both, before, during or after President Joe Biden's trip to South Korea and Japan starting this week, the U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan, said on Wednesday.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/covid-wracked-nkorea-may-greet-biden-with-missile-test-2022-05-18/>

2. India intends to deploy the Russian-made S-400 missile defence system by next month to defend itself from Pakistani and Chinese threats as it is pursuing an extensive military modernisation effort encompassing air, ground, naval and strategic nuclear forces, Pentagon's top intelligence official has said during a Congressional hearing.

Source: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/india-may-deploy-russian-missile-system-by-next-month-pentagon-396169>

3. India today test-fired its first homemade air-launched anti-ship missile made by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, or DRDO. In a footage released by the Indian Navy, a Seaking 42B helicopter loaded with the missile is seen flying over the sea test range in Balasore, off the Odisha coast, while another helicopter is seen following it for observation.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/watch-homemade-air-launched-anti-ship-missile-tested-1st-for-indian-navy-2986259>

4. China is developing a heat-seeking hypersonic weapon that will be able to hit a moving car at five times the speed of sound, according to scientists involved in the project.

Source: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3177908/chinese-scientists-work-hypersonic-missile-can-hit-moving-car>

5. Russia, the 'world leader' in hypersonic missiles, is now reportedly developing next-generation missiles even as the US is still finding its way with the technology.



Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russia-announces-developing-next-gen-mach-10-hypersonic-missiles/>

6. Over the past 24 hours, Ukraine's Air Force destroyed 20 units of Russian armored vehicles, as well as shot down a cruise missile and a Su-34 fighter-bomber.

Source: <https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-ato/3486731-ukraine-downs-russian-su34-cruise-missile-destroys-20-combat-armored-vehicles.html>

7. Photographs taken by a U.S.-based commercial satellite firm show what is likely a new type of Chinese navy submarine. The sub, photographed out of the water in drydock, is likely a Type 093B, an improved version of the Type 093 Shang class nuclear powered submarines.

Source: <https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/navy-ships/a40011949/satellite-spots-new-chinese-missile-submarine/>

8. The littoral combat ship Montgomery launched three AGM-114L Longbow Hellfire missiles at a land-based target this month — becoming the first LCS to do so. While cruising in the Pacific Ocean the ship successfully struck the target several nautical miles away May 12 during a proof-of-concept exercise under the vessel's surface-to-surface mission module, the Navy said.

Source: <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2022/05/17/littoral-combat-ship-montgomery-conducts-first-land-attack-missile-exercise/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Defense Minister Benny Gantz met with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in the White House on Wednesday to discuss the threat posed by Iran's nuclear project and the progress made by the Islamic Republic.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-707091>

2. While the U.S. and Iran have so far failed to agree on terms for a new nuclear agreement, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz warned that the Islamic nation is just weeks away from having the necessary materials for a nuclear weapon.

Source: https://www.foxnews.com/politics/iran-materials-first-nuclear-weapon-israeli-defense-minister?intcmp=tw_fnc

3. US Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on Tuesday said that what appears to have



“temporarily paused” the nuclear deal with Iran is that “the ayatollahs’ demands are so extreme and so radical.”

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-707038>

UN REFORMS

1. The Taliban have demanded in a new video media order that female presenters cover their faces while performing.

Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/142743/taliban-female-tv-presenters-should-cover-their-faces-when-performing-programs/>

2. ‘Dangerous Liaisons: UK partnerships with Chinese policing institutions linked to crimes against humanity in Xinjiang’, exposes how Boris Johnson’s government funded a partnership, supported by the UK police service, between a UK company and police universities in China, at least one of which has links to training police in Xinjiang.

Source: https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-uks-connection-to-torture-in-xinjiang?utm_campaign=22DC040&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social

3. An independent United Nations expert said Wednesday that the impact of sanctions imposed by the United States on Iran was “devastating,” describing them as illegal and urging that they be lifted.

Source: https://www.timesofisrael.com/un-expert-calls-for-devastating-us-sanctions-on-iran-to-be-lifted/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

4. According to a readout issued by the Defense Ministry, the meeting between Gantz and Sullivan focused mainly on Iran’s progression in its nuclear program as negotiations stalled in Vienna, alongside Tehran’s “destabilizing regional activities.”

Source: https://www.timesofisrael.com/gantz-meets-us-national-security-chief-for-talks-on-iran-israels-security/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

5. A U.S. citizen and four Chinese intelligence officers have been charged with spying on Chinese dissidents, human rights leaders and pro-democracy activists residing in the United States, the Department of Justice said on Wednesday.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-charges-one-american-four-chinese-officials-with-spying-2022-05-18/>



6. Taiwan expressed "dissatisfaction and regret" over the World Health Organization's failure to invite it to attend an upcoming annual assembly in Geneva, amid diplomatic pressure from China to isolate the island.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/taiwan-says-who-ignoring-requests-observer-status-assembly-2022-05-19/>

7. Joe Biden will visit Japan and South Korea on his first Asian trip as U.S. president, carrying a clear message to China, advisers and analysts say - don't try what Russia did in Ukraine anywhere in Asia, and especially not in Taiwan.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/biden-visits-japan-south-korea-carrying-warning-china-2022-05-19/>

8. In March, the US Department of Justice charged five individuals with "stalking, harassing, and spying on US residents" on behalf of China's secret police. The suspects were alleged to have worked with China's intelligence services to report on Uyghurs and other US-based activists critical of the Chinese government. This was not an isolated incident. The following month, Chinese officials secured provisional agreement to deport a Uyghur woman named Buheliqiemu Abula and her 13-year-old daughter from Saudi Arabia to China, where they are at risk of detention in Xinjiang's vast web of internment camps.

Source: <https://www.newstatesman.com/world/asia/china/2022/05/chinas-repression-of-uyghurs-extends-far-beyond-its-own-borders>

9. A watchdog organization today called on a UN human rights envoy to return \$200,000 that she received from the Chinese state while she helped the regime whitewash its ethnic cleansing of the Uyghurs. Alena Douhan, the UN Human Rights Council's "Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures," today concluded a controversial 11-day visit to Iran in which she spurned appeals by Iranian rights activists to meet dissidents.

Source: <https://unwatch.org/un-rights-envoy-received-200000-from-china-while-acting-for-beijing/>

10. Dilmurat Awut, 65, is among a group of more than 20 educators at the university that an earlier RFA report said have been detained. Not all of the names of the educators have been publicly released.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/dilmurat-awut-05172022172515.html>

11. China's transnational repression is on the rise, with Beijing employing a range of tactics to pursue its critics abroad. These include physical threats, cyberattacks and the denial of consular services, which has left thousands of Uyghurs stranded without passports.

Source: <https://www.newstatesman.com/world/asia/china/2022/05/chinas-repression-of-uyghurs-extends-far-beyond-its-own-borders>

12. Uyghurs in exile use art to combat China's cultural genocide back home
. Classical performing artist Shohret Tursun said he realized early on that his native Uyghur culture was on the brink of obliteration in Xinjiang, as he watched in horror as fellow musicians and other Uyghur friends were detained or disappeared by Chinese authorities starting in 2017.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/three-artists-05132022181204.html>

13. Freedom from Torture has launched a new report, 'Dangerous Liaisons: UK partnerships with Chinese policing institutions linked to crimes against humanity in Xinjiang', detailing a UK government funded partnership with police training institutions in China.

Source: https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-uks-connection-to-torture-in-xinjiang?utm_campaign=22DC040&utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social