

DAILY TRACKER**NUCLEAR ISSUES**

1. Japanese researchers are taking the help of snakes to monitor the radiation levels around the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. The snakes are fitted with tracking devices and dosimeters to understand the long-term radiation exposure in the nuclear plant that suffered triple meltdowns in March 2011.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/science/scientists-are-using-radioactive-snakes-to-monitor-fallout-from-fukushima-nuclear-disaster-411796> *10 September 2021*

2. A Canadian investment fund almost single handedly launched uranium spot prices into orbit with a buying spree that has put the nuclear power industry on alert. The spot uranium price for deliveries this month leapt 30.8% over 30 days to \$39.75/lb as of 1 p.m. on Sept. 7 — a steep rise for a commodity market that previously saw years of sagging prices, according to data from S&P Global Platts. Market analysts credited Sprott Asset Management LP, a uranium trust formed in July to buy up low-cost uranium on the spot market and hold it for the long-term, for jolting the market with a wave of purchases. The nuclear power industry, which largely buys fuel on long-term contracts, is not panicking as it can absorb even a one-third increase in price, but the industry is wary that the fund could continue to push up fuel costs.

Source: <https://astanatimes.com/2021/09/disarmament-nuclear-weapons-and-security-are-irreconcilable/> *10 September 2021*

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry dismissed the comments from the foreign minister of the “outlaw” Zionist regime about Iran’s nuclear activities, known as the world’s most inspected program, saying Tehran reserves the right to respond. “Outlaw Israeli regime—sitting on illicit nukes & refusing to join NPT—again threatens NPT member Iran; a nation with world’s most inspected nuclear program,” Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a post on his Twitter account on Friday, referring to the Zionist regime’s refusal to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Source: <https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2021/09/10/2569217/spokesman-hits-back-at-israeli-fm-for-comments-on-iran-s-nuclear-program> *10 September 2021*

2. During the recent 17th NATO conference on arms control and weapons of mass destruction, North Atlantic Treaty Organisations (NATO) Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg explained that North Korea was in violation of the arms control rules and advancing nuclear capabilities. Stoltenberg said that North Korea is "ignoring or breaking the global rules" and "spreading dangerous technology". He continued: "NATO's aim is a world free of nuclear weapons. And we are ready to take further steps to create the conditions for nuclear disarmament negotiations. But any meaningful disarmament must be balanced and verifiable".

Source: <https://www.tweaktown.com/news/81554/nato-north-korea-spreading-dangerous-technology-nuke-alarms-blare/index.html> 10 September 2021

MISSILES/BIO WEAPONS

1. The global land based defense equipment market is expected to grow from \$47.06 billion in 2020 to \$47.88 billion in 2021 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 1.7%. The market is expected to reach \$57.89 billion in 2025 at a CAGR of 5%. Major companies in the land based defense equipment market include BAE Systems; Raytheon Co; Northrop Grumman Corp; General Dynamics Corp and Lockheed Martin Corporation.
2. **Source:** <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20210910005321/en/Land-Based-Defense-Equipment-Global-Markets-Report-2021-Armored-Vehicles-Missiles-Tanks-Small-Arms-and-Light-Weapons-Autonomous-Land-based-Defense-Equipment-Manual---ResearchAndMarkets.com> 10 September 2021
3. Taiwan on Thursday announced the commissioning of a powerful, locally built warship capable of taking on both air and sea threats. The Ta Chiang corvette is being deployed at the Suao naval base in Yilan County, in the island's northeast, where the hope is that the presence of what has been dubbed a "carrier killer" will deter growing military pressure from mainland China. At a ceremony there to mark the commissioning, President Tsai Ing-wen called the ship a step on the "road to autonomy in our national defense, and proof that we can overcome whatever difficulties may arise."

Source: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Taiwan-Navy-launches-carrier-killer-with-28-missiles> 10 September 2021

4. Israel's defense industry just added another buyer to its list. Speaking to the Serbian national TV broadcaster, the RTS, the regional director for the Israeli defense company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Al Zaher said, "We are acting in Serbia together with state-owned defense products manufacturer Jugoimport-SDPR, and we are working on the promotion of SPIKE LR2 rockets."

Source: <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/09/why-serbia-wants-buy-spike-missiles-israel>
10 September 2021

UN REFORMS

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1. The United Nations development agency has said Afghanistan is teetering on the brink of "universal poverty" which could become a reality in the middle of next year unless urgent efforts are made to bolster local communities and their economies. It said the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has put 20 years of steady economic gains at risk.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/afghanistan-on-brink-of-universal-poverty-urgent-efforts-needed-un-121091001136_1.html **10 September 2021**

2. The United Nations has warned that Afghanistan is at risk of "total breakdown" if the international community does not find a way to keep money flowing into Afghanistan despite concerns over the Taliban government. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said in a [report](#) released on Thursday that about 97 percent of Afghanistan's population may sink below the poverty line unless the country's political and economic crises are addressed.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/10/un-warns-afghanistan-at-risk-of-total-breakdown> **10 September 2021**

3. Four UN special rapporteurs have expressed serious concerns over the arrest, alleged torture and death in custody of Hurriyat leader Ashraf Sehrai. Sehrai died in May this year, battling multiple illnesses at the Government Medical College in Jammu while serving detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978. The special mandate holders have also demanded a separate, impartial inquiry into the matter. Separately, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), a Paris-based non-profit, has taken the note of the circumstances surrounding the death of another Hurriyat leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani and denounced what it called "serious human rights violations" that are inconsistent with India's "international human rights obligations."

Source: <https://thewire.in/rights/human-rights-bodies-concerned-over-deaths-of-geelani-and-sehrai> 10 September 2021