

TARIKH	7 OGOS 2025 (KHAMIS)	SURATKHABAR	BH / UM / NST / TS / HM / KOSMO
TAJUK ARTIKEL	HIROSHIMA WARNS AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS		
M/S	20 (WORLD)	KATA KUNCI	ATOMIC BOMB, HIROSHIMA
BIDANG	NUCLEAR		

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80TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATOMIC BOMBING

HIROSHIMA WARNS AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Global trend towards a military buildup nullifies lessons learnt from tragic past, says mayor

HIROSHIMA

EXACTLY 80 years since an atomic bomb was used in war for the first time, thousands bowed their heads in prayer in Hiroshima yesterday, as the city's mayor warned world leaders about the nuclear warheads that still exist today.

The western Japanese city was levelled on Aug 6, 1945, when the United States dropped a uranium bomb nicknamed "Little Boy", killing about 78,000 people instantly.

Hiroshima was the headquarters of some military units and a major supply base during World War 2.

US war planners calculated that the surrounding mountains would concentrate the force of the bomb and enhance its destructiveness.

"Little Boy" unleashed a surge of heat reaching 4,000°C and radiation that killed tens of thousands more by the end of the year.

It was followed by a plutonium bomb on Nagasaki three days later, and Japan's surrender on Aug 15.

Representatives from a record 120 countries and territories, including nuclear superpowers the United States and Israel, which neither confirms nor denies having nuclear weaponry, attended the annual ceremony at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park for the milestone year.

After a moment of silence observed at 8.15am, the exact time of the blast, mayor Kazumi Matsui called on leaders to heed the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and warned of the consequences of the global trend towards a military buildup.

"Among the world's political



Visitors walking past the Atomic Bomb Dome (left) on the eve of the 80th anniversary of the world's first atomic bomb attack, in the city of Hiroshima, on Tuesday. AFP PIC

leaders, there is a growing belief that possessing nuclear weapons is unavoidable in order to protect their own countries," he said, noting that the US and Russia possessed 90 per cent of the world's nuclear warheads.

"This situation not only nullifies the lessons the international community has learnt from the tragic history of the past, but also seriously undermines the frameworks that have been built for peace-building.

"To all the leaders around the

world: Please visit Hiroshima and witness for yourselves the reality of the atomic bombing."

Yoshikazu Horie, a 71-year-old tourist, expressed a similar sentiment.

"It feels more and more like history is repeating itself. Terrible things are happening in Europe... Even in Japan, in Asia, it's going the same way, it's very scary," he said.

"I've got grandchildren and I want peace so they can live their lives happily."

In the decades following the attacks, those who survived, called *hibakusha*, often faced discrimination as rumours spread that they carried diseases and their offspring could be tainted. Their numbers fell below 100,000 for the first time this year.

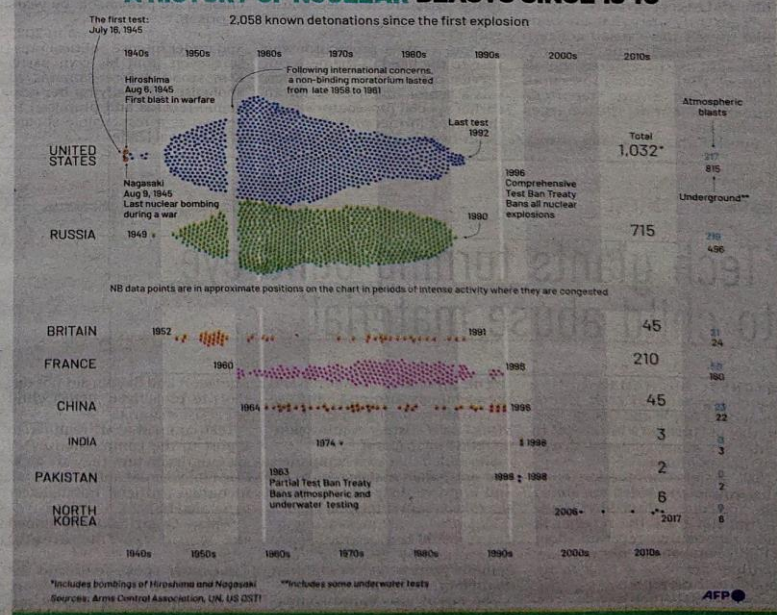
Japan, the only country to have suffered nuclear attacks, has stated its commitment to nuclear disarmament but is not a signatory or observer of the United Nations treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

Reuters



A photo dated September 1945 showing the remains of the Prefectural Industry Promotion Building after the bombing of Hiroshima, which was later preserved as a monument. AFP PIC

A HISTORY OF NUCLEAR BLASTS SINCE 1945



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