

DAILY TRACKER**NUCLEAR ISSUES**

1. The Rosatom-Seligdar deal involves the supply and use of energy from a small modular reactor (SMR) nuclear power plant to develop the Kyuchus gold resource in the Republic of Sakha in northeast Russia (Yakutia).
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Deal-signed-for-nuclear-to-power-Russian-gold-mine>
2. Rosatom and the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant's management have agreed to investigate the possibility of building new Russian-designed nuclear power units on the current plant's site in Metsamor, Armenia.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Rosatom-signs-agreement-on-possible-new-reactors-f>
3. The European Commission wants nuclear power to be designated as a climate-friendly energy source, but certain countries are opposed. Austria has stated that it is willing to go to court to fight the concept of "green" nuclear power.
Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/austria-luxembourg-eye-legal-steps-in-eu-nuclear-energy-row/a-60515621>
4. If gas is included in the new EU guidelines for sustainable energy investment, environmental lawyers have threatened to sue the European Commission.
Source: <https://euobserver.com/climate/154162>
5. In a society that is trying to adopt less trustworthy renewable energy sources, nuclear energy has an established track record of reliability. This bodes well for the uranium that fuels the sector.
Source: <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/good-news-for-uranium-nuclear-energy-has-a-record-reliability-despite-past-disasters-11642701480>
6. Nuclear power can be divisive, but as countries seek greener, lower-carbon alternatives to fossil fuels, nuclear spending is expected to rise in the coming years. According to Rystad Energy research, \$91 billion will be invested in the worldwide nuclear sector by the end of next year, as nuclear power's popularity grows in densely populated countries like China, India, and Russia.
Source: <https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Nuclear-Energy-Investments-Are-Set-To-Soar.html>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. In November, Moscow detonated a missile that blew up one of its old satellites, causing international outrage due to the space debris it strewn throughout the Earth's orbit. Officials from the United States accused Moscow of launching a "dangerous and irresponsible" strike that resulted in a cloud of debris and compelled the crew of the International Space Station to take evasive action.
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/russia-blew-up-satellite-to-test-a-missile-extremely-dangerous-result-2719545>
2. The US issued fines against three companies for engaging in unspecified "missile technology proliferation activities". They were forbidden from entering US markets and receiving technology that could be used to create weapons, according to the report.
Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-criticizes-us-missile-sanctions-as-hypocrisy/articleshow/89042468.cms>
3. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced the Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha on Thursday morning, validating many new indigenous systems.
Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/brahmos-missile-test-fired-validating-several-new-indigenous-systems-drdo-7733532/>
4. According to the latest sources, the first batch of India's freshly acquired S-400 Triumf missile defence systems will be operational by April this year. The Russian-made air defence systems have already been deployed in Punjab, India's border province with Pakistan.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/challenging-s-400-missiles-pakistan-says-its-stealth-drones-india/>
5. The Indian military has signed a big defence deal with Saab, a Swedish aerospace and defence company that builds Gripen fighter jets.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/saab-clinches-a-major-deal-with-indian-military-anti-tank-missiles/>
6. According to Defense News, a multibillion-dollar missile defence system owned by the UAE and designed by the US military intercepted a ballistic missile during a devastating strike by Houthi militants in Abu Dhabi on Monday, marking the system's first known use in a military operation.
Source: <https://www.defensenews.com/land/2022/01/21/taad-in-first-operational-use-destroys-midrange-ballistic-missile-in-houthi-attack/>
7. According to Sky News, the United Kingdom (UK) has sent a group of roughly 30 elite troops to Ukraine to train the country's armed forces on anti-tank weapons that London has handed to Kiev over fears about the Ukrainian conflict escalating.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/uk-elite-troops-to-ukraine-to-help-kiev-knock-out-russian-tanks/>
8. Australia and the United Kingdom have not addressed the potential of stationing British nuclear submarines on Australian soil, but more military exercises are planned, according to Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/british-nuclear-submarines-to-check-chinese-uk-australia/>



9. So far this year, Kim Jong Un's regime has launched four ballistic missile tests, including two testing of a novel, manoeuvrable weapon known as a hypersonic glide vehicle in North Korea (HGV). All of the missiles tested so far in 2022, as well as the majority of tests since the breakdown of nuclear diplomacy in February 2019, have been relatively short-range weaponry.

Source: <https://www.cato.org/blog/north-korea-hints-return-long-range-missile-nuclear-weapon-testing>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. The window for negotiators in Vienna to reach an agreement is dwindling, according to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who spoke to reporters in Geneva on Friday.

Source: <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/01/blinken-iran-nuclear-talks-reach-decisive-moment>

2. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the longer Iran fails to comply with the 2015 Vienna accord — intended to rein in Tehran's nuclear program — the closer it would get to being able to build an atomic weapon.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-nuclear-talks-iran-decisive-moment-82374261>

3. Blinken told reporters after meeting with European allies in Berlin that reviving the landmark agreement was still possible.

"My own assessment, talking to all of our colleagues, is that returning to mutual compliance, it remains possible," Blinken said, but warned that time was short.

Source: <https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-nuclear-talks-blinken-time/31663624.html>

4. US President Joe Biden said Wednesday that it is "not time to give up" on talks with Iran aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal. "It's not time to give up," Biden said at a press conference to mark his first year in the White House. "There is some progress being made," he said.

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-says-iran-nuclear-talks-advancing-not-time-to-call-it-quits/>

5. North Korea stated on Thursday that it will consider restarting "all temporally-suspended activities" it had paused during its diplomacy with the Trump administration, implying that it may resume nuclear and long-range missile testing.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/north-korea-nuclear-weapons-missile-tests-consider-pause/>

UN REFORMS

1. Jimmy LAI, CHAN Pui-man, CHUNG Pui-kuen, CHEUNG Kim-hung, charged under the NSL for reporting truth as a reporter. Massive rise in political prisoners in Hong Kong each day.
Source: <https://twitter.com/jooeysiui/status/1484567444668788747>
2. As China's governing Communist Party (CCP) prepares to host the 2022 Winter Olympics on February 4, security researchers in Canada have discovered "serious security flaws" in a mandatory app for all participants. The "MY2022" app, which is required for all attendees of the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing, has a "simple but devastating flaw" in which encryption safeguarding users' voice, audio, and file transfers may be easily circumvented, according to Citizen Lab of Toronto.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/olympics-app-01212022124402.html>
3. On Friday, the European Parliament passed a vote condemning continued human rights violations in Hong Kong as a result of a crackdown on dissent linked to China's harsh national security law.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/hongkong-eu-01212022115950.html>
4. France's parliament slammed China's "genocide" of its Uyghur Muslim people on Thursday, in a resolution only two weeks before the Winter Olympics.
Source: <https://hongkongfp.com/2022/01/21/french-parliament-recognises-chinas-treatment-of-uyghur-population-as-genocide/>
5. Amnesty International has demanded that the Taliban investigate the kidnapping of Alia Azizi, the former director of Herat Prison's women's ward, and that if she is apprehended, she be released promptly and unconditionally.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/135189/amnesty-international-says-taliban-immediately-investigate-abduction-of-alia-azizi/>
6. Afghan refugees continue to demonstrate in Indonesia. Today (Thursday, January 30), asylum seekers protested in front of the governor's office in Copang, claiming that 10 years of asylum and indecision in Indonesia must come to an end.
Source: <https://twitter.com/Etilaatroz/status/1484134106023792641>
7. In Afghanistan, gunmen killed a 22-year-old man in Kabul, according to his relatives.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/135145/armed-robbers-killed-a-22-year-old-man-in-kabul/>
8. Two women demonstrators have been detained by Taliban forces in Kabul, according to women protestors in Kabul.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/135141/alleged-arrest-of-protesting-women-in-kabul/>
9. On Thursday, a day following the 8th Central Committee's 6th Politburo meeting, North Korea's administration rushed to inform its populace about what had happened in emergency lectures held across the country in every government firm and neighbourhood watch unit.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/korea/lecture-01212022201143.html>

10. Sit Ko Naing Htun, 27-year-old writer and journalist, who grew up in the nearby Sagaing region's Yinmabin district, told RFA he traded his pen for a gun and joined the local People's Defense Force (PDF), to restore democracy in Myanmar.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/writer-01202022173517.html>