

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. In a formal letter to Brussels, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's three-party coalition government expressed its opposition to a European Union draught plan to classify nuclear power plants as a sustainable energy source, officials said on Saturday.

Source: <https://www.investing.com/news/commodities-news/germany-cries-foul-over-nuclear-energy-in-eus-green-investment-rule-book-2745511>

2. The EU taxonomy intends to establish a gold standard for green investments, assisting climate-friendly projects in attracting private financing and preventing "greenwashing," which occurs when investors and companies exaggerate their eco-credentials. The German government also mentioned the lack of any safety criteria for nuclear power facilities in its letter to Brussels, which was published on the Economy Ministry's webpage.

Source: <https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/world/story/germany-objects-to-nuclear-energy-inclusion-in-eus-green-investment-rule-book-320005-2022-01-22>

3. As the UK's Atomic Energy Authority seeks to develop low-carbon energy sources, a nuclear fusion energy facility could be developed in Scotland. The UK government will select one of five potential locations for the prototype fusion power plant, including Ardeer on the Ayrshire coast, near Stevenston.

Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/north-ayrshire-scottish-kwasi-kwarteng-uk-government-nottinghamshire-b1998167.html>

4. Seligdar, one of Russia's leading gold producers, announced today that it has inked an agreement with Rosatom, the Russian state nuclear business, to supply energy generated by a small modular nuclear reactor for the Kyuchus gold deposit in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia).

Source: <https://www.kitco.com/news/2022-01-20/Russian-gold-miner-will-use-nuclear-energy-from-the-world-s-first-land-based-small-modular-reactor.html>

5. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization of Canada is poised to provide the City of Dryden slightly under \$1 million. The NWMO is still contemplating whether to build its \$23 billion deep geological nuclear waste storage facility in the Ignace and Wabigoon Lake area or in the South Bruce community, with a decision due next year.

Source: <https://www.drydennow.com/articles/city-to-receive-nearly-1-million-from-nuclear-waste-group>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. According to Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexei Krivoruchko, Russia's Tsirkon seaborne hypersonic cruise missile is nearing the end of its state trials, and serial supplies to the Navy will begin in 2022.

Source: <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/01/tsirkon-hypersonic-missile-enters-the-final-stage-of-state-trials/>

2. The US Air Force is under pressure to enhance its fleet and speed up the development of next-generation fighter jets, with threat perceptions at an all-time high. While numerous countries are currently designing and developing fifth-generation jets, the United States has made significant progress on its sixth-generation programme.

Source: <https://eurasiantimes.com/which-other-warplanes-is-the-us-air-force-fighter-jets/>

3. The US embassy in Kiev announced on Friday that it has sent about 200,000 pounds (90.7 tonnes) of lethal supplies to Ukraine as part of its first shipment of additional military support requested by President Biden amid tensions on the Ukrainian-Russian border.

Source: <https://eurasiantimes.com/us-delivers-100-tonnes-of-lethal-aid-to-ukraine-russian-threats/>

4. Chinese researchers have invented the world's first lightweight, flexible body armour to shield soldiers from armor-piercing projectiles, according to the researchers. According to media reports, three rounds of armor-piercing incendiary (API) bullets were shot at approximately three times the speed of sound into the bionic scale armour from point-blank range (up to 15 metres or 50 feet). The composite materials used in the armour were not pierced by any of the projectiles.

Source: <https://eurasiantimes.com/china-use-worlds-first-body-shield-armor-piercing-munitions/>

5. On Friday, China chastised the United States for slapping sanctions on Chinese enterprises accused of exporting missile technology, and accused the US of hypocrisy for selling nuclear-capable cruise missiles.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-criticizes-us-missile-sanctions-as-hypocrisy/articleshow/89042468.cms>

6. While tensions between Greece and its NATO ally Turkey continue to grow, the former has a strong fighter force, which includes the recently inducted Rafale fighter jets from France.

Source: <https://eurasiantimes.com/france-delivers-rafaele-fighters-to-hellenic-air-force-f-16-jets/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Iran's atomic energy agency announced on Friday that the Islamic republic is in talks with Russia about building two more units at its lone nuclear power plant.

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-in-talks-with-russia-to-expand-islamic-republics-sole-nuclear-power-plant/>

2. China said it opposed sanctions by the U.S. on three Chinese companies accused of engaging in the proliferation of missile technology. Further, the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on Saturday that the U.S. should "immediately correct its wrongdoing."

Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-22/china-says-u-s-wrong-to-sanction-firms-on-missile-proliferation>

3. In the midst of border tensions with Ukraine, Russia's deputy foreign minister, Sergey Ryabkov, stated that Russia is not frightened of any country, even the US. "We are not afraid of anyone, even the US," Russia's deputy foreign minister said, according to Russia's TASS news agency.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/nato-to-conduct-naval-exercise-in-mediterranean-amid-tensions-with-russia-446617>

4. The head of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, or ICAN, has urged Japan to support the treaty's anti-nuclear weapons efforts. The United Nations Treaty banning the use, development, and possession of nuclear weapons entered into force one year ago on Saturday.

Source: https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20220123_06/

5. According to two US officials, one Congressional official, one former US official, and four other people familiar with the discussions, Russia has discussed a possible interim agreement with Iran in recent weeks as part of an effort to revive the international nuclear deal with Tehran. The agreement would involve limited sanctions relief in exchange for reimposing some restrictions on Tehran's nuclear programme.

Source: <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/01/22/russia-proposed-interim-nuclear-deal-to-iran-with-us-knowledge-sources-say.html>

6. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov discussed international attempts to resurrect a landmark nuclear agreement with Iran amid concerns that time is running out to complete discussions.

Source: <https://www.rferl.org/a/blinken-iran-nuclear-talks-lavrov/31665295.html>

7. On Friday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with his Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, on neutral ground in Geneva in an attempt to ease tensions along the Russian-Ukrainian border. Before the talks, both leaders downplayed the chances of a breakthrough, but they reappeared thereafter, implying that diplomacy will at the very least continue.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/blinken-says-lavrov-repeated-to-him-that-russia-has-no-intention-of-invading-ukraine-446488>

8. After meeting with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, in Geneva on January 21, US Secretary of

State Antony Blinken said the Iran nuclear deal was an example of how Moscow and Washington might work together on security concerns. Despite the fact that the negotiations on January 21 were centred on the present issue at the Russia-Ukraine border, the top US official stated that the now-defunct Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action had "still a window" to be salvaged.

Source: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/dispatches/blinken-urges-russia-to-pressure-iran-on-nuclear-deal/article38308819.ece>

UN REFORMS

1. The 2022 Winter Olympics will begin in Beijing in two weeks, hosted by a regime accused of genocide and crimes against humanity, widespread and systematic torture, grave and flagrant violations of international treaty obligations, the disappearance of critics, including a former world number one tennis player, and international infiltration, intimidation, influence, and espionage campaigns. Furthermore, the Chinese Communist Party has vowed to "punish" international athletes who oppose the regime.

Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/blood-stains-the-snow-of-chinas-genocide-games/95815>

2. According to a copy of the 2019 verdict obtained by RFA, a court in Xinjiang sentenced five Muslim Uyghur women from one family to long prison terms for "illegal" religious practises.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/five-women-01212022165157.html>

3. Mihrigul Tursun, 31, has spoken out about the assault and torture she and other Uyghurs faced in China's enormous network of "re-education" camps in the country's far-western Xinjiang region.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/andrea-hoffmann-01202022134747.html>

4. Tesla was accused by two House Democrats on Wednesday of facilitating "gross human rights violations" by constructing a car store in China's Xinjiang province, where widespread human rights atrocities against Uyghurs have sparked international outrage.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/zacharysmith/2022/01/20/house-lawmakers-are-latest-to-criticize-tesla-for-opening-showroom-in-chinas-xinjiang-region/?sh=634abd1a6437>

5. According to a report, a Chinese state-owned corporation has been given permission to deploy security scanning devices in important European destinations. Nuctech, a Chinese company, has installed its devices in a number of European hotspots, including airports and ports, as well as at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/chinese-company-linked-to-government-installs-security-scanners-across-europe-report-446640>

6. As European trade officials seek to defuse the row, Lithuania is under pressure from German companies to back down in a dispute with China to halt a blockade of the Baltic state, according to sources familiar with the situation.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/german-big-business-piles-pressure-lithuania-china-row-2022-01-21/>

7. On Friday, the European Parliament passed a motion condemning continued human rights violations in Hong Kong as a result of a crackdown on dissent linked to China's draconian national security law. The resolution demanded the immediate and unconditional release of all people detained under the law, which the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) enacted on Hong Kong on July 1, 2020.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/hongkong-eu-01212022115950.html>

8. Afghanistan has been plunged into a humanitarian crisis since the Taliban took control in August. In a country dominated by fundamentalist forces, not only is poverty and malnutrition pervasive, but millions of women have also lost their rights to education and employment.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/afghan-woman-in-hiding-speaks-with-hillary-clinton-talks-about-what-changed-after-taliban-takeover-446730>

9. According to a new report, the People's Liberation Army has built new units and strengthened old ones to man outposts in the South China Sea during the last decade.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/southchinasea-pla-01212022142754.html>

10. The Talibani terrorists kill another young man by cutting his throat.

Hundreds of people watched this scene and this terror of the Taliban.

Source: <https://twitter.com/mujahidandarabi/status/1402572399116234755>

11. Jailed Pham Doan Trang, a Vietnamese journalist, was selected the winner of the 2022 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders this week, making her the first Vietnamese rights campaigner to receive the honour.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/award-01202022155751.html>