

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The European Union is split on whether or not nuclear power should be included in the energy debate. Despite the fact that this has been the argument over reactors in recent decades following three major accidents, it appears to be changing presently.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/counting-the-cost/2022/2/12/should-nuclear-power-be-labelled-green>

2. Despite the requirement to contain nuclear waste, scientists from the EU Joint Research Centre concurred that nuclear power does not create disproportionate environmental harm.

Source: <https://spectrum.ieee.org/frances-nuclear-push-shows-that-germanys-phaseout-isnt-the-whole-story>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. After a string of attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeting the Gulf country, the US would help replenish the UAE's missile interceptors, according to a top US general.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/10/us-to-help-uae-replenish-missile-defence-interceptors-general>

2. The AeroTech Event will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center in California on March 15-17, 2022, by SAE International (previously known as the Society of Automotive Engineers). There will be a gathering of the world's top engineers, executives, and professionals to discuss and address the fundamental concerns and possibilities facing the aerospace industry now and in the future.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/artificial-intelligence-global-aerospace-defense-firms/>

3. With countries bidding for India's enormous 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft contract, the Indian Air Force's search for the next multirole aircraft is escalating. While the Rafale is frequently seen as the frontrunner in this competition, many experts regard the SAAB Gripen as the dark horse.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/the-darkhorse-iaf-veterans-bet-big-on-saab-gripen-fighters-over-rafales-for-indias-mmrc-2-0-tender/>

4. According to Tass, the Russian A-100 'Premier' Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) plane flew for the first time with its radar system turned on. The state-owned Rostec business announced the test flight on February 10. The A-100, often known as the "flying radar," took to the sky from the Taganrog plant of aircraft manufacturer Beriev in southwestern Russia.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russias-flying-radar-a-100-awacs-plane-makes-debut-flight/>

5. The US Air Force is home to some of the world's top fighter jets, including the F-22 Raptor and F-35 Lightning II stealth fighters, as well as the worldwide popular F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-15 Eagle.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/super-fighter-that-boasts-firepower-to-down-worlds-powerful-jet/>



6. On Saturday, Russia's defence ministry summoned the US military attaché after alleging that a US submarine had breached its territorial seas. Tensions between Moscow and Washington are already high over a Russian military buildup near Ukraine.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-696268>
7. North Korea's "destabilising" ballistic missile launches were criticised by the Quad countries, who reaffirmed their commitment to the country's total denuclearization.
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/quad-condemns-north-koreas-destabilising-ballistic-missile-launches-2763016>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Negotiations to rein in Iran's nuclear programme, according to the Biden administration, are running out of time. According to CNN, the White House believes it has until the end of February to salvage the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, but if that doesn't happen, the US will have to change course and resort to more aggressive efforts to prevent Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-696195>
2. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Saturday that he will speak with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and that Washington is prepared for either diplomacy or "aggression" from Moscow over the Ukraine conflict.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/blinken-says-will-speak-with-russias-lavrov-saturday-2022-02-12/>
3. During a phone discussion with Western friends, US President Joe Biden reportedly cautioned them that his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, could strike Ukraine on February 16.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/biden-tells-allies-russia-may-attack-ukraine-on-february-16-reports-452685>
4. The White House warned Americans on Friday to leave Ukraine within 48 hours because a Russian attack may happen at any time. According to the report, the war could begin with an air assault. This comes as Russia accuses Western countries of lying to divert attention away from their own aggressive actions.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/leave-ukraine-within-48-hours-as-russian-attack-can-come-any-time-us-tells-americans-452534>
5. Armed Forces Minister James Heapey has warned that if Russia invades Ukraine, the UK will be unable to airlift British citizens out. He told the BBC that the RAF would "not be in a position to go in" and that people should "leave now."
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60359400>
6. According to White House national security director Jake Sullivan, Russia now has adequate resources to launch a significant military campaign against Ukraine, and an assault aimed at taking substantial areas of the country may start "any day now."
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/white-house-russia-now-has-enough-forces-ukraine->

UN REFORMS

1. China has been chastised by the International Labour Organization for racial and religious discrimination in the Xinjiang region. "The Committee expresses its deep concern in respect of the policy directions expressed in numerous national and regional policy and regulatory documents and requests therefore the government to ... review its national and regional policies with a view to eliminating all distinction, exclusion or preference," the report released by the UN agency said.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/international-labour-organization-slams-china-for-racial-and-religious-discrimination-in-xinjiang-452555>
2. China's economic might, military force, and geopolitical clout have all risen dramatically. At the same time, Beijing has adopted an aggressive posture toward Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South China Sea islands, as well as neighbouring countries.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-is-using-its-pla-engineers-to-seize-contested-regions/>
3. The government of Taiwan said on Saturday that it is closely monitoring the situation in the narrow strait that separates it from China and has increased its preparedness in response to what is happening in Ukraine, albeit the two scenarios are fundamentally different.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/responding-ukraine-tensions-taiwan-says-it-is-watching-situation-with-china-2022-02-12/>
4. Two North Korean gardeners were chastised and sentenced to a six-month labour camp when the red 'Kimjongilia,' a flower named after Kim Jong-il, failed to blossom ahead of the late dictator's birthday.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/north-korean-gardeners-sent-to-labour-camp-for-failing-to-make-kims-flowers-bloom-on-birthday-452736>
5. Extrajudicial killings have abruptly ceased after harsh US sanctions were imposed two months ago, according to Bangladeshi activists.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/us-sanctions-have-stopped-bangladesh-killings-rights-activists-452729>
6. As part of its efforts to counter China's influence in the Pacific Island nation, the US has announced that it will reopen an embassy in the Solomon Islands. While on a trip of the area, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the decision in Fiji.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-60359869>
7. Russia announced on Saturday that it has recalled some of its diplomatic personnel from Ukraine, citing concerns over provocation from Kyiv and its allies in retaliation to similar steps by the US, the UK, and other countries.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/russia-pulls-out-some-diplomatic-staff-from-ukraine-as-tensions-with-west-intensify-452664>

8. Myanmar's junta announced an amnesty for more than 800 prisoners on Saturday, marking the country's Union Day with a parade and display of power in the capital. The country has been in turmoil since last year's coup, with mass protests and a subsequent military crackdown that has killed more than 1,500 civilians, according to the UN's human rights office.
Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/myanmar-junta-holds-military-parade-commits-to-release-814-prisoners-1912271-2022-02-12>
9. A senior US administration official said on Saturday that China is aiming to build military ties in the Pacific, as Washington promised greater diplomatic and security resources for the region, including an embassy in the Solomon Islands.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/washington-plans-solomon-islands-embassy-in-push-to-counter-china-452601>
10. The United Nations refugee agency's representative for Mexico said Friday that the country must seek alternatives to detention and asylum for migrants, especially in light of an expected increase in arrivals this year.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/un-official-urges-mexico-find-alternatives-migrant-detention-or-asylum-2022-02-12/>
11. As a retaliation against China, the US has promised to increase its efforts in the Indo-Pacific region. Top diplomats from the US, Australia, Japan, and India met in Melbourne on Friday to discuss bolstering its Quad alliance in order to counter China's growing power in the Asia-Pacific region.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/eyeing-china-united-states-pledges-to-step-up-effort-in-indo-pacific-region-452543>
12. On Friday, Afghan refugees who have been kept in the United Arab Emirates for months after fleeing Afghanistan last year demonstrated for the third day, demanding resettlement in the United States.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/afghan-refugee-protest-uae-calling-us-resettlement-continues-third-day-2022-02-11/>
13. Following widespread condemnation, the European Union and the United Nations halted funding for a project in Kosovo honouring an Albanian Nazi collaborator. In 1944, Xhafer Deva was Albania's collaborationist government's interior minister.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-696237>
14. In response to increased tensions between Russia and Ukraine, New Zealand's foreign ministry asked all New Zealanders in Ukraine to leave immediately on Saturday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/new-zealand-urges-its-citizens-ukraine-leave-immediately-2022-02-12/>
15. On Saturday evening, Israel urged all of its residents in Ukraine to leave immediately, warning that a Russian invasion was becoming increasingly imminent. "Following the tensions and concern at escalation, the Foreign Ministry calls on Israeli citizens in Ukraine to leave the country as soon as possible," the travel warning reads.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-696273>