

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Scientists in the United Kingdom have produced the most energy from a nuclear fusion reaction to date, the same process that causes the Sun and other stars to light and radiate energy. This achievement is being hailed as a big step forward in the continuing global endeavour to build a fusion reactor.
Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/11-mw-in-5-sec-breakthrough-in-nuclear-fusion-and-why-it-is-significant-7768471/>
2. According to the company, a Japanese enterprise wants to establish the country's first experimental plant to create power through nuclear fusion, with the goal of providing carbon dioxide-free energy. In a recent interview, CEO Taka Nagao of Kyoto Fusioneering Ltd., a startup based in Uji, Kyoto Prefecture, claimed that the company aims to start operations at the factory in the next five years, having already secured some of the project's funding.
Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/02/13/business/corporate-business/japanese-fusion-reactor/>
3. In their quest to produce practical nuclear fusion, European scientists have reported a huge advance. The Joint European Torus (JET) facility, based in the United Kingdom, broke its own world record for the amount of energy extracted by combining two types of hydrogen.
Source: <https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/272292948/major-nuclear-fusion-energy-breakthrough-made-in-europe>
4. President Emmanuel Macron of France has stated that France will build up to 14 nuclear power plants, claiming that this will help the country reduce its reliance on fossil fuels. In a speech in the industrial town of Belfort, Macron said, "What our country needs is the rebirth of France's nuclear industry," lauding the country's technological prowess.
Source: <https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/272293893/macron-france-to-build-up-to-14-nuclear-reactors-by-2050>
5. Scientists in the United Kingdom claimed on Wednesday that they had shattered the previous record for creating fusion energy, describing the achievement as a "milestone" on the road to cheap, clean energy and a cooler planet.
Source: <https://phys.org/news/2022-02-scientists-britain-fusion-energy.html>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. The US Air Force's F-22 Raptors, dubbed the world's most powerful fighters, landed in the UAE on Saturday after a series of missile and drone assaults by Houthi forces in Yemen, according to the US Air Force.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-22-raptors-joins-rafale-fighter-jets-to-shield-uae/>

2. The Russian Navy has identified a US nuclear submarine in Russian territorial seas and has chased it away, according to the country's military. Russia's Defense Ministry said on Saturday that a US Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarine was identified and pursued away in Russian territorial waters off the Kuril Islands.
Source: <https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/272291678/us-nuclear-submarine-violates-russian-waters-defense-ministry>
3. The US Air Force is increasingly relying on cutting-edge technology to improve its warfighting capabilities. Pilots launched simulated sorties including the joint deployment of high-energy laser pods and two "future kinetic concepts" in a recent wargame conducted by the service.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-air-force-trains-its-fighter-pilots-on-high-energy-laser-weapons/>
4. Turkey's old F-16 fighter jets appear to be impeding its efforts to become a regional military power. The purchase of Rafale fighter jets by Turkey's arch-rival Greece has prompted Ankara to update its fighter force. Its alternatives, however, are restricted.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/jf-17-thunder-j-10c-fighter-turkish-air-force-experts/>
5. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa condemned the series of seven launches as "destabilizing" in a joint statement.
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/north-korea-news-north-korea-missile-north-korea-is-in-a-phase-of-provocation-us-condemns-missile-tests-2765876>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Progress in discussions to rescue Iran's 2015 nuclear deal is getting "more difficult," according to a top Iranian security official, since Western nations just "pretended" to come up with suggestions. After a 10-day hiatus, indirect talks between Iran and the US resumed last week in Austria. The discussions, which started in November after a five-month suspension precipitated by the election of hardline Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, have made limited progress, according to delegates.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-696376>
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Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-696376>
3. There was no sign that tensions were lessening a day after President Joe Biden warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that an invasion on Ukraine would be costly. Foreign embassies continued to withdraw non-essential personnel, countries urged their nationals to leave, and Russia's military buildup in the region showed no indications of easing.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/german-leader-will-visit-moscow-as-diplomatic->

[breakthrough-remains-elusive-453066](#)

4. China's latest move to integrate with Latin American countries is a contract to build a nuclear power station in Argentina, which is part of a larger campaign to grow its influence in the region.
Source: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3166763/china-building-nuclear-power-plant-argentina-it-looks-latin>
5. The Department of Energy (DOE) of the United States launched a \$6 billion Civil Nuclear Credit Program on Friday to fund the country's nuclear reactors. The DOE's Notice of Intent (NOI) and Request for Information (RFI) are the initial stages in avoiding premature nuclear reactor shutdowns as the country's greatest source of clean power. Thousands of well-paying clean energy employment will be preserved while carbon emissions are avoided.
Source: <https://www.wfxrtv.com/news/energy-department-invests-6-billion-into-nuclear-energy-program-including-4-nuclear-locations-in-virginia/>
6. On Sunday, the US stated that diplomacy remains an option for resolving the Ukraine crisis. It did, however, emphasise that the risk of Russian invasion was sufficiently significant. After talks with Japanese and South Korean counterparts, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke in Hawaii.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/path-of-diplomacy-still-open-to-resolve-ukraine-crisis-us-453018>
7. A Russian submarine sailed through Turkey's Bosphorus strait on Sunday (February 13) to travel to the Black Sea, amid rising tensions in Europe over the Ukraine situation. Last Monday, six Russian naval landing ships travelled through the strait to the Black Sea.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/amid-ukraine-crisis-russian-submarine-sails-to-black-sea-453001>
8. The US national security adviser cautioned on Sunday that Russia might invade Ukraine at any time and may manufacture a surprise pretext for an attack, reaffirming a promise to protect "every inch" of NATO territory.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/13/us-justifies-ukraine-embassy-drawdown-amid-russia-tensions-live>
9. Presidents Joe Biden of the United States and Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine have reaffirmed their commitment to diplomacy to de-escalate tensions, but the US national security adviser warned that Moscow was seeking for a "pretext" for the attack.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/13/russia-is-looking-to-find-a-pretext-to-attack-ukraine-us>
10. Russia's top diplomat at the Iran nuclear talks in Vienna said world powers had made "significant progress" as their negotiations to revive a landmark 2015 agreement enter their final stage. In a tweet on Sunday, Mikhail Ulyanov, who's representing Russia in the talks, said that assessments of the current situation -- in which Iran and the U.S. remain in a tense standoff over how to restore the nuclear deal -- were "positive."
Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-02-13/russia-says-significant-progress-made-in-iran-nuclear-talks>

11. Many in the Middle East – but also in Washington and European capitals – are holding their breath to see if a return to a nuclear deal with Iran is conceivable as discussions between world powers and Iran in Vienna continue and apparently near their "final stage." Israel is likewise keeping a close eye on events in Vienna. Although Prime Minister Naftali Bennett acknowledges that an agreement with Iran is almost certainly on the way, he recently stated that “the agreement and what appears to be its conditions will damage the ability to take on [Iran’s] nuclear program.”
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-696367>

12. Over the rising tensions on its border, Ukraine has requested a meeting with Russia and other members of a crucial European security group. Dmytro Kuleba, Russia's foreign minister, said the country had rejected formal requests to justify the force build-up.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60370541>

13. Hardline Iran's president, Ebrahim Raisi, said on Friday that Tehran "never" places hope in current discussions in Vienna aimed at renewing the country's 2015 nuclear deal with foreign powers. After a 10-day break, Iran and the US resumed indirect negotiations in the Austrian capital on Tuesday, but envoys gave few hints as to whether they were any closer to resolving many difficult issues.
Source: <https://www.israelhayom.com/2022/02/13/iranian-president-says-tehran-has-little-hope-for-vienna-nuclear-talks/>

UN REFORMS

1. Uyghur restaurant owner, Hamid Kerim, said he cannot watch the Olympics because it reminds him of his brother and sister-in-law who are imprisoned in his home of Xinjiang.
Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/world/dc-uyghur-restaurant-owner-this-olympic-is-genocide-olympics>
2. Uyghur diaspora held protests in Istanbul, against Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan for his remarks on China just prior to departing to attend the inaugural ceremony of Beijing Olympics 2022.
Source: <https://theprint.in/world/uyghur-muslims-protest-in-turkey-against-pakistan-pm-imran-khans-clean-chit-to-china/829130/>
3. China pushed Iran to react to an American proposal. On Saturday, Wang Qun, China's ambassador to the United Nations in Vienna, said the negotiators "all agree that we have reached the concluding stage, especially I think after our Iranian colleagues have come up with their final package."
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-696279>
4. A dramatic increase in measles cases in Afghanistan, according to the World Health Organization, is endangering the lives and well-being of millions of impoverished children.
Source: <https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/272291934/who-measles-increase-a-danger-to-malnourished-afghan-children>
5. The Taliban released two western individuals and their two Afghan colleagues who had been working for the UN on Friday, according to the New York Times, after the international body stated that they had been imprisoned by the Taliban for several days in Afghanistan.
Source: <https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/272291633/days-after-quite-detention-taliban-free-foreigners-working-for-un>
6. Roza Barakat was torned from her family in Sinjar, an enclave of the ancient religious Yazidi minority, and carried to Syria, where she was sold numerous times and raped repeatedly. She gave birth to a boy, whom she has since lost. She speaks little of her native Kurdish tongue, Kurmanji, now that she is 18.
Source: <https://www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/272293094/adrift-after-enslavement-yazidi-teen-says-she-cant-go-home>
7. If the situation in Ukraine worsens, Israel's grain supply will be cut, Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Emine Dzhaparova said on Sunday. "In case of an escalation, the State of Israel will be directly affected," she warned after meeting with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid in Jerusalem.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-696342>