

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has urged the United States to prove it is willing to lift sanctions in indirect talks to salvage a 2015 nuclear pact. Raisi's comments on Monday during a trip to Qatar come as talks continue in Vienna aimed at reviving the deal between Iran and world powers, which saw limits imposed on Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/21/qatars-emir-discusses-nuclear-talks-with-iranian-president>
2. It is fashionable to be nuclear in Europe again after nearly half a century of being home to the world's most visible anti-nuclear campaign. Everyone seems to have a newfound affection for nuclear power, from heads of state to Brussels bureaucrats.
Source: <https://mediaindia.eu/environment/eu-greenwashing-nuclear-power/>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. The C-Dome, the naval configuration of the Iron Dome missile defence system, was successfully tested by the Israeli Defense Forces on Monday.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/c-dome-israeli-defense-forces-tests-naval-version-of-iron-dome/>
2. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said on Monday that Australia is waiting for a reaction from China in the wake of a recent incident in which a Chinese warship fired a military-grade laser at an Australian surveillance plane.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/australia-demands-answer-from-china-over-using-laser-weapons/>
3. Turkey is planning to send its F-16 Fighting Falcons to Greece's 'Tiger Meet 2022' exercise, where they will compete against other top-of-the-line fighters such as the Rafale-M and Gripen jets.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/europes-most-ferocious-fighters-battle-it-out-during-tiger-meet-2022/>
4. On Monday, Australia's prime minister said a Chinese naval vessel that fired a laser at an Australian military plane was so close to the coast that it could have been seen from the shore, and urged a full Chinese investigation.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australia-wants-full-investigation-into-china-laser-incident-morrison-2022-02-21/>
5. The US assessments, which include many mentions of drones and UAVs, demonstrate the growing Iranian threat to US soldiers in Iraq and Syria. The study covers the months of October through December 2021.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-698160>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday that discussions in Vienna to revive Tehran's 2015 nuclear agreement with foreign powers will fail unless the US is willing to waive sanctions against the Islamic Republic.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/significant-progress-seen-vienna-nuclear-talks-irans-foreign-ministry-2022-02-21/>
2. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar, said on Monday that he discussed the Vienna nuclear talks with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who is now in Doha.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/qatars-emir-says-discussed-vienna-nuclear-talks-with-iranian-president-2022-02-21/>
3. Israeli officials indicated on Monday that they are pressing the US on the parameters of an upcoming Iranian nuclear deal, increasing the possibility of a bilateral day-after accord to resolve their concerns.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-minister-sees-bilateral-talks-with-us-complement-an-iran-nuclear-deal-2022-02-21/>
4. On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett stated that a US-Iran deal in the works to resurrect Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers is weaker than the original pact and will lead to a more violent Middle East.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-pm-says-revived-iran-nuclear-deal-would-mean-more-volatile-middle-east-2022-02-20/>
5. The world cannot acquiesce to Iran's demand that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps no longer be designated by the US as a terrorist organization, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said on Monday. "The world cannot agree to these audacious conditions," he added. "It cannot allow tens of billions of dollars to flow to Iran nor allow it to continue to spread terror around the world."
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-698165>
6. Nuclear negotiations may soon end with a deal that is insufficiently tough on Iran, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned at the opening of Sunday's cabinet meeting. "The talks between Iran and the [world] powers on a return to the Iran deal are very advanced," Bennett said. "It may be that we will see an agreement in a short time."
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-697052>
7. A senior Israeli official revealed to Haaretz that Iran and world powers are close to reaching an agreement to return to the original 2015 nuclear agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, with minor revisions that have not yet been made public.
Source: <https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/iran/.premium-what-the-new-iran-deal-is-expected-to-look-like-and-why-israel-is-against-it-1.10624133>
8. Despite diplomatic efforts to alleviate the situation, border tensions between Russia and Ukraine continue to rise. The latest development, according to US media sources, the Russian military has been ordered to 'attack' Ukraine, using intelligence inputs.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/did-russia-give-orders-to-attack-ukraine-us-media-cites-intel-inputs-that-were-apparently-known-to-biden-454927>

9. According to satellite photographs released on Sunday, Russia appears to be making additional field deployments of armoured equipment and troops near the Ukrainian border. The new action, according to the director of Maxar Technologies in the United States, showed heightened military readiness.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/satellite-images-indicate-new-russian-deployments-near-ukraine-border-says-us-company-454918>

10. All evidence point to Russia being "on the brink" of invading Ukraine, according to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Blinken, speaking on CNN's State of the Union show, stated that the US was determined to using every chance until the last minute to try if diplomacy could persuade Russian President Vladimir Putin not to go ahead with an invasion.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/all-indications-russia-on-brink-of-invading-ukraine-says-blinken-454871>

UN REFORMS

1. When China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, called for negotiations on Saturday to settle the European crisis, he said Ukraine's sovereignty should be "respected and safeguarded," but he also agreed with Russia that NATO enlargement was destabilising the continent.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/bond-between-china-and-russia-alarms-us-and-europe-amid-ukraine-crisis-454903>
2. China has imposed penalties on Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) and Raytheon Technologies Corp (RTX.N) over arms shipments to Taiwan, the government stated on Monday, marking at least the third time it has done so.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/beijing-places-sanctions-us-arms-companies-lockheed-raytheon-2022-02-21/>
3. The Congressional-Executive Commission on China is committed to being a permanent spotlight on human rights abuses in China. When the 2022 Olympics end, they will continue to seek the unconditional release of all those unjustly detained for their efforts to expand or defend fundamental freedoms.
Source: <https://twitter.com/CECCgov/status/1495428198557011974>
4. According to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, pro-Russian forces are damaging civilian infrastructure and claiming that the damage is caused by Ukrainian military artillery strikes.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-698132>
5. Former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who was sanctioned by China after leaving office at the conclusion of Trump's administration last year, will visit Taiwan next week and meet with President Tsai Ing-wen, according to Taiwan's authorities.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/mike-pompeo-who-riled-china-while-office-visit-taiwan-2022-02-21/>
6. On Monday, the trial of a Roman Catholic bishop accused of sexually abusing young men in northern Argentina will begin, in the latest court case to expose charges of sex crimes that have roiled the global church in recent decades.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/argentine-court-starts-trial-catholic-bishop-accused-sexual-abuse-2022-02-21/>
7. As a UN rights expert arrived in Sudan, a Sudanese man was shot dead by security forces during protests against last year's military coup, according to medics.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/sudanese-man-killed-in-crackdown-on-anti-coup-protests-as-un-expert-arrives-454954>
8. In the first two months of this year, 400 Ukrainian Jews are projected to relocate to Israel.

Source: https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-escaping-the-drums-of-war-100-ukrainian-jews-land-in-israel-1.10623683?utm_source=traffic.outbrain.com&utm_medium=referrer&utm_campaign=outbrain_organic

9. Australia wants a "full investigation" into a China incident in which a Beijing-based navy vessel fired a laser at an Australian defence plane. Prime Minister Scott Morrison stated that it could be seen from Australia's mainland.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/australia-looks-for-full-investigation-into-chinese-laser-incident-says-pm-morrison-454930>

10. According to a local governor and state media, seven children were murdered in Niger during a Nigerian army air raid targeting "bandits." The governor of Niger's Maradi area informed AFP that five additional people were injured in the apparently accidental strike.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-60454481>

11. After the death of its last living speaker and defender of its ancient culture, an indigenous language from South America's extreme south has all but perished.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/how-a-chilean-indigenous-language-vanishes-as-last-native-speaker-dies-454900>

12. China has chosen to take action against the United States over arms sales to Taiwan, and has sanctioned Lockheed Martin and Raytheon Technologies, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin, who also stated that China will continue to take all necessary steps to preserve its sovereignty. On February 8, the United States approved a \$100 million deal with Taiwan for the maintenance of Patriot anti-aircraft missile systems built in the United States.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-imposes-sanction-on-us-defense-giants-lockheed-martin-raytheon/>

13. Lockheed Martin Corp and Raytheon Technologies Corp have been sanctioned by China as a result of US arms sales to Taiwan. This is the first time the companies have faced sanctions under China's new anti-foreign sanctions law drawn up last year in response to US sanctions against Chinese companies.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-698147>