

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. While Chernobyl has received a lot of attention this week as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, there is growing concern about the four active nuclear power plants that supply half of the country's power. These four power plants, which are located near towns and cities in western and southern Ukraine, are home to 15 operational nuclear reactors.
Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/chernobyl-isnt-biggest-nuclear-risk-ukraines-active-nuclear-power-plan-rcna17697>
2. Pakistan's Nuclear Energy Vision 2050 envisions a 40,000MW nuclear power generation capacity, with a total of 32 nuclear power plants.
Source: <https://gulfnews.com/world/asia/pakistan/pakistan-plans-40000mw-nuclear-energy-by-2050-to-meet-electricity-demands-1.86031513>
3. During a meeting on stable energy supplies, South Korean President described nuclear power as a major source of electricity in the next 60 years. As long as nuclear power plants continue to operate, they should be fully utilised as a primary source of electricity for the next 60 years, according to Moon.
Source: <https://www.plenglish.com/news/2022/02/26/south-korea-defends-use-of-nuclear-energy-in-electricity-sector/>
4. This week, Russian forces took control of the defunct Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the site of the 1986 nuclear disaster. The disaster occurred when a reactor exploded, releasing massive amounts of radiation into the air and soil.
Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/seizure-chernobyl-russian-troops-sparks-health-concerns-people/story?id=83094054>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. North Korea has fired an "unidentified projectile", South Korea's military said early Sunday, what would be Pyongyang's eighth launch this year after a month of relative calm on the peninsula during the Beijing Olympics.
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/north-korea-fires-unidentified-projectile-seoul-2792108>
2. Germany will supply Ukraine with 1,000 anti-tank weapons and 500 Stinger surface-to-air missiles from Bundeswehr stockpiles so that it can defend itself against Russia as fighting intensifies around the country's capital.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/26/germany-approves-delivery-of-rpgs-from-netherlands-to-ukraine>



3. As fighting between Ukrainian and invading Russian forces raged, the mayor of Kyiv says a missile hit an apartment building in Ukraine's capital – but no deaths or injuries were immediately reported.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/26/kyiv-residential-tower-hit-by-missile-as-fighting-rages-mayor>
4. “The US guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson (DDG-114) sailed through the Taiwan Strait on February 26 and hyped it up. The Eastern Theater Command of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) sent its forces to track and monitor the US warship’s passage in the whole course,” Senior Colonel Shi Yi said in a written statement.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinese-pla-army-calls-us-destroyer-uss-ralph-johnsons-passage-taiwan/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Iran is studying a rough draft of a deal to revive a 2015 nuclear agreement with major powers hammered out during talks in Vienna, its foreign minister said Saturday.
Source: <https://www.voanews.com/a/iran-studying-draft-deal-to-restore-nuclear-agreement/6461200.html>
2. Fighting erupted after Russia invaded Ukraine at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, where radioactivity from the world's worst nuclear disaster 36 years ago is still leaking. According to Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak, Russian forces took control of the site after a fierce battle on Thursday with Ukrainian national guards protecting the decommissioned plant.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/24/chernobyl-nuclear-plant-targeted-as-russia-invades-ukraine>
3. After seizing control of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, Russian troops are closing in on Ukraine's capital, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday.
Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/russia-ukraine-war/story/ukraine-russia-war-crisis-invasion-russian-troops-kyiv-chernobyl-nuclear-power-plant-ukrainian-president-1917722-2022-02-25>
4. According to Ukraine's nuclear energy regulatory agency, higher-than-usual gamma radiation levels have been detected near the decommissioned Chernobyl nuclear power plant after it was seized by the Russian military. The State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate announced on Friday that higher gamma radiation levels had been detected in the Chernobyl zone, but did not elaborate.
Source: <https://www.firstpost.com/world/ukraine-nuclear-agency-says-chernobyl-radiation-levels-rising-day-after-being-seized-by-russia-10408421.html>
5. As Putin raises nuclear deterrence forces to high alert, Zelensky agrees to talks. Following a phone call with Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy agreed to hold peace talks with Russia.
Source: <https://www.firstpost.com/world/russia-ukraine-conflict-zelensky-agrees-to-talks-as-putin-puts-nuclear-deterrence-forces-on-high-alert-10412901.html>
6. Negotiators have made significant progress in reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal in the last week or so, according to a senior US State Department official on Friday.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/significant-progress-iran-nuclear-deal-issues-remain-us-official-2022-02-25/>

7. President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian nuclear forces on high alert on Sunday in response to what he called "aggressive statements" by leading NATO powers, escalating East-West tensions over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Source: https://www.timesofisrael.com/putin-puts-russias-nuclear-forces-on-high-alert-citing-western-threats/?utm_source=article_hsidebar&utm_medium=desktop_site&utm_campaign=iran-says-seriously-studying-draft-deal-to-restore-nuclear-agreement

8. Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Twitter that Iran is "seriously reviewing [the] draft of the agreement," adding that he had spoken by phone with the European Union's top diplomat, Josep Borrel.

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-seriously-studying-draft-deal-to-restore-nuclear-agreement/>

9. Iran is ready to "immediately conclude" a deal in talks to revive its 2015 nuclear accord with world powers if Western powers show real will, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on Saturday.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-says-ready-immediate-nuclear-deal-if-western-powers-show-real-will-twitter-2022-02-26/>

10. Nuclear-armed North Korea fired an apparent ballistic missile Sunday morning, Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said North Korea launched at least one missile that was believed had traveled about 300 kilometers into the Sea of Japan, hitting a maximum altitude of 600 km.

Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/02/27/asia-pacific/north-korea-missile-launch-ukraine/>

11. The United States joined European countries in sanctioning Russian President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday, as Western nations sought to increase pressure on Moscow to end its invasion of Ukraine.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-expected-impose-sanctions-russias-putin-soon-friday-cnn-2022-02-25/>

UN REFORMS

1. The UN nuclear watchdog has urged all parties to refrain from any actions that could jeopardise the safety and security of Ukraine's nuclear power plants in the midst of an intensified Russian military offensive in the country's capital, Kyiv, and other areas.
Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iaea-calls-on-all-parties-to-refrain-from-actions-that-threatens-safety-of-ukraines-nuclear-power-plants/articleshow/89867306.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst
2. Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations lashed out at Russia during a UN Security Council meeting, calling the Russian invasion a "Nazi-style course of action."
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/26/nazi-style-course-of-action-ukraine-blasts-russia-at-unsc-meet>
3. The European Union has imposed new sanctions on Russia in response to its invasion of Ukraine, including the closure of its airspace to Russian aircraft and the prohibition of Russian state media outlets from broadcasting in the EU.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/27/eu-ups-the-ante-with-russia-closes-airspace-bans-media>
4. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has pledged to strengthen ties with China in order to "frustrate" threats and hostile policies from the US and its allies.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/kim-jong-un-vows-to-strengthen-ties-with-china-and-together-frustrate-threats-from-us-456826>
5. According to Pawel Szefernaker, Poland's Deputy Interior Minister, 100,000 people have crossed the border into Poland from Ukraine since Russia's invasion this week.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/100000-ukrainians-cross-border-into-poland-says-interior-minister-pawel-szefernaker-456762>
6. According to UN officials, the majority of these refugees have settled in Poland and Moldova. UN chief Antonio Guterres took to his official Twitter handle as he wrote, "Humanitarian needs in Ukraine are multiplying by the hour. Civilians are dying. At least 100,000 Ukrainians have already reportedly fled their homes (sic)."
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/multiplying-by-the-hour-un-warns-of-escalating-refugee-crisis-amid-ukraine-invasion-456764>
7. Zarifa Ghafari, the former mayor of Maidan Shahr in Maidan Wardak province, has returned to the country. Ghafari told TOLONews that considering the deteriorating humanitarian situation of Afghanistan, she could not stop herself from coming back.
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-176905>
8. An OCHA director in the operations and advocacy division, Reena Ghelani--who led a UN delegation

that recently visited Kabul to assess the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan—said that at least four million Afghan children are expected to be affected with malnutrition, of whom 137,000 will lose their life in 2022.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-176876>

9. The United Nations Security Council is due to vote Monday on a proposal by the United Arab Emirates to impose an arms embargo on Yemen's Houthis after the group claimed several drone and missile assaults on the country this year.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-698757>

10. Military troops and pro-junta militia fighters shot at least three civilians and burned down more than 500 homes in an early morning raid on a village in Myanmar's embattled Sagaing region Friday, forcing thousands to flee in what sources said was an act of revenge.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/arson-02252022185318.html>

11. Several companies, including automakers Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) and Renault (RENA.PA) and tire maker Nokian Tyres (TYRES.HE), on Friday outlined plans to shut or shift manufacturing operations following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/automakers-idle-production-following-russias-invasion-other-firms-also-scramble-2022-02-25/>