

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. Despite the uncertain revenue forecast, the US government continues to invest in nuclear energy. While many people blame Biden for subsidising an industry with such high expenses when the money could be better spent expanding the renewable energy sector, the state insists that this is a crucial step toward meeting net-zero goals and closing the energy transition gap.  
Source: <https://oilprice.com/Alternative-Energy/Nuclear-Power/Biden-Is-Ready-To-Bet-Big-On-Nuclear-Energy.html>
2. Following his strike on Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin issued an order on Sunday to put Russia's nuclear forces on high alert, continuing a pattern of growing tensions. Analysts, though, believe the move is a risky new bluff.  
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/27/key-questions-after-putins-nuclear-announcement>

### **MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS**

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1. The South Korea's presidential National Security Council (NSC) on Sunday expressed "grave regret" over North Korea's launch of a "ballistic missile", calling for Pyongyang to immediately stop acts that threaten peace on the Korean Peninsula.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/south-korea-expresses-grave-regret-over-norths-ballistic-missile-launch-457095>
2. Video recorded by the Associated Press shows a missile in the ground near residential buildings in Kharkiv. Troops are defending Ukraine's second-largest city from an attack by Russian forces, according to Ukrainian military authorities. Kharkiv, a city of 1.8 million, is about 54 kilometers (34 miles) from the Russian border.  
Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2022-02-27/missile-in-ground-near-apartment-blocks-in-kharkiv-video>
3. Germany stated on Sunday that it will contribute 100 billion euros (\$113 billion) to a special armed forces fund and that defence spending would now exceed 2% of GDP. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia prompted one of the most profound transformations in European security strategy in decades.  
Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/in-major-shift-for-europe-germany-to-spend-113b-on-defense/committing-100-billion-euros/slideshow/89874216.cms>
4. According to Josep Borrell, the EU's foreign policy leader, EU countries will send "fighter jets" to Ukraine in response to Kyiv's request for assistance in countering Russia's air and ground attack.  
Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/eu-countries-to-send-fighter-jets-to-ukraine-josep-borrell/articleshows/89886579.cms>



5. South Korea's military said the new test was conducted in the morning on Tuesday as the "projectile" landed outside Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called it "regrettable".

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/north-korea-fires-an-unidentified-projectile-in-what-comes-as-the-eighth-launch-this-year-456948>

6. "The German government has taken this decision on Saturday, and the weapons from the German army's stocks will be delivered to Ukraine as soon as possible," Anadolu Agency reported citing the government spokesperson Steffen Hebestreit as saying in a statement. Germany will supply Ukraine with 1,000 anti-tank weapons and 500 anti-aircraft Stinger missiles in the wake of the ongoing conflict in Kyiv.

Source: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/germany-to-supply-ukraine-with-1-000-anti-tank-weapons-500-stinger-missile-122022700045\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/germany-to-supply-ukraine-with-1-000-anti-tank-weapons-500-stinger-missile-122022700045_1.html)

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday decided to put his nuclear forces on alert. This decision was panned by the Western countries.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/russia-receives-flak-for-putting-nuclear-forces-on-alert-457202>

2. Vladimir Putin overnight ordered the defence minister and the chief of the military to put nuclear deterrent forces in a "special regime of combat duty", possibly referring to readying tactical nuclear forces.

Source: [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/as-russian-president-vladimir-putin-puts-nuclear-forces-on-high-alert-here-are-5-genuine-nuclear-dangers-for-us-all/articleshow/89885855.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/as-russian-president-vladimir-putin-puts-nuclear-forces-on-high-alert-here-are-5-genuine-nuclear-dangers-for-us-all/articleshow/89885855.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

3. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Sunday that its board of governors will meet in special session next week "to discuss the current situation in Ukraine".

Source: [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/iaea-calls-extraordinary-meeting-to-discuss-ukraine/articleshow/89876475.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/iaea-calls-extraordinary-meeting-to-discuss-ukraine/articleshow/89876475.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

4. An agreement between the US and Iran remains unlikely, as signals suggest Tehran is sticking to its hardline demands, while the US claims "serious issues" remain unsolved. Iranian leaders have made no indication that they are altering their stance. Iran continues to demand the lifting of more US sanctions, and its nuclear leader indicated on Friday that the country will continue to enrich uranium at a rate of 20% even if sanctions are withdrawn.

Source: <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202202277439>

5. According to the president of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (AEOI), the country intends to invest



\$50 billion in new nuclear power projects. The new power plants will be able to create 10,000 megawatts of electricity, according to Mohammad Eslami, who added that “it is not an easy task, but we have manpower and advanced industries for it”.

Source: <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202202275290>

6. In a major escalation of tensions with the West over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin has ordered Russian nuclear deterrent forces to be placed on high alert. Putin said on Sunday that leading NATO powers had made “aggressive statements” while imposing hard-hitting financial sanctions against Russia and himself.  
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/27/putin-puts-russias-nuclear-deterrent-forces-on-alert>
7. According to the official IRNA news agency, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani would return to Vienna on Sunday evening for talks on addressing the remaining concerns in indirect negotiations with the US to resurrect a 2015 accord.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/irans-nuclear-negotiator-returns-to-vienna-for-talks-457142>
8. Despite biting international sanctions, Pyongyang has doubled down on military development and last month threatened to abandon a self-imposed moratorium on firing long-range and nuclear weapons.  
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/north-korea-fires-ballistic-missile-restarting-weapons-tests-blitz-2792263>
9. Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement that his nuclear forces were on alert sparked outcry in the West as the invading troops faced stiff resistance on Monday. The UN General Assembly will hold a rare emergency session Monday to discuss the conflict, which has claimed dozens of lives and raised fears that it will displace millions of people.  
Source: <https://www.firstpost.com/world/vladimir-putin-orders-nuclear-alert-as-ukraine-fiercely-resists-russian-invasion-10415071.html>
10. Iran's senior nuclear negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, departed Vienna for Tehran on February 23 for a “short trip” to seek final advice from top authorities on sticking points but is now on his way back to Vienna, where he will meet P4+1 (Britain, China, France and Russia along with Germany) delegates this week at his opulent 19th-century hotel Palais Coburg residence.  
Source: <https://asiatimes.com/2022/02/russia-may-hold-iran-nuke-deal-hostage-over-ukraine/>
11. Talks on Iran's nuclear program, a far more direct threat to Israel's security, seem to be coming to a head in Vienna.  
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ukraine-conflict-could-spark-rush-to-iran-deal-ex-national-security-adviser-warns/>
12. Negotiators have made significant progress in the last week or so on an agreement to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal but very tough issues remain, a senior US State Department official has said. There's been significant progress over the last week or two. We have significantly narrowed the areas that still need to be resolved. And so, in that sense, there has been progress that has been moving toward a potential deal,” he told reporters.  
Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2032506/middle-east>

## UN REFORMS

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1. A university student was reportedly arrested earlier this month for teaching Tibetans in Chamdo and is reported to have not been seen afterwards, according to Tibet Watch.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/university-student-detained-for-teaching-tibetan-amid-chinese-restrictions-457103>
2. According to many people who heard him speak at the virtual meeting, the Russian head of delegation at a key UN climate conference apologised for his country's invasion of Ukraine on Sunday, which he stated lacked justification.  
Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/russian-official-apologises-for-war-in-ukraine-at-un-climate-meet/articleshow/89874273.cms>
3. On Monday, the United Nations' two major bodies, the 193-nation General Assembly and the more powerful 15-member Security Council, will hold separate meetings on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, reflecting widespread international calls for an immediate cease-fire and growing concern for the plight of millions of Ukrainians caught up in the conflict.  
Source: [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/un-to-hold-2-meetings-monday-on-russias-invasion-of-ukraine/articleshow/89882960.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/un-to-hold-2-meetings-monday-on-russias-invasion-of-ukraine/articleshow/89882960.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)
4. Against the backdrop of an increased Russian military offensive in Ukraine's capital Kyiv and other locations, the UN's nuclear watchdog has urged all parties to avoid from any acts that could jeopardise the safety and security of nuclear power plants.  
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>
5. Nepal refuses to ratify the US Millennium Challenge Corporation programme despite Chinese pressure. After weeks of substantial disagreements among political parties, Nepal's Parliament ratified the Millennium Challenge Corporation Nepal Compact on Sunday in a significant vote.  
Source: [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/nepal-withstands-chinese-pressure-to-ratify-us-millennium-challenge-corporation-package/articleshow/89877558.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/nepal-withstands-chinese-pressure-to-ratify-us-millennium-challenge-corporation-package/articleshow/89877558.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)
6. The European Union has announced sweeping new sanctions against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, closing its airspace to Russian aircraft and banning Russian state media outlets broadcasting in the bloc.  
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/27/eu-ups-the-ante-with-russia-closes-airspace-bans-media>
7. Ukraine has filed a suit against Russia at the highest United Nations court in The Hague for disputes

between states, President Volodymyr Zelensky said. It was unclear on precisely what grounds the case was being brought to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/27/ukraine-lodges-case-against-russia-at-world-court>

8. British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss warned on Sunday that Russia-Ukraine conflict could last a "number of years". "I fear this will be a long haul, this could be a number of years," Truss told Sky News.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/russia-ukraine-conflict-may-last-number-of-years-says-uk-457131>

9. A university student was reportedly arrested earlier this month for teaching Tibetans in Chamdo and is reported to have not been seen afterwards, according to Tibet Watch.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/university-student-detained-for-teaching-tibetan-amid-chinese-restrictions-457103>

10. The United Nations Security Council is due to vote on Sunday to call for a rare emergency special session of the 193-member U.N. General Assembly on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which would be held on Monday, diplomats said.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/un-chief-speaks-with-ukraine-president-says-un-boost-aid-2022-02-26/>