

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Nuclear and natural gas power stations could be classified as "green energy" under new EU rules that have sparked controversy. According to the European Commission, both sources of energy can be classified as "sustainable investment" if they meet certain criteria.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60229199>
2. A Jan. 26 agreement between the Japanese Atomic Energy Agency and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. and American TerraPower LLC to collaborate on fast nuclear reactor technology raises concerns about international security. The agreement's immediate goal is to construct a 350-megawatt nuclear facility in Wyoming, called Natrium, to demonstrate TerraPower's technology.
Source: <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2022/02/379f9222010d-opinion-us-japan-fast-reactor-cooperation-raises-nuclear-security-concerns.html>
3. Global challenges such as energy security, climate change, and rising electricity demand have resulted in a rise in nuclear energy use for power generation, altering the nuclear electricity market outlook. Nuclear power generates vast amounts of energy while emitting very little carbon dioxide.
Source: https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/562224133/global-issues-drive-the-demand-for-the-nuclear-electricity-market-for-its-low-carbon-emissions
4. As part of Expo 2022 Rosatom Week in Dubai, the Russian State Atomic Energy Agency Rosatom sponsored a strategically important discussion on "People's Demand for Nuclear Energy: How Nuclear Technologies Improve Our Lives."
Source: <https://railynews.com/2022/02/dunya-geneinden-uzmanlar-expo-2022de-halkin-nukleer-enerjiyi-kabulunu-tartisiyor/>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. Rafael Advanced Defense Systems (RADS), an Israeli company, stated on February 1 that it had finished development of the new-generation Sky-Shield family of electronic attack (EA) pods.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/rafael-tests-aircraft-sky-shield-electronic-attack-pods-15ex/>
2. The Rafale combat aircraft blasted through Indian skies on January 26, the 75th Republic Day of India, and commentators praised it as a game-changer against China and Pakistan. Shivangi Singh, India's first female Rafale pilot, was part of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) tableau.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/rafael-has-been-the-most-trending-topic-on-social-media/>



3. Egypt is expected to strengthen its firepower with South Korean K-9 'Thunder' howitzers after obtaining French Rafale fighters. South Korea's arms procurement agency, DAPA, reported on February 1 that it has reached an agreement with Egypt to deliver K-9 self-propelled howitzers for over 2 trillion won (US\$1.65 billion). This is K-9's largest export contract to date, and it is the company's first with an African country.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/egypt-goes-the-k-9-thunder-howitzers-from-south-korea/>
4. In the latest attack on the Gulf commercial and tourism hub in recent weeks, the United Arab Emirates said late Wednesday it intercepted three drones that entered its airspace over unpopulated areas earlier in the day.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/uae-says-it-destroyed-3-drones-that-penetrated-its-airspace-wednesday-2022-02-02/>
5. If the US Air Force chooses their aircraft over one suggested by rival Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Airbus would construct mid-air refuellers in Alabama and Georgia, the two companies stated on January 31.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/lockheed-airbus-look-to-outdo-boeing-for-lucrative-us-air-force/>
6. NASA revealed on Wednesday that the 'Space Launch System' rocket and Orion spacecraft will not be rolled out to Launch Pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida for testing "no earlier than March 2022."
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/nasa-s-artemis-1-moon-mission-rocket-faces-fresh-delays-likely-in-march-122020300638_1.html

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. China has inked a contract with Argentina to build the \$8 billion Atucha III nuclear power plant, resurrecting a project that had been lying dormant for years. This project would make use of China's third-generation 'Hualong One' technology, which was developed domestically.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-to-set-up-nuclear-power-plant-using-hualong-one-tech/>
2. According to a Chinese foreign ministry statement, China and Russia coordinated their stances on Ukraine during a meeting of both countries' foreign ministers in Beijing on Thursday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/china-russia-coordinated-positions-ukraine-says-chinese-foreign-ministry-2022-02-03/>
3. When Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Beijing Winter Olympics this week, the two leaders may aim to strengthen trade links in energy and other areas at a time when Moscow and the West are at odds over Ukraine.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/russia-china-may-sign-energy-other-deals-amid-moscow-tension-with-west-2022-02-03/>
4. After participating in protests in Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, the Taliban allegedly forcibly removed a woman from her home. Mursal Ayar was detained in the city on Wednesday, according to a source,

after participating in rallies calling for equal rights for women.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-60239525>

5. After meeting with his counterpart in Kyiv, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan reiterated on Thursday that Turkey is willing to do whatever it takes to end the Ukraine-Russia situation, and offered to organise a meeting between the two presidents.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/kyiv-erdogan-says-ready-help-resolve-ukraine-russia-crisis-2022-02-03/>
6. As the rhetorical war between the United States and Russia over Ukraine intensifies, one significant participant on the international stage has spoken up as well: China.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-60242549>
7. Ukraine is once again at the centre of a nuclear crisis. After taking the lead on nuclear disarmament in the 1990s and defying Russian nuclear threats in 2014, the country now faces an unparalleled Russian troop build-up along its borders. Ukraine's fate, as tensions rise, has the potential to alter the European nuclear order.
Source: <https://ecfr.eu/article/why-the-war-in-ukraine-could-reshape-the-european-nuclear-order/>
8. According to the Pentagon, President Joe Biden has ordered 2,000 US troops to Poland and Germany, with 1,000 more moving from Germany to Romania, proving America's commitment to NATO's eastern flank to both allies and rivals amid worries of a Russian invasion of Ukraine.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/president-biden-orders-forces-to-europe-amid-stalled-ukraine-talks-122020300066_1.html

UN REFORMS

1. Myanmar's military administration issued a new bribery accusation against Aung San Suu Kyi, the country's deposed civilian leader, on Thursday, according to the country's state media.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/myanmars-suu-kyi-faces-new-bribery-charge-string-cases-state-tv-2022-02-03/>
2. The United Nations Security Council expressed grave concern on Wednesday about Myanmar's military-imposed state of emergency, and called for dialogue to settle the situation in accordance with "the will and interests of the people."
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/one-year-since-myanmar-coup-un-security-council-backs-will-people-2022-02-02/>
3. In the run-up to the Beijing Winter Olympic Games' formal start on Friday, the scandal surrounding Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai's charges of sexual assault against a former top politician continues to throw a shadow. However, because to the crushing influence of official censorship in China, her case has received little attention.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/explainer-peng-shuai-case-shows-barriers-chinese-women-face-122020300654_1.html
4. U.S. State Department Counselor Derek Chollet said on Wednesday that Washington will continue to impose sanctions on Myanmar's military and those who assisted the junta that seized power a year ago.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/were-not-done-with-sanctions-myanmar-junta-its-supporters-says-us-envoy-2022-02-02/>
5. On the eve of the Beijing Olympics, US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi stated the US has a moral obligation to protest China's human rights violations, but she advised American athletes not to irritate the "ruthless" Chinese regime.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/pelosi-says-us-athletes-should-not-anger-ruthless-chinese-government-olympics-2022-02-03/>
6. The US stated on Wednesday that international banks can transfer money to Afghanistan for humanitarian purposes, and aid groups can pay teachers and healthcare personnel at state-run institutions without risk of violating Taliban prohibitions.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-advice-banks-ok-transfer-aid-money-afghanistan-2022-02-02/>
7. When he talks with Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai inside Beijing's "closed loop" at the Winter Games on Thursday, the Olympics chief offered to support her if she requests a probe into her treatment.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/peng-shuai-expected-inside-beijing-bubble-athletes-find-their-snow-feet-2022-02-03/>
8. Hundreds of Tibetan and Uyghur protestors marched on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Thursday, a day before Beijing 2022 kicks off, accusing the Swiss-based organisation of

participating in "atrocities" against ethnic minorities in China.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/tibetans-march-swiss-based-ioc-protest-beijing-games-2022-02-03/>

9. As a result of China's human rights record, a number of countries have declared diplomatic boycotts of the Games, meaning that their highest officials will not be present.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-59644043>
10. In the wake of outrage over Beijing's decision to silence critics ahead of the Winter Olympics, the US State Department said on Wednesday (local time) that American athletes had the right to freely express themselves.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-athletes-entitled-to-express-themselves-freely-at-beijing-olympics-122020300181_1.html
11. According to Senator Jim Inhofe's office, US Secretaries of State and Defense, Antony Blinken and Lloyd Austin, have vowed to return for another Senate hearing on the issues in Afghanistan following the US withdrawal.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/blinken-austin-to-return-for-congressional-hearing-on-afghanistan-issues-122020300122_1.html
12. As Myanmar's military coup reached its second year, the UN Security Council called for an immediate end to bloodshed across the country and reaffirmed support for the country's democratic transition and institutions.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/un-calls-for-halt-to-myanmar-violence-return-to-democracy-122020300090_1.html