

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. According to a Kantar Emor study conducted for Fermi Energia, 68% of Estonians either support or inclined to favour the idea of small nuclear power facilities in the country. This is an increase from 54% in January 2021.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Fermi-sees-Estonian-interest-in-nuclear-grow>
2. Rosatom has reported that the PIK research reactor and all of its components have been upgraded. Only four high-flux research reactors exist in the world, and the new "mega science facility" is one of them.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Russian-PIK-research-reactor-upgraded>
3. The South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa) has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for the Multipurpose Reactor (MPR) to replace the Safari-1 research reactor in Pelindaba, which is 56 years old.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/South-Africa-seeks-proposals-for-new-research-reactor>
4. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Environment Agency have assessed that the UK HPR1000 reactor is appropriate for construction in the UK. General Nuclear Services (GNS), a subsidiary of EDF and China General Nuclear (CGN), wants to employ the Hualong One design at a potential new nuclear power facility in Bradwell, England.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/UK-regulators-approve-China-s-HPR1000-design>

### **MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS**

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1. China is reported to be working on its own 'Super F-35' fighter jet, which could be capable of collecting large amounts of data and undertaking electronic warfare. It has already developed and deployed a stealth aircraft, the J-20 Mighty Dragon, in response to American fifth-generation fighters. The country's defence industry is also working on the FC-31 stealth fighter and the H-20 long-range stealth bombers.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-eyes-a-super-f-35-next-gen-fighter-aircraft-by-2035/>
2. The Chinese Z-20 helicopter has been compared to American Black Hawk helicopters. However, the Black Hawk is available in a variety of configurations, but the Chinese chopper employed by the PLA is a medium-lift utility helicopter designed for transport.



Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-reveals-plan-to-develop-armed-z-20-helicopters/>

3. Speaking at the annual symposium on space defence in August 2021, US Strategic Command Chief Charles Richard stated that Russian hypersonic technology will equip the country's navy with an undeniable advantage. There has been a growing acknowledgment by American military experts that the US lags behind China and Russia in hypersonic capabilities.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-defense-systems-too-weak-to-detect-chinese-russian-hypersonic-missiles-one-more-military-expert-admits/>

4. COPE North 2022, the US Pacific Air Forces' (PACAF) largest multinational exercise, is now taking place in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The US military's Indo-Pacific Command includes PACAF as a critical component.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-conducts-massive-war-drills-with-australia-japan-china/>

5. Following a series of ballistic missile tests Pyongyang is reported to have conducted last month, the US special envoy for North Korea will meet with Japanese and South Korean officials later this week, according to the US State Department.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-envoy-north-korea-meet-with-japanese-skorean-officials-statement-2022-02-06/>

6. According to a Russian military newspaper, the country's next-generation Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft programme, the A-100 Premier, is being delayed due to Western sanctions. This indicates that the A-100 will not be available until 2024.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russian-a-100-early-warning-aircraft-aewc-program-remains-crippled/>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. Iran said on Monday that the United States had to make a "political decision" on lifting sanctions against it since Tehran's demand for their complete removal in order to resurrect a 2015 nuclear deal with world powers was non-negotiable.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-says-removal-us-sanctions-is-its-red-line-revival-2015-deal-2022-02-07/>

2. Russian President Vladimir Putin might take military action against Ukraine "any day now," according to White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan. Border tensions between Russia and Ukraine have risen in recent weeks, with both sides deploying large numbers of troops. However, there are demands for diplomacy to be used in dealing with the problem.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/us-warns-that-russia-could-take-military-action-against-ukraine-any-day-now-451104>

3. On Monday (February 7), Iran stated that the removal of sanctions remained a "red line" for reviving the Iran nuclear deal. Iran and the United States are expected to restart indirect talks on Tuesday (February 8). In a statement released on Monday, the European Union confirmed the resumption of

discussions in Vienna.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/iran-deal-talks-to-resume-on-tuesday-republic-says-sanctions-removal-a-red-line-451316>

4. Some of Iran's demands for the lifting of economic sanctions have still to be addressed in the Vienna nuclear talks, according to Iran's foreign minister.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-says-some-its-demands-sanctions-not-yet-addressed-talks-2022-02-07/>
5. The Kremlin stated on Monday (February 7) that discussions between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his French colleague Emmanuel Macron are unlikely to yield a substantial breakthrough. But the Kremlin expected that Macron would propose ways to ease tensions in Europe.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/ukraine-crisis-expecting-no-decisive-breakthrough-from-putin-macron-talks-says-kremlin-451239>
6. Robert Malley, the United States' Special Envoy for Iran, said on Sunday that he would soon return to Vienna for the next round of discussions on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, insisting that it was still possible.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-envoy-says-returning-vienna-hope-reviving-iran-nuclear-pact-2022-02-07/>
7. According to the Guardian, Andriy Zagorodnyuk, Ukraine's former defence minister, has stated that Russia has enough forces in place to conquer Kyiv or another Ukrainian city.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/ex-ukraine-defence-chief-says-russia-could-seize-any-city-in-ukraine-but-will-it-plan-full-scale-invasion-451199>
8. The European Union, which is managing the discussions, said on Monday that indirect talks between Iran and the US in Vienna on restoring the 2015 Iran nuclear deal will continue on Tuesday.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/iran-nuclear-talks-will-resume-tuesday-eu-confirms-2022-02-07/>
9. International efforts to defuse the standoff over Ukraine intensified Monday, with French President Emmanuel Macron holding talks in Moscow and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Washington to coordinate policies as fears of a Russian invasion mounted. The presence of more than 100,000 Russian troops near Ukraine has heightened Western fears of an assault.  
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-joe-biden-vladimir-putin-europe-moscow-46f8be10fa71af16bae8f3a9bd82918d>
10. As Russia's provocative moves on its neighbor's border continued unabated, many world leaders queued up Monday to walk a diplomatic tightrope that might mean the difference between war and an uneasy peace in Ukraine.  
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-joe-biden-business-emmanuel-macron-moscow-9c7b3133b0db8c537ebd667f62a2adef>

## UN REFORMS

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1. On Monday, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters that China's use of a Uyghur athlete to carry the Olympic torch cannot be used as a diversion from China's human rights violations and genocide of the Uyghurs.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/white-house-chinas-use-uyghur-athlete-should-not-distract-abuses-2022-02-07/>
2. According to a media report, China is tightening its grip in Macao with a planned election and national security measures in the area, including a revision of its national security law, to prevent a political crisis similar to that in neighbouring Hong Kong from spreading to the semi-autonomous Chinese city.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/china-tightens-rules-restrictions-in-macao-to-avoid-hong-kong-type-unrest-report-451099>
3. Tennis player Peng Shuai said she did not accuse a former high-ranking government official of sexual assault in a tightly controlled interview prepared by Chinese Olympic organisers and published Monday by a French newspaper.  
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/winter-olympics-sports-china-social-media-beijing-42507d41455df7a40af7cf389fa2c2ef>
4. Under CCP's totalitarian regime Peng Shuai, Chinese tennis star, has denied ever accusing anyone of sexual assault, claiming that she removed a social media post from November that looked to make such a claim.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/chinese-tennis-player-peng-denies-making-accusation-sexual-assault-2022-02-07/>
5. Two years after the killing of COVID whistle-blower doctor Li Wenliang, who was sentenced to death by Chinese officials in Wuhan, there has been no accountability, only rising suppression and a big stamp of approval from the International Olympic Committee (IOC).  
Source: <https://twitter.com/CHRDnet/status/1490688942454149124>
6. A senior Cambodian official said on Monday that Myanmar military leader Min Aung Hlaing agreed to arrange for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) special envoy from Cambodia to meet members of the ousted ruling party during a future visit.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-junta-chief-said-asean-envoy-can-meet-suu-kyi-party-members-cambodian-2022-02-07/>
7. The interview with French sports newspaper L'Equipe, as well as the news that IOC President Thomas Bach met Peng for dinner this weekend, appeared to be geared at assuaging international worries over the three-time Olympian and former No. 1 tennis doubles player. Fears for Peng's safety have threatened to overshadow the Winter Olympics underway in Beijing.  
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/peng-shuai-controlled-interview-olympics-36722c749b176f228a1db8f39678cc2f>

8. According to a French newspaper, Chinese women's tennis star Peng Shuai has announced her retirement and referred to a social media post in which she described being pressured into a sexual relationship with former vice premier Zhang Gaoli as "a huge misunderstanding." She also stated that she will not return to professional tennis citing to a knee injury.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/olympics-pengshuai-02072022091413.html>

9. According to the International Federation of Journalists, roughly 1,300 journalists remain in Afghanistan, with about 220 of them being women. On eve of International Women's Day, a special event is being hosted to remember these journalists

Source: <https://womeninjournalism.co.uk/taliban-2-0-what-about-the-women/>

10. Today, the Taliban assassinate a shopkeeper in Shamali. Taliban assassinations continue across Afghanistan. In Ghor, several others were reportedly killed, including nine ANA soldiers. Due to a lack of media, the Taliban's atrocities go unreported.

Source: <https://twitter.com/MajeedQarar/status/1490758793256337413>