

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. Researchers at the Joint European Torus in the United Kingdom doubled previous records by generating 59 megajoules of heat energy from fusion over five seconds. The EUROforum partnership, which includes 4800 specialists, students, and staff from around Europe and is co-funded by the European Commission, more than doubled the previous record set in 1997 near Oxford by the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA).

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Fusion-energy-record-at-JET-huge-step-forward>

2. At the end of 2021, construction on Russia's MBIR multipurpose sodium-cooled fast neutron research reactor was 8% ahead of schedule, and it is currently anticipated to be completed in 2027, one year sooner than planned.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Completion-of-MBIR-reactor-brought-forward>

### **MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS**

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1. THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) anti-ballistic missile defence systems have been requested by Ukraine for deployment near Kharkov, according to TASS.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/ukraine-wants-thaad-missile-defense-systems-to-counter-russia/>

2. Under Kim Jong-un North Korea has achieved significant progress in its nuclear and missile development programmes. After discussions between Pyongyang and Washington broke down, Pyongyang went all out, developing and testing hypersonic missiles.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/how-is-north-korea-funding-its-hypersonic-missile-program/>

3. After missiles were fired from Syria on Wednesday, Israel's military announced it carried out strikes. "In response to the anti-aircraft missile launched from Syria earlier tonight, we just struck surface-to-air missile targets in Syria, including radar & anti-aircraft batteries," Israel's military said.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/israel-launches-strikes-against-syria-after-missile-attack-451589>

4. Following a series of missile launches this month, the North Korean dictatorship claimed that its missile tests were "shaking the world." At the start of the year, Kim Jong-Un conducted ballistic missile tests. The tests were described as a "remarkable achievement" by North Korea's foreign ministry.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/only-our-country-can-shake-the-world-by-firing-a-missile-with-us-in-its-range-north-korea-451592>

5. Russian Su-35S fighters went on airspace defense combat alert and practiced intercepting aerial targets in an inspection of the Union State's response forces on Belarusian territory, Russia's Defense Ministry reported on Wednesday.  
Source: <https://tass.com/defense/1400323>
6. During drills aimed at guarding a naval harbour in Novorossiysk from saboteurs, the Black Sea Fleet used a submerged remote-controlled robot designed to track for intruders deep in the sea, according to the Fleet's press office.  
Source: <https://tass.com/defense/1400137>
7. The UK Ministry of Defense (MOD) proposed the idea of retiring the BAE 146 aircraft that was being used exclusively for VIP transport. The Ministry of Defence said last year that it will replace four Royal Air Force BAE 146 planes with two corporate business jets.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/dassault-aviation-wins-another-big-contract-british-royal-air-force/>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. Britain's top diplomat travelled to Moscow on Wednesday to try to calm down tensions sparked by Russia's military buildup near Ukraine, saying that an invasion would have massive consequences for all involved."  
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-business-liz-truss-moscow-russia-2fadff9b3477a6744b06e26bcd539208>
2. According to three government officials, the Biden administration believes it has until the end of February to save the Iran nuclear deal; otherwise, the US will have to alter course and undertake strong steps to prevent Tehran from gaining a nuclear weapon.  
Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/02/09/politics/iran-nuclear-deal-time-running-out/index.html>
3. Iran wants all sanctions imposed by former US President Donald Trump's administration repealed, but the Joe Biden administration has stated that it is willing to lift any that are "inconsistent" with the agreement.  
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/8/what-to-expect-as-talks-on-irans-nuclear-deal-reach-final-step>
4. Iran's diplomats and international leaders met in Vienna on Tuesday to try to resurrect the 2015 nuclear deal, with pressure increasing for results fast. After a brief pause to return to their capitals for talks, Iran's negotiators and the remaining parties to the accord — the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and China — got back to work.  
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-nuclear-talks-resume-amid-mounting-pressure-for-results/>
5. Iran showcased a new 1,450-kilometer-range missile on Wednesday, according to state television, a day after Tehran and Washington resumed indirect negotiations to rescue the 2015 nuclear deal.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-unveils-missile-with-range-1450km-tasnim->

6. Russian President Vladimir Putin told French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday that Moscow will not exacerbate the Ukraine situation any further. Macron also stated that finding a diplomatic solution to the escalating tensions, which he described as the most serious security issue between Russia and the West since the Cold War, would take time.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-russia-diplomacy-emmanuel-macron-europe-9dd7eb560d26a81306604dcb1c81bddb>

7. Many senior US officials informed the Senate on the status of diplomatic efforts to resurrect the Iran nuclear deal on Wednesday, with several senators calling the information "sobering." Robert Malley, the main US negotiator in the indirect nuclear talks with Iran in Vienna, National Security Council coordinator for the Middle East Brett McGurk, and an intelligence community officer were among the briefers during the closed hearing.

Source: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/us-news/2022/02/09/iran-nuclear-deal-us-officials-give-sobering-and-shocking-update/>

8. On Wednesday, White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters that discussions with Iran have reached a critical juncture, and that if an agreement is not made in the coming weeks, it will be hard to return to the Iran nuclear deal.

Source: <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/white-house-says-talks-with-iran-over-nuclear-deal-at-urgent-point>

1. The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) refusal to re-bid the 2022 Winter Olympics was a mistake, though understandable given the IOC's history and "affinity for authoritarian regimes," as veteran sportscaster Bob Costas recently described it. Instead of transferring the games to a country with a better human rights record, the IOC has exposed our athletes to Chinese surveillance and enabled them to be used as pawns in the Communist Party's propaganda game.  
Source: <https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/593324-when-it-comes-to-the-olympics-dont-buy-what-china-is>
2. Human Rights Watch today called on China to release imprisoned Tibetan monk and religious philosopher Go Sherab Gyatso promptly and unconditionally.  
Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/09/china-imprisoned-tibetan-monks-health-peril>
3. Journalists in Hong Kong, whose dynamic media environment — at least 15 daily titles with a variety of political leanings and more than four news channels for a population of 7.4 million — was once recognised as one of Asia's most freewheeling — bemoaned the "death of free press."  
Source: <https://www.ft.com/content/5d388472-dd25-4869-af54-4051bfa0b634>
4. Tibet Watch has learned that the family of Tibetan writer Gedun Lhundup went to the Rebkong County police station to inquire about Lhundup's location, but the officers stated that they did not arrest him and do not have responsibility for his whereabouts.  
Source: <https://twitter.com/Nawin2018/status/1491342334243397633>
5. Pro-China accounts have been flooding Twitter with tweets including the hashtag #GenocideGames, in an effort, according to researchers, to diminish the hashtag's ability to mobilise criticism of the Winter Olympics host nation. The #GenocideGames hashtag has been used by human-rights groups and Western parliamentarians to draw awareness about Xinjiang, a province in northwest China where authorities have forced religious minorities, especially Uyghur Muslims, to assimilate.  
Source: [https://www.wsj.com/articles/pro-china-twitter-accounts-flood-hashtag-critical-of-beijing-winter-olympics-11644343870?reflink=desktopwebshare\\_twitter](https://www.wsj.com/articles/pro-china-twitter-accounts-flood-hashtag-critical-of-beijing-winter-olympics-11644343870?reflink=desktopwebshare_twitter)
6. Sri Lanka's central bank said on Wednesday that the country was committed to meeting all future debt obligations and that the country was not on the verge of defaulting.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/sri-lanka-not-verge-sovereign-default-says-central-bank-2022-02-09/>
7. According to local Uyghur reports, Abduhelil Abdurehim, a Uyghur who studied in Japan as a graduate student and returned home to work for a restaurant chain in China's far-western Xinjiang region, was detained at his house by local police in late 2021.  
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/abduhelil-abdurehim-02092022124756.html>
8. Hong Kong's government "strongly condemned" criticism of its crackdown on independent media under the national security law from 21 governments on Wednesday. The Media Freedom Coalition, which includes Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States, has condemned a recent national security raid on the offices of Stand News, the arrests of its workers,

and Citizen News' subsequent self-closure.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/hongkong-crackdown-02092022133542.html>

9. More than a dozen Lao women were rescued by police from the Chinese-run Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in northwestern Laos, where they were being imprisoned against their will and forced to work as prostitutes in some cases.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/laos/rescues-escapes-02082022170241.html>

10. The Pentagon says the US Navy is looking into a "unauthorized leak" of an official video showing an F-35C fighter jet crash on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier in the South China Sea last month.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/usa-southchinasea-f35-02082022143153.html>

11. On Friday, February 4th, a peaceful demonstration against the ongoing Beijing Winter Olympics was organised in front of the Chinese Consulate General in Auckland. The demonstration was organised by Auckland's Tibetan community. Protesters brought up China's violations of human rights and freedom of expression in Tibet, East Turkistan, Southern Mongolia, and Hong Kong.

Source: <https://tibet.net/tibetans-in-new-zealand-stages-protest-against-beijing-winter-olympics-in-auckland/>

12. Authorities in the eastern Chinese province of Jiangsu say they have authenticated the identity of a woman seen wearing a chain around her neck in a viral video, amid growing public outrage over women and kids trafficking.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/identified-02082022105124.html>

13. Representatives of the Super Samgha, a Japanese monks' organisation, paid a visit to the Tibet Office in Japan and met with Representative Arya Tsewang Gyalpo. Ven. Hayashi Shuten and Ven. Kobayashi Shuei expressed their shock and dismay at the Chinese communist regime's ruthless destruction of the 99-foot Buddha statue and 30-foot Buddha Maitriya statue, 45 prayer wheels, and Tibetan monastic school in Tibet's Kham Drakgo region. They presented a written statement from the Association expressing sympathy with Tibetans in Tibet who are suffering under the Chinese regime's brutality.

Source: <https://tibet.net/japanese-monks-condemn-china-over-the-destruction-of-the-buddha-statue-in-tibet/>