

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

---

1. The Autorité de Sûreté Nucléaire (ASN), France's nuclear safety regulator, has ordered that the assembly of the tokamak for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) fusion project be postponed until a number of safety concerns are resolved.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/ITER-tokamak-assembly-put-on-hold-by-regulator>
2. The chief of Energoatom, Ukraine's nuclear power plant operator, has requested that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) intervene to assist maintain the area around the reactors free of military action.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Ukraine-asks-IAEA-for-30km-safe-zones-around-nucle>
3. In a legal, procedural judgement pertaining to the exact phrasing of some of the material in the renewal process, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has reversed its prior decision on subsequent licence renewals for Turkey Point units 3 and 4. Because of the regulator's decision, future licence renewals will require a revised environmental impact statement.  
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/NRC-ruling-revises-subsequent-licence-renewal-proc>
4. Due to the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Russia's state-owned Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation (Rosatom) does not expect any delays in the construction of the Kudankulam nuclear power project for the Nuclear Power Corporation of India in Tamil Nadu.  
Source: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/ukraine-conflict-russias-rosatom-doesnt-foresee-any-disruptions-in-kudankulam-nuclear-power-plant-execution-8180161.html>
5. As an advancing Russian invasion approaches Europe's largest nuclear facility, the head of Ukraine's nuclear-power utility called on international monitors to intervene to protect the safety of the country's 15 atomic reactors.  
Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/ukraine-seeks-safe-zone-as-russia-heads-for-europe-s-biggest-nuclear-plant-101646125511861.html>

### **MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS**

---

1. As the war in Ukraine continues, thousands of anti-tank missiles are on their way to the war-torn country from NATO member states and other countries to repel invading Russian military hardware and forces.



Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-699010>

2. Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced on Tuesday that Australia has pledged A\$70 million (\$50 million) to fund lethal defensive weapons for Ukraine, including missiles and ammunition.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/australia-will-fund-lethal-weapons-ukraine-says-pm-morrison-2022-03-01/>
3. India and France are close to signing an agreement for the joint development of a 125KN engine, which would power the former's fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), according to reports.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/india-could-dump-ge-engines-for-french-tech-to-power-aircraft/>
4. As the Russia-Ukraine war intensifies, Moscow is likely to deploy TOS-1A "heavy flamethrower" to increase its firepower in the ongoing invasion of Ukraine. One TOS-1A multiple rocket launcher was spotted on the back of a lorry south of Russia's Belgorod, near the Ukrainian border, on February 26.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russia-to-unleash-terrifying-thermobaric-rockets-on-ukraine/>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

---

1. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Saeed Khatibzadeh, said in a tweet early Tuesday that a nuclear agreement is possible if Washington makes up its mind.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/nuclear-deal-hand-if-washington-makes-up-its-mind-iran-foreign-ministry-2022-02-28/>
2. Iran indicated on Monday that efforts to resurrect a 2015 nuclear agreement could succeed if the US made a political decision to accept Tehran's remaining demands, as months of negotiations reach a "now or never" stage, according to one Iranian ambassador.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-says-three-key-issues-remain-unresolved-vienna-nuclear-talks-2022-02-28/>
3. On Tuesday, Russia's foreign minister told a Geneva disarmament summit that Ukraine was attempting to acquire nuclear weapons, which he described as a "real danger" that required a Russian reaction.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/russias-lavrov-says-there-is-danger-ukraine-acquiring-nuclear-weapons-2022-03-01/>
4. Washington is prepared to walk away from the effort to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal if Iran displays intransigence, State Department spokesperson Ned Price said on Monday.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/us-would-walk-away-iran-talks-if-iran-displays-intransigence-state-dept-2022-02-28/>
5. The West and Russia have been working closely for almost a year to resurrect the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, but the war in Ukraine has heightened the urgency of concluding discussions before collaboration becomes untenable.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/foes-over-ukraine-russia-western-unity-tested-iran-talks-2022->

6. Strategic Command (STRATCOM) chief Adm. Charles Richard warned the US Congress that China is on track to surpass the US in land-based strategic nuclear forces unless the US invests extensively in modernizing its land-based long-range missile force.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-on-track-to-surpass-the-us-in-land-based-nuclear-weapons/>

7. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned on Tuesday that Russia finds it "unacceptable" that American nuclear weapons are located in Europe, saying it is "high time to return them to the US," according to TASS.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-698999>

## UN REFORMS

---

1. President Joe Biden dispatched a delegation of former senior US defence and security officials to Taipei on Tuesday, a visit criticised by China and taking place in the midst of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-says-us-attempts-support-taiwan-will-be-futile-2022-03-01/>
2. The United States has a delegation comprising of former top US defense officials to Taiwan amid a looming threat from China. Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen is leading the five-person delegation that is to meet with President Tsai Ing-wen and other top officials during the two-day visit.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/united-states-sends-delegation-to-taiwan-amid-invasion-fears-457815>
3. On April 1, the European Union will convene a summit with China in an attempt to defuse escalating tensions between the two, according to Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President of the European Commission and EU Trade Commissioner.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/eu-plans-summit-with-china-april-1-address-tensions-2022-02-28/>
4. On Monday, North Korea broke its quiet on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, criticising the US and the West for their "hegemonic policy" and "high-handedness."  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/north-korea-blames-ukraine-crisis-hegemonic-high-handedness-us-2022-02-28/>
5. During a televised speech on Tuesday, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei condemned homosexuality as part of the "moral deprivation" prevalent in Western society.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/irans-khamenei-says-homosexuality-example-wests-immorality-2022-03-01/>
6. According to residents, the Taliban have been conducting massive house searches around the Afghan capital, a strategy that the Taliban's spokesman claims is aimed at detecting criminal activities but that some Western diplomats believe is aimed at regular inhabitants.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/taliban-begin-house-searches-sparking-fear-diplomatic-criticism-2022-02-28/>
7. On Tuesday, United Nations agencies launched an emergency plea for \$1.7 billion to help individuals who have fled Ukraine and those who are still inside, in response to the country's mounting humanitarian needs following Russia's invasion.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/un-scales-up-aid-ukraine-appeals-17-bln-2022-03-01/>
8. According to the White House, US President Joe Biden will meet with the leaders of Australia, India, and Japan on Thursday to address the conflict in Ukraine and its consequences for the Indo-Pacific region. The summit takes place at a time when there is growing worry about Taiwan, a self-ruled island

claimed by China, which has raised its alert level, afraid of China exploiting a distracted West to strike against it.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/biden-quad-leaders-discuss-ukraine-thursday-white-house-2022-03-03/>

9. A Russian official expressed outrage after France's finance minister stated that the West was conducting a "total economic and financial war" against Russia on Tuesday, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine entered its sixth day.  
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-698991>
10. The United Nations Human Rights Council plans to debate this Thursday the creation of a year-long commission of inquiry into Russia's invasion of Ukraine.  
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-698910>
11. Russia will impose temporary curbs on foreign investors seeking to exit Russian assets to ensure they take a considered decision not one driven by political pressure, the prime minister said on Tuesday, as Moscow responds to Western sanctions.  
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-699008>
12. Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, stated on Tuesday that the crisis in Ukraine should be ended, accusing the US of fomenting the violence through its "mafia-like administration."  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/iran-supreme-leader-says-ukraine-is-victim-crises-caused-by-us-2022-03-01/>
13. The U.N. Security Council imposed an arms embargo on Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis on Monday amid questions by some diplomats over links between Russia's support for the move and abstentions by the United Arab Emirates on two council votes on Ukraine.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/un-security-council-imposes-arms-embargo-yemens-houthi-group-2022-02-28/>
14. The United Nations on Wednesday agreed to start negotiating a world-first global treaty on plastic pollution in what has been hailed as a watershed moment for the planet.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/un-takes-historic-step-toward-global-treaty-on-plastic-trash-458309>