



DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Mariano Grossi, held talks in Turkey with Ukraine's foreign minister and Russia's foreign minister and said "we are making progress on the safety and security of nuclear facilities in Ukraine".
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-chief-in-Turkey-for-talks-on-Ukraine-nuclear>
2. Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation (USNC) has adopted two 3D printers from additive manufacturing technology company Desktop Metal to form nuclear-grade silicon carbide for use in its innovative Fully Ceramic Microencapsulated (FCM) nuclear fuel.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/3D-printers-to-be-used-in-fuel-manufacture>
3. Commissioning tests are progressing well at Olkiluoto 3, with grid connection now expected to take place on 15 March, Teollisuuden Voima Oyj (TVO) has said.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Olikluoto-3-grid-connection-expected-within-days>
4. Norwegian Nuclear Decommissioning (NND) has awarded a NOK123 million (USD13.7 million), 12-year contract to the ICCircle consortium for the design, development and maintenance of a bespoke integrated software system to support nuclear decommissioning and waste management.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Norway-procures-cradle-to-grave-IT-solution>
5. Tokamak Energy of the UK announced it has demonstrated a world-first with its privately-funded ST40 spherical tokamak, achieving a plasma temperature of 100 million degrees Celsius, the threshold required for commercial fusion energy.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Tokamak-Energy-achieves-crucial-plasma-temperature>
6. With the planned expansion of nuclear power in the UK, the government needs to harness community support and include the full lifecycle when considering proposed sites, according to a report by Manchester University's Dalton Nuclear Institute.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/UK-nuclear-site-choices-should-be-reusable>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. After nuke submarines & stealth fighters, Australia set for biggest military expansion in decades.



Amid Growing Chinese Threats. Australia made an ambitious announcement for its defense forces amid the looming threat from China, Russia's closest ally and a dominant power in the region.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/australia-to-carry-out-the-biggest-expansion-of-defense-force-in-decades/>

2. The threat posed by Iranian drones in the crowded skies of the Middle East is a rising concern for Israel's mighty air force, and one of the IAF's top five threats. This week the IAF revealed that two F-35I Adir aircraft had downed two Iranian drones that would have infiltrated Israeli airspace while on their way to deliver weapons to terrorist groups in the blockaded Gaza Strip.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-700967>

3. The Philippines Air Force (PAF) announced the arrival of the first batch of Turkish-made T-129 ATAK helicopters on March 9. "The PAF welcomes the arrival of two units of T129 'ATAK' helicopters onboard the (Airbus) A-400M from Turkey at 30 minutes past midnight March 9, 2022, at Clark Air Base, Mabalacat City, Pampanga," Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Maynard Mariano was quoted as saying by Philippine News Agency (PNA).

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/pakistan-iron-brother-turkey-t-129-atak-helicopters-philippines/>

4. Lt. Gen. Eric Fick, a top official with the F-35 Joint Program Office, said in a roundtable with reporters on March 8 that the critical joint simulation environment (JSE) testing, is now expected to take place in early spring or summer of 2023. The JSE testing is required before the "Milestone C" decision – the green signal for the full-rate production — is given.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/critical-testing-to-check-f-35-stealth-fighters-s-400-delayed/>

5. The Chinese defense industry is hogging the limelight with cutting-edge weapons and technology at Saudi Arabia's first-ever World Defense Show, state-owned Chinese media claimed. The weapons on display include the LY-80 air defense system, the SR5 multiple rocket system, the JY-27A anti-air warning radar, the Y-9E transport aircraft, electronic warfare defense system, multi-purpose unmanned boat, and multi-type drones such as the Wing Loong-2, the CH-5, and the WJ-700.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-looks-to-sell-its-new-stealth-fighters-to-saudi-arabia/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Iran's top security officer, Ali Shamkhani, warned on Thursday that the US does not have the desire to strike an agreement to revive a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran during negotiations in Vienna, where it is insisting on "unacceptable proposals."

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/iran-says-lack-of-us-decision-on-nuclear-deal-complicates-talks-460852>

2. France's foreign ministry said on Thursday that the opportunity to reach a deal on reviving the 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers was closing and called on all sides to take a responsible approach to reach an agreement.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/window-to-revive-iran-nuclear-deal-closing-says-france-461054>

3. A bipartisan group of 21 lawmakers sent a letter to US President Joe Biden Thursday, expressing concern over a potential nuclear agreement with Iran. “Since the beginning of this administration, we have hoped that renewed negotiations with Iran would achieve a longer and stronger agreement than the JCPOA with clear nuclear restrictions and provisions addressing Iran’s international terror and missile programs,” they wrote.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-700954>
4. Although most signs show that there will soon be a nuclear deal between the Islamic Republic and the world powers, the persistent delays and new element of instability introduced by US-Russian conflict over Ukraine has put the entire enterprise back in question.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-700851>

UN REFORMS

1. Authorities in Hong Kong have revoked bail for former healthcare union chief and democracy activist Winnie Yu, putting her back behind bars on International Women's Day. Yu, 34, had been out on bail awaiting trial for "subversion" under a draconian national security law imposed on the city by the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) from July 1, 2020.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/hongkong-unionist-03102022105118.html>
2. Now the Interior Department, led by Deb Haaland, the first Native American Cabinet secretary, is taking steps to strip the word from mountains, rivers, lakes and other geographic sites and has solicited input from tribes on new names for the landmarks.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/660-us-place-names-include-a-slur-for-native-women-change-is-coming-461084>
3. Authorities in Cambodia’s capital Phnom Penh on Wednesday released around 200 workers detained a day earlier for “violating COVID-19 protocols” while demanding a resolution to their long-standing labor dispute, which had prompted condemnation from both the U.N. and Washington.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/cambodia/workers-0309202210732.html>
4. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday Western sanctions on Moscow for its actions in Ukraine could send global food prices soaring, as Russia was one of the world's main producers of fertiliser, which is essential to global supply chains.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/sanctions-on-russia-may-increase-global-food-prices-claims-putin-461062>
5. No matter who wins in any future war between Taiwan and China, it will be a "miserable victory", Taiwan Defence Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng said on Thursday, adding it was best if everyone avoided conflict.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-taiwan-war-would-end-miserable-victory-taiwan-minister-2022-03-10/>
6. Electric-car maker Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) on Wednesday raised prices of its U.S. Model Y SUVs and Model 3 Long Range sedans by \$1,000 each and some China-made Model 3 and Model Y vehicles by



10,000 yuan (\$1,582.40), according to its website.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/autos-transportation/tesla-hikes-china-us-prices-model-3-model-y-cars-2022-03-10/>

7. The topic of Ukraine entering into the European Union is "not for tomorrow", said French European Affairs Minister Clement Beaune, as EU leaders gathered in France to discuss the crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-membership-eu-is-not-tomorrow-french-minister-2022-03-10/>
8. Sudanese protesters marching against military rule on International Women's Day were met with tear gas as they approached the presidential palace on Tuesday, a Reuters reporter said.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/sudanese-protesters-face-tear-gas-womens-day-rally-2022-03-08/>
9. Ukraine will repatriate troops and equipment, including helicopters, involved in U.N. peacekeeping missions in Africa and Europe to bolster defences at home in the face of Russia's invasion, a U.N. official said.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/ukraine-pull-troops-equipment-un-missions-2022-03-09/>
10. Africa's economic outlook is particularly vulnerable to higher food and fuel prices prompted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as well as to reduced tourism revenues and diminished access to financial services.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/imf-chief-says-africa-vulnerable-higher-food-fuel-prices-due-ukraine-war-2022-03-10/>
11. A senior United Nations Libya official is seeking agreement this month on election laws and constitutional arrangements, she told Reuters on Wednesday, with rival factions locked in a dangerous stand-off.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/un-libya-adviser-aims-elections-agreement-this-month-2022-03-09/>
12. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told US President Joe Biden in a phone call on Thursday that it was past time to lift all "unjust" sanctions on Turkey's defense industry.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-700963>
13. The Ukrainian Anonymous hacker group has hacked into Roskomnadzor, the Russian federal agency responsible for monitoring and censoring media, and released 360,000 files, the group announced on Twitter on Thursday.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-700940>
14. The election of conservative Yoon Suk-yeol as South Korea's next president Wednesday is likely to bring more hawkish policies toward North Korea and less deference toward China, analysts told RFA.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/korea/yoon-03092022195109.html>
15. According to weapon manufacturers gathered at a defense exhibition in Saudi Arabia this week, Russia's action against Ukraine has changed the strategic narrative in Europe, perhaps ushering in a new era of acquisitions driven by Germany, Reuters reported.



10 March

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russian-war-in-ukraine-prompts-europe-to-amplify-military-spending/>