

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The Czech Republic's Ministry of Industry and Trade has officially given its approval after completing the safety assessment of the three approved bidders - EDF from France, Westinghouse from the USA and Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP).

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Tender-launched-for-new-nuclear-plant-at-Dukovany>

2. The main components of the turbine plant of Akkuyu unit 1 - including the stator, turbine generator rotor and low-pressure cylinder - have been delivered to the construction site in Turkey.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Turbine-equipment-for-Akkuyu-1-delivered>

3. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said it had been told that Ukraine's largest nuclear power plant has lost connection to a third power line, but two others remain available.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/No-safety-concern-as-Zaporozhe-loses-third-power-1>

4. Recent geopolitical events have not had a material impact on Kazatomprom's group operations to date, the company said yesterday as it announced its 2021 full year results.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Kazatomprom-looks-beyond-geopolitics>

5. A powerful quake that hit northeast of Japan late on Wednesday has revived public concerns over the country's nuclear energy, in a challenge to those who have argued for plants left idle after the 2011 Fukushima disaster to be restarted.

Source: <https://www.fxempire.com/news/article/japan-quake-revives-concerns-over-kishidas-drive-to-restart-idle-nuclear-plants-938046>

6. Finland's much delayed Olkiluoto 3 nuclear reactor has started test production, delivering electricity to the national power grid, which over time will help reduce the country's dependence on imports and lower power prices

Source: <https://www.latestly.com/socially/world/finlands-much-delayed-olkiluoto-3-nuclear-reactor->



[has-started-test-production-delivering-latest-tweet-by-reuters-3481887.html](https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-has-started-test-production-delivering-latest-tweet-by-reuters-3481887.html)

7. Energy minister Tinne Van der Straeten presented a note to core cabinet members on Wednesday, which broadcaster RTBF said referred to a bill to be approved by the end of March extending the lives of the two newest reactors by up to 10 years.

Source: <https://www.fxempire.com/news/article/belgium-poised-to-delay-2025-nuclear-power-exit-938448>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. US Air Force (USAF) general Kenneth Wilsbach said the US-built F-35 had an encounter with China's Chengdu J-20 adding that he was "relatively impressed with the command and control associated with the J-20."

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/relatively-impressed-us-f-35-fighter-jet-has-close-encounter-with-chinas-j-20-in-east-china-sea-463208>

2. North Korea's state media was silent Thursday after a suspected missile test ended in what Seoul said was total failure, exploding mid-air in the skies above the capital Pyongyang almost immediately after launch. The North test-fired what was most likely a ballistic missile from the Sunan area of the capital, home to some three million people, early Wednesday, South Korea's military said.

Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/north-korea-silent-after-missile-explodes-over-pyongyang-2827676>

3. Hezbollah's efforts to obtain drones and precision-guided missiles heighten the threat along Israel's already sensitive northern border with Lebanon, Ambassador Gilad Erdan told UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-701448>

4. The Chinese foreign ministry said on Thursday that it firmly rejects U.S. State Secretary Antony Blinken's comment that China's unwillingness to condemn Russia is inconsistent with China's position on the U.N. charter.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china-rejects-blinken-accusation-that-china-not-acting-line>



5. The UK is sending more missiles to the Russian border. The UK has already sent anti-tank missiles, defensive weapons and ammunition.

Source: <https://inews.co.uk/news/sky-sabre-missile-system-what-uk-sending-air-defence-missiles-poland-russia-ukraine-war-1523375>

6. Yemen's war robs many children of lifesaving heart surgery, doctors say. While waiting for a sponsor to pay for congenital heart defect surgery, gangrene caused by the untreated ailment ate away at 16-year-old Zamzam Hizam's foot.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/yemens-war-robs-many-children-lifesaving-heart-surgery-doctors-say-2022-03-17/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. The US believes that a possible deal with Iran is close, State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said on Wednesday. “We do think the remaining issues can be bridged,” Price said in a press briefing. “We have made significant progress, we are close to a possible deal, but we’re not there yet.”

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-701557>

2. The latest steps the US has offered to take in negotiations for a nuclear deal with Iran would bring billions of dollars to Tehran – in addition to the influx by returning to the original agreement.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-701640>

3. Iran has defied Western powers by converting some of its uranium enriched to near weapons-grade into a form less easily recovered, diluted and shipped out of the country, a report by the U.N. nuclear watchdog on Wednesday showed.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-defies-western-powers-with-work-near-weapons-grade-uranium-2022-03-16/>

4. Washington said Wednesday it was "close" to a deal with Iran on reviving a 2015 pact that saw Western powers provide sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on Tehran's nuclear programme, the latest sign of advancement following prolonged deadlock.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/iran-nuclear-deal-close-tehran-frees-captives-as-obstacles->



5. Iran's foreign minister on Wednesday said that agreement on two issues remained with the US in order to restore 2015 nuclear deal. The nuclear deal was done between Iran and world powers in 2015 but Donald Trump-led USA withdrew from the deal in 2018.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/iran-talks-of-remaining-two-issues-to-revive-nuclear-deal-462988>

6. On March 15, the talks to restore the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), or Iran nuclear deal, appeared back on track, 10 days after Russia appeared to knock them off course.

Source: <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2022/03/takeaway-done-deal-iran-nuclear-talks-appear-back-track#ixzz7NpF77P7L>

7. Iran and the United States have managed to resolve two of four key issues in their negotiations on a new nuclear deal, Iran's foreign minister said. Two, however, remain. Once these are resolved, Hossein Amirabdollahian said, as quoted by state news agency IRNA, Tehran will be ready to sign the new deal. One of the issues yet to be resolved is an economic guarantee, The National reported, quoting the official. The other was not named.

Source: <https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/The-Iran-Nuclear-Deal-Is-On-The-Home-Stretch.html>

8. Dozens of House Republicans are backing a resolution disapproving of any new nuclear deal with Iran amid the Russia-Ukraine war and following a recent Iranian missile attack near a U.S. consulate.

Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house-republicans-resolution-biden-iran-deal-russia>

9. "We had four issues as our red lines," but "two issues have almost been resolved," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian was quoted as saying Wednesday by state news agency IRNA, adding that "two issues remain, including [an] economic guarantee."

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-2-issues-including-economic-guarantee-need-solving-on-nuclear-deal/>



1. The Chinese government “systematically impeded” travel to Tibetan areas by US diplomats, journalists and tourists in 2021, the State Department says in a new report mandated by a law that pushes for US access to Tibet. “This report shows how far China is going to hide the truth about its horrific human rights violations in Tibet,” said Franz Matzner, government relations director of the International Campaign for Tibet. “Facts are stubborn things, though, and the global community must not let the People’s Republic of China conceal its cruelty and agenda of domination against the Tibetan people.”
Source: <https://savetibet.org/biden-administration-tibet-access-report-says-china-systematically-impeded-travel/>
2. Li Jinjin, 67, who played a key role while a student in the 1989 protests, was stabbed to death on March 14. Police in New York have arrested a 25-year-old woman in connection with the stabbing to death of a former 1989 Tiananmen Square protester, who worked as an immigration lawyer after fleeing China at the end of the two-year jail term for joining the pro-democracy protests.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/lawyer-murder-03162022141614.html>
3. As per source the Taliban have arrested TOLO news presenter Bahram Aman in Kabul, Afghanistan.
Source: <https://twitter.com/AbdulhaqOmeri/status/1504506545954078721>
4. “Children in the provinces – they are only skin on bones now – and I’m afraid this is only going to get worse,” the director of an international humanitarian organization in Afghanistan said. Since January 2022, roughly 13,000 newborns have died from malnutrition and hunger-related diseases, 95 percent of the population does not have enough to eat, and 3.5 million children need nutritional support. The United Nations has called the situation “a food insecurity and malnutrition crisis of unparalleled proportions.”
Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/17/time-running-out-address-afghanistans-hunger-crisis>
5. The Afghanistan Welfare Survey, conducted by phone and covering the October-December 2021 period, found that 70% of respondents said their households were unable to cover basic food and non-food needs, up from 35% in May 2021. The share of Afghan households switching to lower-quality or less expensive food rose to 85% from 56% in the July-August 2021 period, it found.
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177132>
6. Human Rights Watch criticized the absence of Afghan women at the International Women of Courage

Award Ceremony. Heather Barr, Associate Director of the Women's Rights Division at HRW, said that she was "quite a shock to find that this year when the US government gave out its international women of courage awards there were no Afghan women included."

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177135>

7. Authorities in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong have repatriated dozens of Vietnamese migrant workers found working illegally at a factory in Yangjiang, with four Myanmar nationals awaiting repatriating, RFA has learned.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/vietnam-myanmar-03172022142140.html>

8. Lifting sanctions on Iran will fund terrorism against Israel and throughout the Middle East, US Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-New York) warned in an interview with The Jerusalem Post this week.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-701575>