

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The Loviisa plant - comprising two VVER-440 type pressurised water reactors - was the first nuclear power plant in Finland and currently provides more than 10% of the country's electricity. Loviisa unit 1 began commercial operation in 1977, with unit 2 following in 1981. The operating licences for the units were renewed in 1998 and 2007, respectively.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Fortum-applies-to-operate-Loviisa-until-2050>
2. Until now, Japan's nuclear safety measures have focused on preparing for and responding to natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, as well as on counterterrorism. Among the measures under consideration are the deployment of interceptor missiles and using the SDF to secure nuclear power plants during peacetime, sources said. The measures are expected to be reflected in the national security strategy, to be revised by the end of this year.
Source: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Ukraine-war/Japan-weighs-deploying-Self-Defense-Forces-to-guard-nuclear-plants>
3. 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). The bidders have until November to submit their initial bids, with ČEZ expecting to have evaluated the bids and submitted its report for state approval in time for finalisation of contracts in 2024.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Tender-launched-for-new-nuclear-plant-at-Dukovany>
4. The Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Agency has opened bidding for the construction of a 4 GW nuclear plant, which will provide close to one third of Nigeria's installed generating capacity. According to the Director General of the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Agency Yau Idris, the four-reactor nuclear power plant will add a crucial 4GW of capacity to the country's energy supply and serve as a key initiative by the Nigerian government to diversify its energy mix, ensure energy security and address power outages.
Source: <https://energycapitalpower.com/nigeria-issues-tender-to-develop-4-gw-nuclear-energy-plant/>
5. Half a century ago South Africa decided to build its first nuclear power plant. The decision was correct – we now need to hurry up and build more, writes Dr Kevin Kemm for ESI Africa.
Source: <https://www.esi-africa.com/features-analysis/op-ed-is-clean-green-nuclear-energy-the-answer-to-eus-energy-security-woes/>



1. A day after a North Korean missile exploded after takeoff, there's speculation that the failed launch is related to the North's push for its first intercontinental ballistic missile test in years.
Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/explainer-what-north-korea-wants-from-recent-weapons-tests/articleshow/90303490.cms>
2. During the first two weeks of February, aviation assets from the San Diego-headquartered 3rd Marine Air Wing (MAW) were deployed to the annual Winter Fury exercise on the West Coast. The participation of the world's first operational stealth fighter, the F-117 Nighthawk, as an aggressor aircraft was the highlight of this exercise.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-marines-f-35b-chinese-designated-fighters-jets-indo-pacific/>
3. Norwegian authorities were searching Friday for a U.S. Marine Corps aircraft that went missing during a training exercise. The Marine Corps said on Twitter, We can confirm an incident has occurred involving a Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey aircraft. ... The cause of the incident is under investigation, and additional details will be provided as available.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-marine-aircraft-goes-missing-in-norway-training-exercise-122031900113_1.html
4. After training, the soldiers will return to Taiwan as instructors, the Liberty Times reported. Previous reports indicated that the self-governing island's Army was planning to send around 84 personnel – 36 tank operators and 48 maintenance staff – to train for six to nine months in the US.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-deliver-its-most-powerful-abrams-main-battle-tanks-to-taiwan/>
5. NATO navies performed two major anti-submarine warfare drills in February and early in the March. From February 7 to February 18, the Arctic Dolphin exercise led by Norway took place off the country's west coast. "The exercise was designed to facilitate the Submarine Commander Course (SMCC), which tests, assesses, and qualifies" naval officers preparing to take command of a sub, according to a press release by NATO Maritime Command
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/countering-russias-powerful-submarine-force-british-p-8-poseidons-conducted-1st-anti-sub-ops-from-a-foreign-base/>
6. The Javelin missile (FGM-148) an American-made, portable anti-tank missile system has an arced flight path, known as "top-attack" which enables it to hit tanks and heavily-armored vehicles from above, where their armor is thinnest. It can, however, also be used for direct fire in order to bring down walls, fortifications, targets in close vicinity and low-flying aircraft such as helicopters.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-701723>
7. A North Korean missile launch on Wednesday ended in failure, South Korean officials said – but the setback doesn't mean the North is done flexing its military muscle. The Wednesday missile launched from the Pyongyang region at about 9:30 a.m. was the 10th of the year so far, and there's international speculation that the North is gearing up to fire off its biggest long-range missile.
Source: <https://nypost.com/2022/03/16/north-korea-latest-missile-test-ends-in-failure-says-south-korea-officials/>



8. Four people were declared dead when a US military aircraft crashed during the NATO training exercises in northern Norway. According to the Reuters report, Ivar Bo Nilsson, of Nordland police, said: “It is regrettably confirmed that all four on board the plane have perished.”
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/four-dead-as-us-military-aircraft-crashes-in-northern-norway-during-nato-exercises-463719>
9. North Korea is warming up for test-firing an ICBM for the first time since November 2017. They say they launched a couple of satellites this month in order to test the electronics for a satellite. The great difference between a satellite and an ICBM is the former orbits the Earth while the latter flies a parabolic course to a target.
Source: <https://www.bostonherald.com/2022/03/17/kirk-kim-jong-un-like-putin-places-faith-in-nuclear-deterrent/>
10. The exchange of missile strikes by Iran and Israel in Iraq and Syria puts U.S. forces at risk, the top U.S. commander for the Middle East said Friday, just days after an Iranian missile barrage struck near the U.S. consulate complex in northern Iraq.
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-iran-israel-syria-iraq-4062b761cc397b1f4e9c4e1ee2c1c5d2>
11. North Korea’s recent test-missile explosion is unlikely to stop leader Kim Jong Un from chasing big plans this year to boost a nuclear arsenal he hopes will challenge his archrival, the United States.
Source: <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-space-launches-technology-europe-north-korea-876568625696016c7fb2d7da72add17d>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. It will be “impossible to imagine” a nuclear deal with Iran if detained Americans are not released, a senior US official said Thursday. As indirect talks on a new nuclear deal between Washington and Tehran appear to be heading for the finish line, one of the main sticking points remains the detained US citizens.
Source: <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2022/03/18/-Impossible-to-imagine-nuclear-deal-if-Iran-doesn-t-release-Americans-Sherman>
2. The United States is on the brink of returning to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and other major powers, and an agreement to do so could be reached within days in spite of recent setbacks, a State Department spokesperson has told Newsweek.
Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/us-says-iran-nuclear-deal-can-revived-coming-days-despite-setbacks-1689145>
3. United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Commander Gen. Frank McKenzie on Friday told reporters "The No. 1 objective of the United States with regard to Iran is Iran not [to] possess a nuclear weapon. So I think any solution that closes that path to them contributes to regional



security...They want sanctions relief. And I believe they're probably willing to talk about the nuclear issue in order to get the sanctions relief."

Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/iran-nuclear-deal-sanction-relief-greatest-threat-middle-east-centcom>

4. Iran has converted a fraction of its stockpile of highly enriched uranium into material crucial for detecting cancers and other diseases, the U.N. nuclear watchdog and an Iranian media report said Friday.

Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/iran-ap-tehran-international-atomic-energy-agency-united-arab-emirates-b2039002.html>

5. After winning a bitterly contested presidential election, South Korean conservative Yoon Suk-yeol will enter office facing a quickly growing North Korean nuclear threat — and with few easy choices ahead to deal with it.

Source: <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2022-03-16/seouls-next-leader-faces-limited-choices-over-north-korea>

UN REFORMS

1. A new US Congress report assessment indicated that foreign diplomats, journalists and tourists were "systematically" denied access to Tibet over the past year.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/us-congress-report-says-china-systematically-denied-access-to-tibet-122031900110_1.html
2. Researchers in China have developed a microwave machine "Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)", that could jam or destroy satellites in space. The device can generate a wave burst measuring 5-megawatts in the Ka-band, a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum increasingly used for both civil and military purposes, citing Asia Times, Taiwan News reported.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/china-develops-laser-weapon-that-could-destroy-satellites-in-space-122031900102_1.html
3. Taiwan issue needs to be handled properly to avert a negative impact on relations between US and China, President Xi Jinping has told counterpart Joe Biden on Friday as per Chinese media reports.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/taiwan-issue-needs-to-be-handled-properly-xi-tells-biden-during-video-call-463654>
4. Two people in Indonesia have died while queuing to buy cooking oil, as stocks run low. The tragedies occurred in East Kalimantan on the island of Borneo, which is one of the largest producers of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) and fresh palm oil fruit in Indonesia.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/indonesias-cooking-oil-shortage-turns-deadly-two-killed-after-queuing-for-liquid-gold-463809>
5. With an aim to exit the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Islamabad is planning to reduce the number of terrorists in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), according to security sources.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-pares-down-terrorist-numbers-in-pok-to-convince-fatf-122031900389_1.html
6. Pakistan will recognise the Taliban regime in Afghanistan when there is a consensus, particularly of regional countries, on the issue, Dawn news quoted Munir Akram, Islamabad's UN envoy, as saying.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pak-will-recognise-taliban-regime-when-there-s-regional-consensus-122031900282_1.html
7. As the fighting continues in Myanmar, the humanitarian needs increased as the country became unstable after the February 1, 2021 coup by Tatmadaw (Myanmar's armed forces)
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/humanitarian-needs-in-myanmar-grow-as-fighting-continues-122031900078_1.html
8. Having failed at the democracy game, the Tatmadaw, as the armed forces are called, fell back on its older tactics. Junta leader General Min Aung Hlaing and his allies insisted there had been widespread election fraud, and on February 1, 2021 they arrested Aung San Suu Kyi and other NLD leaders, and proclaimed that after one year of a state of emergency, there would be new elections.

Source: <https://www.eurasiareview.com/18032022-struggle-for-democracy-continues-in-myanmar-amid-deepening-violence-and-humanitarian-crisis-analysis/>

9. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for action against racial discrimination. "Realizing the vision of a world free of racism and racial discrimination demands action every day, at every level, in every society," he told a commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/un-chief-antonio-guterres-calls-for-action-against-racial-discrimination-122031900105_1.html