

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Nuclear batteries, dubbed Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators or RTGs, have been powering spacecrafts for more than six decades. They perform two key functions: Providing power to keep the on-board instruments running, and supplying heat to protect the instruments from the cold environs of space.
Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/science-technology/countries-bet-big-on-nuclear-energy-to-explore-deep-space-81902>
2. Belgium on Friday delayed by a decade a plan to scrap nuclear energy in 2025, spooked by the huge rise in energy prices due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
Source: <https://techxplore.com/news/2022-03-belgium-nuclear-energy-exit-years.html>
3. Nuclear power is a critical part of many national electricity grids. European countries especially rely on nuclear power, including France, where it produces 69per cent of the nation's electricity supply, Ukraine (51per cent), Hungary (46per cent), Finland (34per cent) and Sweden (31per cent).
Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/business/russias-energy-clout-doesnt-just-come-from-oil-and-gas-its-also-a-key-nuclear-supplier/articleshow/90334629.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst
4. Chris Keefer, president of Canadians for Nuclear Energy, said excluding nuclear from green bonds did not make sense, because Ontario had shown it could help decarbonize a grid.
Source: <https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/is-nuclear-energy-green-or-not-federal-government-sending-conflicting-messages-critics-say>
5. Belgium's government will work to extend the life of two nuclear reactors beyond their original shutdown date of 2025 to secure supply amid record high energy prices.
Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-03-19/belgium-to-extend-life-of-nuclear-reactors-for-another-decade>
6. The Ukrainian State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate warned that "the loss of the possibility to cool down nuclear fuel will lead to significant radioactive releases into the environment," which could "exceed all previous accidents at nuclear power plants, including the Chernobyl accident and the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant."
Source: <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/nuclear-power-can-be-part-of-the-energy-solution-if-we-can-get-over-our-fear-of-radiation-11647628613>



MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. Three squadrons of US Marine Corps F-35Bs will assemble aboard the USS Tripoli (LHA-7) in early April to thoroughly evaluate the 'Lightning Carrier' concept.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/lightning-carrier-f-35b-stealth-fighters-us-to-test-new-a-concept/>
2. The EurAsian Times had reported on February 9 that Russia stationed a MiG-31K 'Foxhound' fighter jet armed with a Kinzhal hypersonic missile in Kaliningrad along the Baltic Coast.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russia-us-join-the-infamous-list-of-using-deadly-weapons-in-a-war/>
3. Boeing is planning to officially offer its top dogfighter and one of the world's fastest jets — F-15EX to the Indian Air Force and drop F-18 Super Hornet from the lucrative Indian MRCA (Multi-Role Combat Aircraft) competition.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/boeing-to-offer-worlds-fastest-heavy-duty-fighters-to-india/>
4. The enhanced presence of the US Air Force & Navy in the Indo-Pacific could mean more encounters with the Chinese military, as was recently revealed by the Pacific Air Force Chief Kenneth Wilsbach about the F-35 and J-20 stealth fighters.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/j-20-fighters-us-air-force-says-not-ready-for-21st-century-battle-with-china/>
5. North Korea appeared to have fired a short-range multiple rocket launcher on Sunday, South Korea's military said, amid heightened military tensions on the peninsula after a spate of larger missile launches by the nuclear-armed North.
<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-701777>
6. One of the oft-mentioned weapons that the US has been constantly supplying to the Ukrainian army is the Javelin anti-tank missile system. The Javelin missile (FGM-148) is an American-made, portable anti-tank missile system in service since 1996. The missile is based on infrared guidance technology and has lock-on-target capabilities, which allows the shooter to "fire-and-forget" - to search for cover or prepare the next missile as soon as the previous one was launched, without having to guide it to its target.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-701723>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Amid pressure from Israel over the reported possibility that Washington could remove Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from its terror blacklist, a State Department official told The Times of Israel on Saturday that the US was ready to make "difficult decisions" in order to revive the nuclear deal with Iran.
Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-ready-to-make-tough-decisions-to-revive-iran-nuclear-deal->



2. Agreement on the international deal on Iran's nuclear programme could be reached within 48 hours, a senior participant in talks has said.
Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/iran-nuclear-simon-coveney-oil-b2039498.html>
3. On Friday, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid broke their long silence on Iran and admonished US President Joe Biden for considering removing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps from the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-701789>
4. Iran nuclear deal would make Biden 'the biggest funder of terrorism in the world': Rep. Jim Banks. He explained the dire effects of passing an Iran nuclear deal Saturday on "Lawrence Jones Cross Country."
Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/media/iran-nuclear-deal-biden-biggest-funder-terrorism-world-rep-jim-banks>
5. Agreement on the international deal on Iran's nuclear programme could be reached within 48 hours, a senior participant in talks has said, according to the Independent.
Source: <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/184990/Iran-nuclear-deal-could-be-agreed-within-48-hours-report>
6. Iran was due on Sunday to provide new answers to the International Atomic Energy Agency to try to talk its way out of evidence the Mossad had obtained in 2018 of the nuclear dimensions of its program.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-701821>
7. Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson joined 'Fox & Friends Weekend' Sunday to voice his concerns over a possible Iranian nuclear deal, warning that President Biden's perceived 'weakness' could have implications.
Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/media/lifting-sanctions-on-terrorists-will-not-prevent-iran-going-nuclear-sen-ron-johnson>

UN REFORMS

1. Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu on Saturday warned China against changing international order by spreading authoritarianism. Wu said in an interview with Australia's Sky News that China "wants to change the international order" and spread its authoritarian system to Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific. He said that if Taiwan falls, the rest of the region will be impacted, reported Taiwan News.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/taiwan-s-foreign-minister-warns-china-against-changing-international-order-122032000065_1.html
2. Expressing concern over the situation in Myanmar, India and Japan called for an immediate cessation of violence throughout Myanmar and a return to the path of democracy
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/india-japan-urge-myanmar-to-end-violence-and-return-to-democracy-122032000026_1.html
3. Sam Mort, communications chief for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Afghanistan, said 13 million children in Afghanistan are in dire need of international assistance.
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177194>
4. A number of former government judges at a protest in Kabul called on the Islamic Emirate to make a decision about their future. They claimed that it has been 7 months since they received their salaries and have not been allowed to go back to work.
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177193>
5. Afghanistan was listed as the world's unhappiest country for the second year in a row. Kabul residents said unemployment and poverty negatively affect people's psychology and make them unhappy.
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177183>
6. China's soon-to-be-launched Luojia-3 01 satellite may test a new technology that could provide smartphone users with near-instant access to high-definition cameras in space, according to reports.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinas-mind-boggling-offer-to-world-100-real-time-access-to-satellite-images-videos-reserved-for-elites/>
7. The Taliban on Friday claimed that the Islamic Emirate has fulfilled commitments for international recognition.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/taliban-claims-to-have-fulfilled-requirements-of-international-recognition-122032000042_1.html
8. The Biden administration has formally determined that violence committed against the Rohingya minority by Myanmar's military amounts to genocide and crimes against humanity, US officials told Reuters, a move that advocates say should bolster efforts to hold the junta that now runs Myanmar accountable.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-701848>
9. The Saudi-led coalition said early on Sunday that the Iran-aligned Houthi group launched four attacks on the kingdom that damaged civilian cars and homes but caused no casualties, state media reported.



Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-701767>

10. US Central Command head Gen. Frank McKenzie is concerned that Israel-Iran tensions could affect US forces in the region as he prepares to retire. “I do worry about these exchanges between Iran and Israel because many times our forces are at risk, whether we’re in Iraq or in Syria,” he said in a briefing on Friday, according to a transcript from the US Department of Defense.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-701724>

11. After years of declining to crackdown on one of the largest hubs of pro-Hezbollah and pro-Iranian regime activity in Germany, the city-state of Bremen on Thursday closed the Al-Mustafa Community Center due to its support for terrorism against Israel.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-701705>