



DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Belgium's federal government has decided to allow Doel 4 and Tihange 3 to continue operating until 2035 in order to allow the country to "strengthen its independence of fossil fuels in turbulent geopolitical times". The coalition government had earlier agreed to phase out the use of nuclear energy by 2025.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Extended-operation-of-two-Belgian-reactors-approve>
2. Sellafield Ltd's Programme and Project Partners (PPP) has announced the winners of a mechanical and pipework framework agreement. Balfour Beatty Kilpatrick and Doosan Babcock have been appointed to the framework, which is worth GBP112-237 million (USD148-312 million) over the 18-year life of the programme.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/PPP-awards-third-Sellafield-framework>
3. As the US Administration unveiled its "bold decadal vision" to accelerate fusion energy, the Department of Energy (DOE) has announced up to USD50 million of federal funding to support US scientists conducting experimental research in fusion energy science at tokamak and spherical tokamak facilities at home and overseas.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/US-Administration-shares-vision-for-commercial-fus>
4. While Europe appears to be turning to nuclear energy, high costs are stopping the U.S. from following suit. Only the US government has the borrowing capacity for the large-scale nuclear projects that would be necessary. Chinese officials announced a plan to construct 150 new nuclear plants within the next fifteen years, the U.S. government should be taking note.
Source: <https://oilprice.com/Energy/General/What-Is-Holding-US-Nuclear-Energy-Back.html>
5. As of 2020, Europe imported almost 60% of its energy requirements from Russia, having not been able to produce enough energy to meet its demands. The process of mining uranium to making it usable to building a nuclear reactor and ensuring it runs is quite complex and this makes it simply very difficult to shift or dismantle a project as compared to fossil fuel production.
Source: <https://thefederal.com/international/russias-nuclear-power-as-energy-supplier-goes-beyond-oil-gas-lines/>
6. 'Nuclear renaissance' is undoubtedly gaining traction and sweeping policy agendas for global energy markets, with the likes Germany opting to decommission nuclear fleets; while others are integrating this technology in the revolution of their future energy mix. The Philippines, too, is toying with the idea of a potential nuclear energy mix.
Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/03/20/ph-riding-on-nuclear-energy-renaissance/>
7. Earlier this month, Elon Musk tweeted that he thinks that Europe should restart its dormant nuclear power stations to deal with the energy crisis resulting from the Ukraine war. Belgium announced on Friday that it would delay its plans to scrub nuclear by one more decade, according to Tech Explore.



Source: <https://interestingengineering.com/belgium-postpones-exit-nuclear-energy>

8. The government is rushing to make a rapid course correction in its nuclear energy policy, as evidenced by the energy minister calling for swift construction of four nuclear energy plants, a plan that has long been stalled and faced political disruptions under the Moon Jae-in administration.
Source: https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/03/356_325808.html
9. Nuclear energy, once deemed unsuitable for Singapore, has been identified as a potential power source for the country by 2050 in a new report published on Tuesday (March 22). The report, commissioned by the Energy Market Authority (EMA), concluded that nuclear energy could by 2050 supply about 10 per cent of the country's needs, with advancements in nuclear technology making it safer and more reliable.
Source: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/environment/singapore-exploring-tapping-nuclear-energy-by-2050>
10. The UK prime minister said last week that he may consider shifting to nuclear power to offset rising prices of natural gas, which have spurted up by about 150% in Europe since the start of the war in Ukraine. This price increase is more than double.
Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ianpalmer/2022/03/20/natural-gas-versus-nuclear-energy-in-europe-the-challenges-of-war-and-climate/?sh=2f7a292a63ec>
11. China has recently launched a nuclear heating project at the Hongyanhe Nuclear Power Station in the northeastern city of Dalian.
Source: <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-03-21/Nuclear-heating-system-on-the-way-in-China-s-northeast-18Ahtw55wre/index.html>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. The United States cannot independently confirm or refute a Russian claim over the weekend that it fired hypersonic missiles at a Ukrainian target, but the use of such a weapon makes little sense from a military perspective and could be meant to send a message, a senior U.S. defense official said on Monday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-cannot-confirm-russian-claim-hypersonic-missile-us-defense-official-2022-03-21/>
2. An unmarked military convoy carrying “up to six” nuclear warheads passed through Glasgow. The convoy was tracked from the M6 motorway near Kendal, Cumbria, to the M74 at Lesmahagow, about 25 miles south of Glasgow, before arriving at Royal Naval Armaments Depot Coulport (RNAD) on Loch Long at around 11:30 p.m on Saturday.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/ukraine-war-british-nato-military-convoy-carrying-nuclear-glasgow/>
3. The United States government transferred a number of Patriot antimissile interceptors to Saudi Arabia



in order to fulfil an urgent request from Riyadh amid tensions between the two nations.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/us-sends-anti-missile-interceptors-to-saudi-arabia-fulfills-urgent-request-464250>

4. The US Navy, which has lagged behind Russia in developing hypersonic weapons, is looking to deploy its first on a warship in early 2023, the Associated Press reported.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/armed-with-hypersonic-missiles-us-navy-to-deploy-its-nuke-submarines-china/>
5. The Chengdu J-20 is a single-seat, multi-role stealth fighter that serves as a symbol of China's growing air power as the plane has been featured prominently in military parades and air shows across the country. Last year, the J-20 reportedly entered mass production after replacing the Russian AL-31F Turbofan engine with a domestically built WS-10. According to Chinese plans, the current WS-10C engine is further to be replaced by the latest and more advanced WS-15.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/as-indias-amca-stealth-jet-enters-production-challenger-to-china-j-20/>
6. Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group fired missiles and drones at Saudi energy and water desalination facilities, causing a temporary drop in output at a refinery but no casualties, the Saudi energy ministry and state media said on Sunday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/saudi-led-coalition-says-four-houthi-attacks-hit-targets-kingdom-no-casualties-2022-03-19/>
7. As teams are being rushed to the site where a China Eastern Airlines plane crashed in China's Guangxi region, several videos have emerged on social media showing the final minutes of the plane crash. According to officials, the passenger jet carrying 132 people crashed onto a mountainside shortly after losing contact with air traffic control.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/watch-final-moments-of-china-plane-caught-on-camera-just-before-crash-464336>
8. The Boeing 737 aircraft of China Eastern Airlines, which flew from Kunming to Guangzhou, crashed in Tengxian County near the city of Wuzhou, causing a mountain fire in the worst air disaster in the country in over a decade.
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/hopes-of-survivors-among-132-people-aboard-in-china-s-plane-crash-recede-122032101287_1.html

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. The effort to revive the 2015 nuclear deal agreement now hinges on perhaps the most politically sensitive issue in the negotiations: whether to remove the U.S. terrorism designation for Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, the country's powerful security force, diplomats said.
Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/iran-nuclear-deals-final-hurdle-is-lifting-terrorism-sanctions-on-revolutionary-guards-11647864073>



2. Iran's supreme leader on Monday signaled support for Tehran's nuclear negotiations to secure sanctions relief, a rare reference to still-halted talks as world powers near a diplomatic turning point
Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/iran-leader-signals-support-for-nuclear-negotiations-at-critical-stage-122032101294_1.html

UN REFORMS

1. The United States has formally determined that violence committed against the Rohingya minority by Myanmar's military amounts to genocide and crimes against humanity, an official told news agencies.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/united-states-determines-myanmar-army-committed-genocide-against-rohingya-464174>
2. Despite Chinese President Xi Jinping's repeated promises, a top US military officer has claimed that China has fully militarized at least three of the several man-made islands it constructed in the highly-contested South China Sea.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinese-military-occupation-of-three-islands-in-the-south-china-sea/>
3. The Biden administration has formally determined that violence committed against the Rohingya minority by Myanmar's military amounts to genocide and crimes against humanity, U.S. officials told Reuters, a move that advocates say should bolster efforts to hold the junta that now runs Myanmar accountable.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/exclusive-biden-administration-rules-myanmar-army-committed-genocide-against-2022-03-20/>
4. No agreement has been reached so far at the Russian-Ukrainian peace talks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/no-breakthrough-yet-at-russian-ukraine-peace-talks-says-kremlin-464321>
5. Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is a senior Congress leader, on Sunday (March 20) said that "Pakistan and militancy" are responsible for what has happened in Jammu and Kashmir.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/pakistan-and-militancy-responsible-for-what-has-happened-in-jk-says-ghulam-nabi-azad-464301>
6. According to an article published in The Washington Post, Khalid Payenda, Afghanistan's former Finance Minister, now makes a living as an Uber driver in Washington.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/khalid-payenda-former-afghanistan-finance-minister-drives-taxi-in-us-464275>
7. Officials in Sri Lanka stated on Sunday that two 70-year-old men died while waiting in serpentine lines



outside gas stations. While dealing with a historic foreign reserve crisis, Sri Lanka is suffering from a severe fuel scarcity.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/cash-strapped-sri-lanka-two-70-year-olds-die-waiting-in-queue-for-fuel-464273>

8. The Pakistan Army's top brass, led by General Qamar Javed Bajwa, has reportedly asked Prime Minister Imran Khan to resign after the conference of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) scheduled for this month.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/pakistan-army-asks-imran-khan-to-resign-after-oic-conference-say-reports-463978>

9. China is considering offering a \$1.5 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka and a decision is expected soon, a top Chinese official said on Monday, as part of efforts to help the island nation amid its worst economic crisis in decades.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/sri-lanka-talks-with-china-25-bln-credit-support-chinese-official-2022-03-21/>

10. Russia's ambassador said on Monday he hoped that efforts to revive Iran's 2015 nuclear accord would resume after the Nowruz Persian New Year holidays, TASS news agency reported.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/russia-hopes-efforts-revive-2015-iran-nuclear-deal-resume-after-nowruz-tass-2022-03-21/>