

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. President Rodrigo Duterte has signed an executive order outlining the government's stance on nuclear energy's participation in the Philippines' energy mix, taking into account economic, political, social, and environmental goals.  
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Philippines-relaunches-nuclear-energy-programme>
2. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has proposed a ten-point plan to help the European Union cut its natural gas imports from Russia by more than a third in a year, including maximising generation from existing low-emissions sources like nuclear power. Delaying the closing of EU reactors that are set to shut down in the coming year might reduce EU gas demand by over 1 billion cubic metres per month.  
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Reconsider-nuclear-shutdowns-to-cut-gas-imports,-I>
3. The operational licences for both units 1 and 2 of the Loviisa nuclear power station will be renewed until the end of 2050, according to Finnish utility Fortum.  
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Fortum-to-seek-licence-extension-for-Loviisa-plant>
4. Subject to regulatory permissions, Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation (USNC) aims to start operations at its Pilot Fuel Manufacturing (PFM) facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, later this year. The facility will convert feedstock uranium powder into TRISO fuel particles and then generate numerous kilogrammes of the company's patented FCM fuel.  
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/USNC-eyes-summer-start-up-for-Oak-Ridge-fuel-plant>

### **MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS**

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1. On March 2, Ukraine's defense minister Oleksiy Reznikov announced that new combat-ready TB2s had arrived in the country as part of a larger international military assistance package.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/ukraine-receives-more-game-changing-bayraktar-tb2-uavs/>
2. Russia is believed to have deployed Sukhoi Su-34 'Fullback' strike aircraft to intensify its military offensive against Ukraine.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russia-deploy-its-heavy-duty-sukhoi-su-34-fighter-bombers-for-ukraine-ops/>



3. Only a few countries in the world have amphibious aircraft that can fly as well as swim. Even as the US boasts the biggest and most advanced aircraft fleet in the world, it does not possess an amphibious plane yet. During the Cope North exercise held recently, US Air Force airmen got up close and personal with the Japanese ShinMaywa US-2 amphibious aircraft.  
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-air-force-looks-to-develop-its-own-flying-boats-as-china-takes-lead/>
4. Germany's economic ministry approves the delivery of 2,700 anti-aircraft missiles to Ukraine. Latvia sends 90 drones to Ukraine. The unmanned aerial vehicles were donated by local companies and have already been received by Kiev.  
Source: <https://twitter.com/NewsComWorld/status/1499423143831945216>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. The Biden administration is inching closer to an agreement to salvage the Iran nuclear deal but there are still a number of unresolved issues that could cause the efforts to fail, a senior administration official and State Department spokesperson told CNN.  
Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/03/03/politics/iran-nuclear-deal-us/index.html>
2. Talks over the Iran nuclear deal seem to be coming to a head — either with an agreement or without one. The aim is to bring the U.S. and Iran into compliance with the agreement Trump pulled out of.  
Source: <https://www.npr.org/2022/03/03/1084310538/pressure-is-on-to-wrap-up-iran-nuclear-deal-talks>
3. Talks on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal appeared to near a climax with talk of an imminent ministerial meeting as a U.N. report on Thursday showed Iran is most of the way to amassing enough enriched uranium for one bomb if purified further.  
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-nuclear-talks-appear-near-climax-no-deal-yet-2022-03-03/>
4. Israel will continue to do whatever it takes to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear capabilities, even if a deal is reached between Tehran and the West, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said Wednesday night.  
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-699181>

## UN REFORMS

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1. Chinese crews working on a government-ordered railway line are tunneling through a mountain sacred to Tibetan residents of Sichuan, using artillery fire to weaken the rock face and speed their work, Tibetan sources say.  
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/tunnels-03032022125545.html>
2. A North Korean greenhouse project promised to provide citizens of a rural province with more vegetables than they could ever eat. But two years later, the food is bypassing their mouths and being shipped to the capital Pyongyang to be served to the country's elites, sources told RFA.  
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/korea/veggies-03022022182230.html>
3. Ba'imhan Mamut, a retired Uyghur postal worker in China's Xinjiang region who had been released from an internment camp because of health problems was rearrested in 2020 and sentenced to another 10 years in prison for participating in "illegal religious activities," her daughter, who lives in the U.S., and officials in the region said.  
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/baimhan-mamut-03022022165411.html>
4. The Chinese government's move to shut down more than 150 Uyghur cultural research and language organizations is another indication of the cultural eradication of the mostly Muslim community, those once involved in the organizations and Uyghur artists said.  
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/deregistered-organizations-03012022193543.html>
5. A pro-Beijing newspaper in Hong Kong has accused Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kai, the former bishop of Hong Kong, of abusing his clerical status to engage in anti-China activities.  
Source: <https://www.ucanews.com/news/hong-kongs-pro-beijing-newspaper-attacks-cardinal-zen/96304#>
6. A top barrister, Paul Harris, has been forced to leave Hong Kong. This doesn't come as a surprise, it's a reflection of just how far the city's Human Rights crisis has deteriorated.  
Source: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/british-human-rights-barrister-leaves-hong-kong-after-police-questioning-n6wncnmxh>
7. There have been growing concerns among the US leadership that Taiwan might be targeted next by China. The anxiety was reflected when former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, one of former president Donald Trump's most hawkish advisors on China, arrived in Taipei on Wednesday for a visit.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/pompeo-voices-concern-over-taiwan-as-russian-invasion-of-ukraine-unfolds-458666>
8. Former US president Donald Trump has claimed that Taiwan might be the next potential target, suggesting that the present conflict in Europe might give enough fodder for China to launch an attack. In an interview with Fox News on Wednesday, Trump was quoted as saying, "Taiwan is going to be next. Just watch Taiwan; President Xi is watching with glee."

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/just-watch-taiwan-is-going-to-be-next-trump-warns-as-russia-ukraine-war-rages-on-458579>

9. Germany is planning to increase its weapons deliveries to Ukraine by sending 2,700 anti-aircraft missiles, a government source revealed while speaking to AFP. The source further said that the government "approved further support for Ukraine."  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/germany-planning-to-increase-weapons-deliveries-to-war-torn-ukraine-report-458538>
10. According to a recent report of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), more than 1 million children will need treatment for severe acute malnutrition. As Afghanistan goes through a severe humanitarian and economic crisis, thousands of children have recently engaged in hazardous work seeking to make money and feed their families.  
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-176953>
11. The UN Secretary-General's special envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, said that the reconstitution of the Afghan economy needs international community engagement with the current Afghan government.  
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-176948>
12. The report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka shows the rights situation in alarming decline and contradicts government claims of improvement, Human Rights Watch said today. The report, issued on February 25, 2022, documents discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities and security forces' targeting of civil society groups, while accountability for past abuses has been blocked.  
Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/03/sri-lanka-un-report-describes-alarming-rights-situation>
13. With the Russia-Ukraine conflict intensifying, US President Joe Biden had a 'constructive conversation' with other Quad leaders, the White House said on Thursday. The rapidly evolving situation in Ukraine was discussed by the Quad leaders, which include Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/constructive-conversation-quad-leaders-discuss-ukraine-situation-458750>
14. In a potential move to tighten economic screws against Russia, the London Stock Exchange has suspended trading in 27 companies that have strong links with Russia. These companies include Gazprom and Sberbank. Gazprom is Russian energy company.  
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/business-economy/trading-in-27-companies-that-have-links-to-russia-suspended-by-london-stock-exchange-458698>
15. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar once again called on the international community to remove sanctions on Afghanistan.  
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-176949>
16. The members of the UN Security Council on Wednesday held a conference to discuss the situation in Afghanistan as the country struggles with a humanitarian and economic crisis despite efforts of humanitarian organizations.  
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-176945>

17. Dozens of former judges held a demonstration in the capital Kabul to criticize what they called an “uncertain fate” and the Taliban's negligence toward them.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-176937>

18. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke with Quad leaders (India, US, Japan, Australia) and discussed situation in Ukraine. The discussion included humanitarian implications of the conflict. PM Modi emphasized that there was need to return to path of dialogue and diplomacy.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/pm-modi-discusses-ukraine-situation-with-quad-leaders-458707>