

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The main equipment has been installed in the reactor building of Unit 1 of the Akkuyu nuclear power project in Turkey. The VVER-1200, which was supplied by Russia, is set to begin operations next year.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Major-components-in-place-at-Akkuyu-1>
2. In its statement the SNRIU said Zaporozhe's six power units "remain intact, the unit 1 reactor compartment auxiliary buildings have been damaged, which does not affect the safety of the unit. The systems and components important to the safety of the NPP are operational. At present, no changes in the radiation situation have been registered."
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-appeal-after-shelling-and-fire-at-Zaporozhe>
3. The replacement of three steam generators at the Koeberg nuclear power plant's unit 2 has been postponed until August 2023, according to South African utility Eskom. The decision was made due to worries that the reactor would not be back in service in time for the high-demand winter season after the present outage.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Koeberg-2-steam-generator-replacement-postponed>
4. Belgium's SCK-CEN nuclear research centre has received all the licences needed for the construction and operation of a facility to support the RECUMO project to manage and recycle radioactive residues from the production of medical radioisotopes.
Source: <https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Belgian-regulators-OK-isotope-residue-facility>
5. The stock of enriched uranium amassed by Iran in breach of its 2015 nuclear deal is growing to the point that its most highly-enriched material is most of the way to a common bomb yardstick, a report by the UN nuclear watchdog showed on Thursday.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-699238>
6. Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian says he is ready to travel to Vienna to finalise an agreement on restoring the country's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers as soon as all of its "red lines" are considered.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/4/iran-jcpoa-agreement-possible-as-soon-as-red-lines-considered>
7. International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Grossi will visit Tehran on Saturday in an effort to reach certain understandings in the shadow of a potential impending deal at the nuclear talks in Vienna between Iran and the world powers.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-699182>



1. An F-35C Lightning II aircraft, which had crashed while attempting to land on an aircraft carrier in the South China Sea in January, has been recovered, the US Navy said. A robot submarine attached rigging lines to the long-range joint strike stealth fighter. It was then raised from a depth of 3,780 meters (12,400 feet) using a ship's crane on Wednesday, the 7th Fleet said.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/finally-us-navy-recovers-crashed-f-35c-lightning-ii-aircraft-from-south-china-sea-458883>
2. Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Friday that the country would not send arms to Ukraine after Ukrainian representatives had asked the country's Senate for arms and military assistance a day earlier.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/rates-bonds/mexico-will-not-send-arms-ukraine-president-says-2022-03-04/>
3. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on Friday the West's "haste" to reach a nuclear deal "cannot prevent the observance of Iran's red lines," including economic guarantees.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-foreign-minister-says-nuclear-deal-subject-irans-red-lines-2022-03-04/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. An agreement may be reached this weekend in indirect talks between Iran and the United States on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, the European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Friday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/agreement-iran-nuclear-deal-may-be-found-this-weekend-eus-borrell-says-2022-03-04/>
2. On Saturday, UN nuclear chief Rafael Grossi will travel to Tehran to try to address one of the remaining issues: Iran's demand that an inquiry into its undeclared nuclear activities be stopped. Grossi's visit's success or failure could determine the deal's destiny.
Source: <https://www.axios.com/iran-nuclear-deal-28a4ee9d-37c8-4647-ae7-f61fd4195f76.html>
3. The US stated on Thursday that a "possible deal" on a new Iranian nuclear agreement is close to being reached, but that multiple sticking points have hindered a deal, and that time is running out. Negotiators gathering in Vienna to try to save the 2015 nuclear deal, which is supposed to keep Tehran from getting an atomic bomb, have made "substantial progress," according to State Department deputy spokeswoman Jalina Porter, echoing other countries in recent weeks.
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/iran-nuclear-talks-iran-nuclear-deal-iran-nuclear-talks-2015-success-is-never-guaranteed-us-missive-on-iran-nuclear-deal-talks-2802826>
4. Talks advance in Vienna while U.N. atomic agency reports Iran has almost enough near-weapons-



grade nuclear fuel for a bomb.

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-n-report-shows-iran-has-almost-enough-highly-enriched-uranium-for-a-nuclear-bomb-11646316141>

5. Russia's chief negotiator in talks to revive a 2015 nuclear deal between world powers and Iran said on Friday that he thought a deal was possible in the middle of next week.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/russias-envoy-sees-iran-deal-middle-next-week-2022-03-04/>
6. Oil prices reversed lower Thursday on hopes for a revived deal to restrict Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons that also would allow the Middle Eastern country to increase crude exports.
Source: <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/commodities/oil-prices-iran-nuclear-deal-crude-exports-russia-ukraine-sanctions-2022-3>
7. Dow Jones futures fell solidly Friday morning, along with S&P 500 futures and Nasdaq futures, after Russian troops seized Europe's largest nuclear power plant. Futures sold off Thursday night on reports that a fire broke out at the Ukrainian nuclear power plant complex.
Source: <https://www.investors.com/market-trend/stock-market-today/dow-jones-futures-fall-ukraine-nuclear-power-plant-reportedly-on-fire/>
8. A deal on reviving the 2015 accord between Tehran and world powers on Iran's nuclear programme is "close", Britain said on Friday, at a crunch point for negotiations in Vienna.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/uk-says-iran-nuclear-deal-close-european-diplomats-to-consult-with-ministers-459036>
9. Indirect talks between Iran and the United States on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal are close to reaching an agreement, the chief British envoy said on Friday as she and her French and German colleagues flew home to brief ministers.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/we-are-close-uk-envoy-iran-nuclear-talks-says-europeans-fly-home-2022-03-04/>
10. Whether this week is the final stretch, as all parties have said, or whether nuclear negotiations with Iran might be drawn out until the IAEA Board of Governors meeting, which is set for March 7-11 next week, one thing is almost certain. Some decision is imminent.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-699270>

UN REFORMS

1. Chinese authorities have banned major religious activities in monasteries in and near Tibet's regional capital Lhasa during the Lunar New Year, the move is a further encroachment by China on Tibetan religion and national culture.
Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/bans-03042022133837.html>
2. With the aim of eliminating Uyghur culture, China has ordered the closure of nearly 160 organisations that are focused on understanding the traditional Uyghur culture.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/aiming-to-diminish-uyghur-culture-china-orders-closure-of-160-organisations-459070>
3. The head of the UN nuclear watchdog offered Friday to travel to Chernobyl to negotiate with Ukraine and Russia and ensure the security of Ukraine's nuclear sites.
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/ukraine-war-un-nuclear-watchdog-chiefs-chernobyl-trip-offer-for-nuclear-safety-talks-2803574>
4. The United States should formally recognise Taiwan as a country, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Friday during a speech in Taipei, drawing a stern rebuke from China for his "babbling nonsense".
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/us-should-recognise-taiwan-former-top-diplomat-pompeo-says-2022-03-04/>
5. 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/>
6. NATO foreign ministers have met in Brussels for a special summit on Ukraine. The alliance has imposed more sanctions on Russian President Vladimir Putin and his inner circle.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/inside-story/2022/3/4/will-nato-get-involved-in-the-war-in-ukraine>
7. Leaders of the Quad grouping of countries - the United States, India, Australia and Japan - agreed on Thursday that what is happening to Ukraine should not be allowed to happen in the Indo-Pacific, the prime ministers of Japan and Australia said.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/biden-quad-leaders-discuss-ukraine-thursday-white-house-2022-03-03/>
8. A senior United States diplomat apologised to thousands of Afghans stranded in the United Arab Emirates and promised to speed repatriation for some to the US, months after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban last year.
Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/4/us-official-meets-afghans-stranded-in-uae->

9. A U.S. Navy salvage team has recovered the F-35C Lightning II aircraft which crashed last month in the South China Sea, the U.S. 7th Fleet said. The wreckage was recovered on Wednesday from a depth of approximately 12,400 feet (3,779 meters), the Fleet's spokesperson, Cdr. Amanda S. Kitchner, said in a statement.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/southchinasea-usa-f35-03042022081841.html>

10. After a series of administrative delays, US electric car pioneer Tesla is on the verge of receiving the go-ahead from German authorities on Friday to begin production at its "giga-factory" outside Berlin.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/amid-environmental-concerns-tesla-awaits-green-light-to-start-production-at-german-plant-458856>