

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Zaporizhzhia is the largest of Ukraine's four nuclear power plants, which together provide about half the country's electricity. This is the first time war has broken out in a country with such a large and established nuclear power programme, the International Atomic Energy Agency says.
Source: <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/russia-ukraine-war-russia-seize-nuclear-power-plant-in-ukraine-5-facts-about-zaporizhzhia-2803228>
2. In response to the fire at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, US Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm said on Friday that the Department of Energy has "activated its Nuclear Incident Response Team" and is monitoring the situation.
Source: <https://zeenews.india.com/world/us-to-activate-nuke-response-team-after-attack-on-ukraines-nuclear-power-plant-2441995.html>
3. Ukraine's local state authorities said a fire had broken out at a building which functions as a training center outside the nuclear plant. Night time video footage from the plant showed the building on fire and shells were seen dropping on and around it, followed by an explosion near it.
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/expained-what-happened-at-ukraines-zaporizhzhia-nuclear-power-plant/article65190545.ece>
4. The UK is planning to remove a Chinese company from a £20 billion (\$27B) nuclear power plant project, a move that reflects the growing discontent against the communist country in the West. The British government is reportedly looking for financial advisers to help them raise billions of pounds for the proposed Sizewell C nuclear plant in Suffolk, as it seeks to remove the involvement of China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN), a Chinese state-backed energy group, from the project.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-after-its-nuclear-power-company-gets-blacklisted-uk-usa/>
5. Russia's Defense Ministry claims Ukrainian saboteurs were responsible for a "monstrous provocation" that led to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant being fired upon and set aflame on Friday, having provoked Russian forces with small arms fire until they fired at the facility – a narrative that runs stark contrast to Ukrainian reports.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-699330>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. North Korea conducted its ninth weapons test of the year on Saturday, firing a suspected ballistic missile toward the sea to the east of the Korean peninsula just days before South Korea's presidential election.



Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/nkorea-conducts-suspected-missile-test-ahead-skorea-election-2022-03-05/>

2. France now looks to push for greater interoperability between the French Rafale jets and F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF). Senior military officials from the United States and France meet every 18 months in a framework known as “operator engagement talks” to address operations and long-term requirements.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/rafale-f-35-stealth-fighter-jets-ukraine-crisis-triggers-alarm-in-europe/>
3. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is going to showcase its combat-readiness and offensive capability at the much-awaited ‘Vayu Shakti’ exercise that will take place at Pokhran range in Jaisalmer on March 7. Pokhran is the same place where India conducted its nuclear tests in 1974 and later in 1998.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/indian-air-force-nuclear-muscle-rafale-jaguar-sukhoi-fighters/>
4. The B-21 ‘Raider’, a stealth bomber being built by Northrop Grumman, is seen as the successor to the US’ B-1 and B-2 ‘Spirit’ warplanes. The construction of the sixth Raider (out of an expected 100 at least) began recently.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/americas-200b-program-usaf-says-its-b-21-stealth-bomber-roaring-to-fly/>
5. A deal to the tune of €150 million investment was inked in February 2020 to fund the system’s early development work. Spain formally joined the program as the consortium’s low-observability prime contractor in December 2020. The future fighter prototype is expected to fly for the first time in 2030. The aircraft is scheduled to be ready for service between 2040 and 2045.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/rafale-typhoon-why-the-next-gen-fcas-fighter-jet-program/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. North Korea has fired at least one suspected ballistic missile towards the sea to the east of the Korean peninsula on Saturday, militaries in the region said. It is its ninth missile test of the year. This test has come just days before the South Korea's presidential election.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/ahead-of-south-koreas-polls-kim-jong-led-north-holds-2022s-ninth-missile-test-459144>
2. The UN nuclear watchdog's chief will hold talks with Iranian officials in Tehran on Saturday in the hopes of salvaging a 2015 accord between Iran and world powers.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/un-nuclear-watchdog-chief-in-tehran-for-talks-as-uk-says-deal-close-459147>
3. Russia's demand for written guarantees from the United States that sanctions on Moscow would not damage its cooperation with Iran is "not constructive" for talks between Tehran and global powers to revive a 2015 nuclear deal, a senior Iranian official told Reuters on Saturday.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-700397>

4. Iran said on Saturday it had agreed a roadmap with the UN nuclear watchdog to resolve all outstanding questions about the country's nuclear program by late June, a move seen as a latest push to revive Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with global powers.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-700390>

5. Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency said Saturday after talks in Tehran that they agreed on an approach to resolve issues crucial in efforts to revive the country's 2015 nuclear deal.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/iran-un-watchdog-agree-approach-to-resolve-nuclear-issues-459333>

6. 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>

7. 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>

8. Millions of euros from the European Union that are meant to aid the Palestinian Authority have been delayed in EU offices as officials discuss whether to condition parts of the foreign assistance on reforms to Palestinian textbooks.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-699378>

UN REFORMS

1. China is carrying out more than a week of military drills in the South China Sea in an area between its southern province of Hainan and Vietnam, the government announced, warning shipping to stay away.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china-announces-south-china-sea-drills-close-vietnam-coast-2022-03-05/>
2. A suicide bombing at a Shi'ite Muslim mosque during Friday prayers in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar killed at least 58 people and injured nearly 200, hospital officials said.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/mosque-blast-northwestern-pakistani-kills-five-wounds-dozens-police-2022-03-04/>
3. Terrorist group Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K) has claimed responsibility for the March 4 bomb blast in the Pakistani city of Peshawar that killed 57 people and left 194 injured.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/peshawar-suicide-bombing-terror-spreads-its-tentacles-in-pakistan/>
4. China has reiterated its plans of "reunification" with Taiwan and firmly opposed any separatist activities or foreign interference. Taiwan and China split during a civil war in 1949, but China claims the island as its own territory.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/china-reiterates-reunification-with-taiwan-firmly-opposes-foreign-interference-459268>
5. China will spend 7.1% more on defence this year, outpacing last year's hike and the government's modest economic growth forecast as Premier Li Keqiang seeks to safeguard the country's sovereignty, security and development interests.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/china-plans-71-defence-spending-rise-this-year-outpacing-gdp-target-459181>
6. A militant attack on an army base in central Mali on Friday killed at least 27 soldiers and wounded 33 more, the government said. Seven soldiers are still missing following the complex attack in the rural commune of Mondoro, which involved car bombs, according to a government statement.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/at-least-27-killed-33-wounded-in-militant-attack-in-central-mali-459152>
7. Australia on Friday listed the entire Palestinian Islamist group Hamas as a terrorist organization, calling the move a deterrent to political and religious violence and bringing Australia in line with the United States, the European Union and Britain.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/islamic-terrorism/article-699332>
8. President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that Western sanctions on Russia were akin to a declaration of war and defended Russia's invasion of Ukraine, saying Moscow needed to defend Russian speakers in Ukraine's east as well as its own interests.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/business-and-innovation/banking-and-finance/article-700392>

9. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin on Saturday to discuss the Ukraine crisis, his spokesperson said.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/israeli-pm-bennett-meets-putin-moscow-discuss-ukraine-crisis-2022-03-05/>
10. China will spend 7.1% more on defence this year, outpacing last year's hike and the government's modest economic growth forecast as Premier Li Keqiang seeks to safeguard the country's sovereignty, security and development interests.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/markets/asia/china-defence-spending-rise-outpace-gdp-target-this-year-2022-03-05/>
11. South Korea President Moon Jae-in on Friday ordered an all-out efforts to be made to protect the Hanul Nuclear Power Plant from a wildfire that broke out in the eastern coastal county of Uljin, the presidential office said in a statement.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/skoreas-moon-orders-protection-nuclear-power-plant-amid-wildfire-2022-03-04/>
12. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pledged on Saturday to advance peaceful growth in relations with Taiwan and "reunification", and said his government firmly opposes any separatist activities or foreign interference, drawing a firm rebuke from Taipei.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-pledges-peaceful-growth-taiwan-ties-opposes-foreign-interference-2022-03-05/>