

## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. The US Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded nearly USD5 million to two separate cost-shared projects that aim to study the use of direct air capture (DAC) technology at nuclear power plants. The studies - one led by Constellation at its Byron plant, and the other led by Battelle Memorial Institute at Southern Company's Farley plant - ultimately aim to leverage the plants' carbon-free energy to remove CO2 from ambient air.  
<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/USA-funds-nuclear-coupled-carbon-capture-studies>
2. The construction of two new reactors at each of the Sanmen, Haiyang and Lufeng nuclear power plant sites in China has been approved by the country's State Council. The approvals are for Sanmen units 3 and 4, Haiyang 3 and 4 and units 5 and 6 of the Lufeng plant.  
<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/China-approves-construction-of-six-new-reactors>
3. Belgium's planned phase-out of nuclear energy is likely to lead to greater use of gas-fired generation and increased emissions, according to a new policy review by the International Energy Agency (IEA).  
<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IEA-highlights-concerns-over-Belgian-nuclear-phase>
4. The US Department of Defense plans to build an advanced mobile nuclear microreactor prototype at the Idaho National Laboratory in eastern Idaho. The department late last week signed off on the Project Pele plan to build the reactor and reactor fuel outside of Idaho and then assemble and operate the reactor at the lab.  
<https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/us-military-oks-prototype-mobile-nuclear-reactor-in-idaho-1940581-2022-04-22>
5. Poland sees the involvement of its industry in the Finnish nuclear sector as a springboard for its own new-build aspirations, an international business forum in Warsaw has heard. The Polish-Finnish Nuclear Industry Forum saw companies from both countries discuss cooperation.  
<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Poland-and-Finland-deepen-industrial-ties>
6. The United States said on Thursday if Iran wanted sanctions relief beyond that of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal — an apparent reference to removing Iran's Revolutionary Guards from a US terrorism list — it must address US concerns beyond the pact.  
<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2068061/middle-east>

7. Belgium's planned phase-out of nuclear energy is likely to lead to greater use of gas-fired generation and increased emissions, according to a new policy review by the International Energy Agency (IEA).  
<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IEA-highlights-concerns-over-Belgian-nuclear-phase>
8. Two Luxembourg government ministers have written to French nuclear authority ASN to request information about problems with corrosion at an EDF (EDF.PA) nuclear plant near the Luxembourg border, French daily Le Parisien reported on Friday, quoting energy news wire Montel.  
<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/luxembourg-worried-about-problems-edf-nuclear-plant-near-border-le-parisien-2022-04-22/>
9. The Commission adopted today its second progress report showing the progress achieved by EU countries in implementing the Nuclear Safety Directive, as amended in 2014. In broad terms, the Commission concludes that there is a good overall level of implementation of the Directive's obligations, and highlights the significant progress made by Member States in the 10 years since the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011. However, it notes that there is still room for improvement, and recommends further reporting by EU countries on the actions taken in the highlighted areas.  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-publishes-its-second-report-assessing-implementation-nuclear-safety-directive-2022-apr-21\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-publishes-its-second-report-assessing-implementation-nuclear-safety-directive-2022-apr-21_en)
10. The United States said on Thursday if Iran wanted sanctions relief beyond that of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal - an apparent reference to removing Iran's Revolutionary Guards from a U.S. terrorism list - it must address U.S. concerns beyond the pact.  
<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-must-address-us-concerns-sanctions-relief-beyond-nuclear-deal-us-2022-04-21/>
11. Two Luxembourg government ministers have written to French nuclear authority ASN to request information about problems with corrosion at an EDF nuclear plant near the Luxembourg border, French daily Le Parisien reported on Friday, quoting energy news wire Montel.  
<https://www.fxempire.com/news/article/luxembourg-worried-about-problems-at-edf-nuclear-plant-near-border-le-parisien-976502>
12. An unnamed Iranian source revealed to Al Jazeera on 21 April that Tehran has informed Tel Aviv that they know the locations of all of their nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons sites, and has warned them that, in the event of any aggression, Iran will strike the sensitive targets.  
<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/471941/Iran-notifies-Tel-Aviv-it-has-pointed-missiles-at-Israeli-nuclear>
13. High-tech advances in weapons technologies and a return of 'great power nuclear politics', risk the world 'sleepwalking' into a nuclear age vastly different from the established order of the Cold War, according to new research undertaken at the University of Leicester.

<https://phys.org/news/2022-04-nuclear-expert-cautions-unfamiliar-age.html>

## MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

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1. Taiwan is developing missiles that can attack enemy air bases and bring down cruise missiles, and drones that can target their firing locations, according to a report by the military-owned body making the weapons.  
<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/taiwan-details-new-advanced-missile-drone-attack-capabilities-2022-04-22/>
2. India has successfully tested a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the guided-missile destroyer INS Delhi. The test of the anti-ship variant of the missile was conducted using an upgraded modular launcher onboard the INS Delhi.  
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/brahmos-supersonic-missile-creates-hole-in-indian-navy-s-abandoned-ship-101650444392218.html>
3. Taiwan last year approved T\$240 billion (\$8.20 billion) in extra military spending over the next five years as tensions with China, which claims the island as its own territory, have hit a new high and Chinese military planes have repeatedly flown through Taiwan's air defence identification zone.  
<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/taiwan-defence-system-taiwan-missiles-taiwan-advances-its-missile-drone-attack-capabilities-report-2909579>
4. Taiwan plans to establish anti-ship missile squadrons to counter potential invading Chinese naval forces. According to military sources, the first phase will involve setting up relevant facilities for anti-ship missile mobile squadrons in various counties and cities in southern Taiwan, per the Liberty Times.  
<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4514597>
5. The PLAN (People's Liberation Army Navy) just released a video showing the launch of a new hypersonic missile from a Type 055 cruiser. The missile is likely the Eagle Strike YJ-21.  
<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2022/04/china-test-fires-new-yj-21-hypersonic-missile/>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. The United States said on Thursday if Iran wanted sanctions relief beyond that of the 2015 Iran

nuclear deal - an apparent reference to removing Iran's Revolutionary Guards from a U.S. terrorism list - it must address U.S. concerns beyond the pact. "We are not negotiating in public, but if Iran wants sanctions lifting that goes beyond the JCPOA, they will need to address concerns of ours beyond the JCPOA," a State Department spokesperson said, referring to the 2015 deal by the acronym for formal name, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/world/2022/04/22/iran-must-address-us-concerns-for-sanctions-relief-beyond-nuclear-deal--us>

2. The pending Iran nuclear deal, and any decision to delist the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from America's list of Foreign Terrorism Organizations (FTOs), could put the United States at risk, according to former Israeli Ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer.

<https://www.jns.org/opinion/ron-dermer-iranian-deal-dangerous-for-us-national-security/>

## UN REFORMS

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1. Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday proposed a "global security initiative" that upholds the principle of "indivisible security", a concept also endorsed by Russia, although he gave no details of how it would be implemented.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/chinas-xi-says-unilateral-sanctions-will-not-work-2022-04-21/>

2. Energy giant Shell (SHELL) is in talks with some Chinese companies to sell its stake in a major Russian gas project amid sanctions imposed on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine, The Telegraph reported on Thursday.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/shell-talks-with-chinese-firms-sell-stake-russian-gas-project-telegraph-2022-04-21/>

3. Stiffening resolve after three weeks of strict lockdown, authorities warned Shanghai's 25 million frazzled residents on Friday that their purgatory would go on until the COVID-19 virus was eradicated neighbourhood by neighbourhood.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/shanghai-says-its-lockdown-will-only-be-lifted-batches-2022-04-22/>

4. China's security agreement with the Solomon Islands may affect security for the region and is a probable topic for discussions between the leaders of Japan and New Zealand on Thursday, Japan's chief cabinet secretary said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-cabinet-secretary-says-solomon-islands->

[china-pact-may-have-impact-region-2022-04-21/](#)

5. Islamic State claimed responsibility for an explosion that it said killed or injured 30 people at a market where alcohol was sold in Taraba State, Nigeria, marking an expansion of the area where the extremist group operates in the country.  
<https://www.wionews.com/world/islamic-state-claims-nigeria-bombing-says-about-30-killed-or-hurt-472676>
6. Since Sudan's military staged a coup six months ago many former allies of toppled autocrat Omar al-Bashir have been allowed to rejoin the civil service while others have been freed from jail in an apparent push to form a government and reassure donors.  
<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/under-militarys-watch-sudans-former-ruling-party-making-comeback-2022-04-22/>
7. Residents under lockdown in Shanghai say they are running out of food, amid the city's biggest-ever Covid outbreak. Residents are confined to their homes, banned from leaving for even essential reasons such as grocery shopping.  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-61019975>
8. The main hospital in Ethiopia's war-ravaged region of Tigray has sent home 240 patients after food supplies ran out last week, officials said.  
<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/main-hospital-ethiopias-tigrays-region-runs-out-food-2022-04-21/>
9. The United Nations is "extremely concerned" that Mali has prevented its investigators from visiting a town where local troops and suspected Russian fighters allegedly killed hundreds of civilians, the world body said on Wednesday.  
<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/un-says-its-investigators-not-allowed-access-site-mali-killings-2022-04-20/>
10. Kenya's former president Mwai Kibaki, who has died aged 90, ushered in economic reforms and a new constitution but failed to deliver on promises to combat graft and his tenure was marred by a disputed re-election which led to deadly violence. read more  
<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/kenyan-leader-kibakis-legacy-stained-by-re-election-violence-graft-2022-04-22/>