



DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) will establish a demonstration hydrogen production project at the High-Temperature Test Reactor (HTTR) in Oarai, Ibaraki Prefecture.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/JAEA,-MHI-team-up-for-HTTR-hydrogen-project>
2. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh today said a restart of negotiations to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal could be imminent, and said the hiatus is not “in the interest of either side.”
Source: <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2324993-iran-signals-restart-of-nuclear-talks-could-be-imminent?backToResults=true>
3. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said that it has received a list of equipment from Ukraine for the ‘safe and secure operation’ of its nuclear facilities during the ongoing conflict with Russia. The equipment list includes various radiation measurement devices, protective materials, computer-related assistance, power supply systems and diesel generators.
Source: <https://www.power-technology.com/news/ukraine-equipment-iaea/>
4. Despite Iran's insistence that its nuclear activity is for peaceful purposes only, former Iranian MP Ali Motahari revealed on Sunday that Iran "from the very beginning" aimed to make a nuclear bomb, in an interview with the Iran Student Correspondents Association.
Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-705027>
5. The U.S. and Israel will hold a new round of strategic talks this week focusing on Iran's nuclear program and countering its activity in the region, Israeli and U.S. officials said. The talks will take place amid a deep stalemate in indirect negotiations between the U.S. and Iran over reviving the 2015 nuclear agreement.
Source: <https://www.axios.com/us-israel-iran-stalemate-nuclear-b271552c-9d7b-49b2-bdfa-2d1bd982f916.html>
6. As the Iran nuclear deal nears, Saudi Arabia is rebuilding its stake in Lebanon. Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati is due to visit Saudi Arabia in the next two weeks, a first trip by a Lebanese premier to the Arab powerhouse in almost four years following an unprecedented rupture in relations.
Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/04/18/middleeast/lebanon-saudi-diplomatic-ties-04-18-2022-mime-intl/index.html>

7. In order to reach a new deal with the Iranian regime concerning its nuclear program, the Biden administration has already made significant concessions to Tehran. And it appears that the proposed deal is much weaker than the 2015 agreement. This will have severe repercussions for peace and stability in the region. Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2069816>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. Russia told the United States to stop sending more arms to Ukraine, warning that large Western deliveries of weapons were inflaming the conflict and would lead to more losses, Moscow's ambassador to Washington said. Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-warned-united-states-against-sending-more-arms-ukraine-2022-04-25/>
2. F-35, the US-made fifth-generation fighter jet is capable of air-to-air combat, assault on ground forces, perform intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) operations. The F-35 has acquired the moniker “quarterback of the skies” for its ability to gather and deliver real-time battlefield intelligence to allied troops. It is equipped with four 500-pound GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on its wings, two GBU-12 in its internal weapons compartment, and an AIM-9 air-to-air heat-seeking missile in “beast mode.” Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/precisely-designed-for-ukraine-like-war-f-35-pilot-revels-how-us-stealth-jets-can-deflate-moscows-machoism/>
3. Russia’s newest anti-aircraft missile defense system S-500 (Prometheus) has already been put into mass production, Yan Novikov, the head of the Russian defense technology company Almaz-Antey, said on Monday. Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russia-puts-its-f-22-raptor-killer-s-500-missile-defense-system/>
4. Supersonic commercial aircraft could soon take to air again, as NASA recently announced the successful completion of critical ground tests of its experimental X-59 Quite SuperSonic Technology Aircraft (QueSST). Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-says-commercial-supersonic-flights-not-very-far-as-nasas-x-59/>
5. The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy announced the commissioning of six formidable warships and two types of advanced vessel-based helicopters on Saturday, marking the 73rd anniversary of the PLA Navy’s inception. Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinas-navy-displays-its-muscle-power-anti-sub-helos/>
6. Last week, China and Russia conducted separate tests of powerful missiles in a display of their superior military strength. Russia’s newest heavy-weight long-range



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missile Sarmat was launched from a test silo in Plesetsk, western Russia. It went approximately 6,000 kilometers (3,700 miles) before hitting targets in Kamchatka, on the other side of the vast country, according to Russian media.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinas-carrier-killer-russias-super-weapon-why-sarmat-yj-21-missiles/>

7. The Netherlands plans to hand over its German-made 155 mm PzH 2000 self-propelled howitzers to Ukraine, while Germany will supply with 155-mm ammunition and offer training for heavy artillery, according to an unnamed German official cited by Bloomberg.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/panzerhaubitze-2000-the-heaviest-warfare-machine-that-ukraine/>

8. US Air Force's F-35 stealth fighter jet has taken center stage across Europe amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Though both Russia and Ukraine operate powerful defense systems and warplanes, both have somehow failed to achieve complete air superiority, so far.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/precisely-designed-for-ukraine-like-war-f-35-pilot-revels-how-us-stealth-jets-can-deflate-moscows-machoism/>

9. The war in Ukraine has come as a bonus for defense companies as they register a 17 percentage point in dollar terms since early January. Such out performance has occurred only two other times since 1999 — first during America's War on Terror (2001) and the Syrian War (2014-till date).

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/defense-firms-make-a-killing-at-the-stock-markets/>

10. On 20 April 2022, the sixth and last scorpene-class submarine was launched by Indian Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar in Mumbai. This brings to an end the Project 75 contract with Mazgaon Docks Limited, Mumbai.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/s-china-arms-pakistan-with-lethal-submarines-why-indian-navy/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un made a defiant speech at a military parade on Monday night, vowing to ramp up the country's nuclear arsenal.

The parade, to mark the founding anniversary of North Korea's armed forces, also saw several banned Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) displayed.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-61225675>



2. The U.S. and Israel will hold a new round of strategic talks this week focusing on Iran's nuclear program and countering its activity in the region, Israeli and U.S. officials said. Israel's national security adviser Eyal Hulata will arrive in Washington later this week for meetings with his White House counterpart, Jake Sullivan, U.S. and Israeli officials said.

Source: <https://www.axios.com/us-israel-iran-stalemate-nuclear-b271552c-9d7b-49b2-bdfa-2d1bd982f916.html>

UN REFORMS

1. The WTA is still working to find a resolution to the standoff with China over the Peng Shuai issue but will not return to the country this year, Tour chief Steve Simon said.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/wta-not-returning-china-2022-wants-resolution-peng-case-2022-04-25/>
2. Hong Kong's Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) has suspended its annual Human Rights Press Awards so as not to "unintentionally" violate any laws, according to a statement from the club president on Monday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/hong-kongs-foreign-correspondents-club-suspends-top-asian-human-rights-awards-2022-04-25/>
3. A mass COVID-19 testing order in Beijing's biggest district prompted residents in the Chinese capital to stock up on groceries, fearing they could be destined for a lockdown similar to that of Shanghai, which entered a fourth week of bitter isolation.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/shanghai-was-lesson-beijing-residents-hit-stores-amid-covid-lockdown-fears-2022-04-25/>
4. Residents in informal communities like Kibra pay private vendors for water, meaning they now control the supply and access to water in the community. However, the price women and girls are paying is a lot more than just money.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-61216620>
5. A Turkish court has sentenced an activist and philanthropist to life in prison in a case Turkey's international allies said was politically motivated. Osman Kavala has already spent more than four years in prison without being convicted.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61218241>
6. A former prisoner in Iran, Kylie Moore-Gilbert, has told BBC News she was unprepared for the challenges following her release. Imprisoned by Iran's Revolutionary Guards after visiting as an academic, Dr Moore-Gilbert spent 804 days in captivity and was



released after the Australian government negotiated a prisoner exchange.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-61160476>

7. An Egyptian TikTok star has been sentenced to three years in prison after a court convicted her of human trafficking at retrial. Haneen Hossam, who is in her early 20s, was accused of exploiting girls for money through video-sharing platforms. Human rights activists say she has been prosecuted as part of a crackdown on female social media influencers.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-61139566>

8. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) expressed its concerns over the closure of schools for female students beyond grade six, saying that over one million children are facing an uncertain future.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-177720>

9. The coordinator for the U.N. body monitoring enforcement of sanctions on North Korea said on Wednesday a stepped up focus was needed on cybercrime, which had become fundamental to Pyongyang's ability to finance its banned weapons programs.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/un-panel-coordinator-urges-stepped-up-focus-north-korea-cyber-crime-2022-04-20/>

10. "We are in a primary school for girls (in) south of Kabul, and we are here to send a very clear message to the world to the donor community: Don't give up on the education for girls in Afghanistan. These girls who are studying in primary schools are the hope of this country and they need our help now," said Paloma Escudero, UNICEF Director for Global Communication and Advocacy. "In one week alone, more than 50 girls and boys have lost their lives in a series of heinous grave rights violations in Afghanistan," he said, adding that the figures are expected to rise.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-177720>

11. 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.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-cabinet-secretary-says-solomon-islands-china-pact-may-have-impact-region-2022-04-21/>