



DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Unit 6 of the Hongyanhe nuclear power plant in China's Liaoning province has attained a sustained chain reaction for the first time. The unit - the second of two ACPR-1000 reactors built as Phase II of the plant - is scheduled to enter commercial operation later this year.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Sixth-Hongyanhe-unit-achieves-first-criticality>

2. An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team led by Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi is at Chernobyl to deliver equipment requested by Ukraine, check radiation levels and restore safeguards and monitoring systems at the site. The visit comes 36 years after the 1986 accident.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-mission-at-Chernobyl,-as-anniversary-is-marke>

3. Bechtel has signed Memorandums of Understanding with 12 Polish companies for the potential development of two new nuclear power plants in Poland. The US engineering firm said more agreements will follow in the future.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Bechtel-cooperates-with-Polish-firms-for-new-build>

4. British armed forces minister James Heappey said on Tuesday he did not think there was an imminent threat of escalation in the war in Ukraine, dismissing comments by Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov as bravado.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/russia-ukraine-war-live-updates-zelenskyy-putin-eu-7885787/>

5. Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power (KHNP) has submitted to Poland what the country called a "technical and price offer" for the construction of six APR-1400 reactors.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Korea-offers-six-reactors-to-Poland>



1. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed on Monday to ramp up his development of nuclear arms, as a military parade in Pyongyang showcased the country's most advanced weaponry yet -- including an intercontinental ballistic missile experts say puts the entire US mainland in range.

Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/04/26/asia/north-korea-military-parade-intl-hnk/index.html>

2. The US Army is pushing a new plan for a future air-defense interceptor that would replace Lockheed Martin-made Patriot missiles, after leaving the effort simmer on the back burner for several years, fiscal 2023 budget justification documents reveal.

Source: <https://www.defensenews.com/land/2022/04/27/us-army-plan-to-replace-patriot-interceptors-gets-a-jolt-in-fy23-budget-request/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. The White House is worried Iran could develop a nuclear weapon in weeks, press secretary Jen Psaki said on Tuesday, after Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted earlier in the day the country has accelerated its nuclear program.

Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2071241/middle-east>

2. Russia's foreign minister told the world not to underestimate the considerable risks of nuclear conflict, and NATO's supply of weapons to Ukraine "in essence" meant that the Western alliance was engaged in a proxy war with Russia.

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/russia-warns-nuclear-war-risks-now-considerable/articleshow/91092124.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

3. A former member of Iran's parliament said in an interview with Iranian media on Sunday that Iran had always intended to build a nuclear bomb that would have been used as a "means of intimidation," according to footage captured and translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-iranian-mp-it-was-always-irans-intention-to-build-a-nuclear-bomb/>

4. In a speech at a military parade on Monday, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his nuclear force was not only tasked with preventing war through deterrence, but potentially carrying out strikes against anyone who violates the North's "fundamental interests." "His speech sent a message that North Korea might possibly use nukes preemptively depending on the situation, and more freely pose nuclear threats if necessary going forward," said Cha Du-hyeogn, a senior fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul.

Source: <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-04-27/analysis-north-korea-signals-expansive-mission-for-its-nuclear-weapons>

5. The US is moving toward ending its efforts to return to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, as Tehran continues to make demands without showing a willingness to consider concessions, Israeli diplomatic sources said on Tuesday.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/article-705119>

6. 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. Uyghurs, who are being persecuted as an ethnic and religious group by the Chinese government, face a common challenge of figuring out how best to talk with young people about the 21st-century atrocities occurring in China's northwestern Xinjiang region.

Source: https://twitter.com/RFA_UyghurNews/status/1519305960564613121

2. Qelbinur Sidiq, Gulbahar Jelilova, Gulbahar Haitiwaji and Omir Bekali have requested a meeting with Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights. She announced last month that she had reached agreement with the Chinese government for a visit in May, including the turbulent western China region.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/internment-camp-survivors-04252022182658.html>



3. The report, titled “In the Firing Line: The Crackdown on Media Freedom in Hong Kong” was published on Tuesday by the UK-based advocacy group Hong Kong Watch (HKW), and interviewed 10 journalists in exile. It also examined reports from leading Hong Kong press associations to detail Beijing’s crackdown on the press since 2019, when widespread pro-democracy protests began.

Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/asia/china/hong-kong-free-press-dismantled-hkw-b2065445.html>

4. “And let’s be clear: any visit by the High Commissioner to China must have unhindered and unfettered access,” Thomas-Greenfield tweeted, referring to Bachelet’s upcoming visit to China.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/twitter-diplomats-04212022190541.html>

5. "Unfortunately, the world community did not listen to us in the last 50-60 years... The U.S. & the western world is also responsible for making China what it is today... but now the we feel reaction from the U.S. government is on the right track." said Sikyong Penpa Tsering President of Tibet Net

Source: <https://twitter.com/NEDemocracy/status/1519060123045576705>

6. On April 23, Turkey's Independence and Children's Day, relatives of Uyghur detained in Chinese concentration camps in Turkey staged a demonstration and a press conference in Istanbul to pay attention to the plight of their children.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/uyghur/xewerler/lager-qurbanliri-04252022133250.html>

7. The U.S. International Religious Freedom Commission released its International Religious Freedom Report on April 25, 2022, calling for China to be held accountable for its religious freedom abuses.

Source: https://twitter.com/RFA_UyghurNews/status/1518662833201991690

8. HongKongWatch urged Western countries to defend journalists in the former British territory, including by offering them visas and outlets for Cantonese-language programming. The governments of both Hong Kong and China were guilty of "dismantling media freedom in HK," in part through a sweeping National Security Law imposed by Beijing in 2020, the group said.

Source: https://twitter.com/hk_watch/status/1519295868117135361

9. Heavy-handed government action, self-censorship and physical threats against journalists have left Hong Kong's media freedoms in a "dire" state, a UK-based campaign group said Tuesday.

Source: <https://www.voanews.com/a/west-urged-to-fight-against-dire-state-of-press-freedom-in-hong-kong/6545658.html>

10. Today, four camp survivors in Europe have started their one-week protest in Geneva, calling on the UN High-Commissioner to meet with them ahead of her visit in East Turkistan, and to publish her report on the situation.

Source: <https://twitter.com/UyghurCongress/status/1518511831693901824>

11. The Taliban provide inspiration, ideology, organization, support and expertise to Islamic fundamentalists from around the world and especially South Asia who will flock to Afghanistan to attend finishing school in terror.

Source: https://www.fairobserver.com/more/international_security/war-on-terror/the-taliban-occupied-afghanistan-threatens-global-security/

12. China Henan Province, Anyang City, the communist regime has erected massive number of temporary quarantine camps with large size canopies.

Source: <https://twitter.com/GundamNorthrop/status/1519143022679576576>

13. The country would "strengthen and develop" its nuclear forces at the "highest possible" speed, Kim said as a Hwasong-17 ICBM, multiple giant rocket launchers, and a submarine-launched ballistic missile, were all paraded through the streets of the North Korean capital.

Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/2022/04/26/asia/north-korea-military-parade-intl-hnk/index.html>

14. 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/>

15. Attacks in Afghanistan have targeted minority Shi'ite Muslims during Ramadan. While these attacks are clearly linked to groups like ISIS, they are also part of the wider anti-Shi'ite views that are common among extremists, including in Taliban ranks.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-705254>

16. More than 10 million children are among those facing severe drought in the Horn of Africa. The UN's children's body, Unicef, estimates that this figure is three million higher than it was just two months ago.

Source: https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-africa-60803142?ns_mchannel=social&ns_source=twitter&ns_campaign=bbc_live&ns_linkname=6268c54f77811a20d37c9cb4%26UN%20warns%20of%20%27avalanche%20of%200child%20deaths%27%20from%20drought%262022-04-27T05%3A48%3A31.745Z&ns_fee=0&pinned_post_locator=urn:asset:5eaf4a40-da93-



[45c0-849b-2f1040dcc38e&pinned_post_asset_id=6268c54f77811a20d37c9cb4&pinned_post_type=share](https://twitter.com/SalehaSoadat/status/1516506127550361604)

17. Following the massacre of Hazaras in Afghanistan, 26 Hazara students have been massacred today for being Hazaras.

Source: <https://twitter.com/SalehaSoadat/status/1516506127550361604>