



## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. The Northeast Nuclear and Radiation Safety Supervision Station of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment carried out the first criticality control point inspection of Hongyanhe 6 between 12 and 14 April. At 7.36am local time on 20 April, it released the unit from the critical operation control point, and work began to bring the reactor to first criticality.

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

2. The new study, published this week in the journal Frontiers in Astronomy and Space Sciences, uses a systems approach to actually compare nuclear power and solar power head-to-head for a six-person extended mission to Mars involving a 480-day stay on the planet's surface before returning to Earth. Their analysis found that for settlement sites over nearly half the Martian surface, solar is comparable or better than nuclear.

Source: <https://phys.org/news/2022-04-solar-nuclear-potential-settlement-sites.html>

3. Solar power would be the superior option over nuclear for crewed Martian missions near the planet's equator, a new study concludes. Researchers found that a six-person Red Planet mission could be sufficiently powered by photovoltaic systems, adding on to decades of research on the benefits of solar power as used by robotic NASA Mars explorers such as the Spirit and Opportunity rovers and the InSight lander.

Source: <https://www.space.com/solar-power-better-nuclear-astronauts-mars>

4. 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>

5. 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>

6. 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>

7. 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://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Sixth-Hongyanhe-unit-achieves-first-criticality>

8. Purdue University and Duke Energy announced today (April 27) that they plan to jointly explore the feasibility of using advanced nuclear energy to meet the campus community's long-term energy needs. With interest rising worldwide in new technologies that are reliable and carbon-free, Purdue and Duke Energy intend to study power produced through Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), a move that may be unprecedented for a college campus and a potential fit for Purdue's energy needs.

Source: <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/releases/2022/Q2/purdue-and-duke-energy-to-explore-potential-for-clean,-nuclear-power-source-for-campus.html>

9. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has defended efforts to revive the agreement against congressional criticism, stressing that a return to the pact would curb Tehran's nuclear programme.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/4/26/blinken-defends-iran-deal-talks-against-congressional-criticism>

## MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

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1. The CEO of Raytheon Technologies told investors Tuesday that the company won't be able to ramp up production of Stinger missiles until 2023, due to a lack of parts and materials for the weapons that Western allies have rushed to Ukraine.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/04/26/raytheon-stinger-missile-stocks-delay-00027766>



2. In an official notice, the largest service component of the American military says its iconic FIM-92 Stinger surface-to-air missile, made by General Dynamics and Raytheon, will become obsolete in the coming year.

Source: <https://www.flightglobal.com/fixed-wing/us-army-seeks-replacement-for-stinger-anti-aircraft-missile/148384.article>

3. Last week the Indian Air Force (IAF) had conducted "live firing" of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Su30- MKI fighter aircraft. The IAF said the missile hit a decommissioned Indian Navy ship. The exercise was undertaken in "close coordination" with the Indian Navy.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/photos/why-brahmos-cruise-missile-on-iaf-planes-is-a-gamechanger-in-indo-pacific-473982#brahmos-213953>

4. Shoulder-fired Stinger missiles are in hot demand in Ukraine where they stopped Russia, but U.S. supplies have shrunk and producing more of the anti-aircraft weapons faces significant hurdles.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/shrinking-us-stinger-missile-supply-faces-re-stocking-challenges-2022-04-26/>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. "When we began our nuclear activity, our goal was indeed to build a bomb," former Iranian politician Ali Motahari told ISCA News. "There is no need to beat around the bush," he said. His statements contradict Iran's ongoing insistence that it never sought to build nuclear weapons — a claim rejected by Israel and Western intelligence services.

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

2. Both US and Iranian officials say that most points have been settled. Disputes appear to include Iran's demand that Biden undo Trump's designation of the clerical state's powerful Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organization.

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

3. Earlier Lavrov told the world not to underestimate the considerable risks of nuclear conflict, and said Nato's supply of weapons to Ukraine "in essence" meant that the



Western alliance was engaged in a proxy war with Russia.

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

4. Interviewed by Russian state television, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was asked about the importance of avoiding World War Three and whether the current situation was comparable to the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. "The risks now are considerable," Lavrov said according to a transcript of the interview on the ministry's website.

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](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)

5. 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>

6. As South Korea's new conservative president prepares to take office, North Korea is outlining an expansive, ambiguous, and potentially destabilising doctrine for using its nuclear weapons, analysts said.

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

## UN REFORMS

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1. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a regular news conference that an Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights preparatory team had arrived in China to prepare for an inspection tour by Michelle Bachelet.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/ohchr-china-04262022181825.html>

2. The Chinese government is not only mistreating Uyghurs within China's borders, it is hunting them down abroad — with help from countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates — to clamp down on criticism of Beijing's repression of Muslim minorities.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/chinese-government-hunting-uyghurs-world-help-surprising-countries-rcna24987>



3. Chinese authorities have arrested numerous Uyghur intellectuals, businessmen, and cultural and religious figures in Xinjiang as part of a campaign to control members of the mostly Muslim minority group.

Source: [https://twitter.com/RFA\\_UyghurNews/status/1519303517336477696](https://twitter.com/RFA_UyghurNews/status/1519303517336477696)

4. UN team reaches China ahead of human rights chief's first visit since 2005. The delegation has reached China ahead of Michelle Bachelet's visit to Xinjiang, which is expected to take place next month. There are doubts over whether Michelle Bachelet and her team will be able to move freely around the country

Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/asias/china/un-team-xinjiang-michelle-bachelet-visit-b2065447.html>

5. "If she fails to see the real genocide and real repression in our homeland but report something not truthful, then Michelle Bachelet will become complicit with China's genocide against Uyghurs," Haitiwaji said.

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

6. UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet took the first step in the investigation into China on April 25

Source: [https://twitter.com/RFA\\_UyghurNews/status/1519163314491772930](https://twitter.com/RFA_UyghurNews/status/1519163314491772930)

7. Nuri Turkel said that "the US government should further expand its sanctions on China. Officials who play a role in violating religious freedom should be named and prosecuted. "

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/uyghur/xewerler/diniy-erkinlik-04262022195322.html>

8. The U.S. intelligence service has found that at least 600 counterfeit accounts have been leaked on Twitter, specifically for the purpose of spreading propaganda about "prosperity" and "harmonious society" in the Uyghur diaspora.

Source: [https://twitter.com/RFA\\_UyghurNews/status/1519079958416478208](https://twitter.com/RFA_UyghurNews/status/1519079958416478208)

9. According to Teng Biao, a lawyer at the University of Chicago, Teng Biao, "China's attack on the already resolved situation in US history is not a correction of its own mistakes, but a ruse and a ploy to justify its guilt."

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/uyghur/xewerler/xitay-hujum-04262022153405.html>

10. Officials at private universities in Kabul claim that the number of students attending private universities has dramatically dropped in recent months.

Source: <https://twitter.com/TOLONews/status/1519178571612397570>



11. US special representative for Afghanistan Thomas West on Twitter said he met Swedish officials Niclas Kvarnström and Andreas von Uexküll & discussed "humanitarian response, rights of all Afghans, recent attacks on civilians, & the economic situation in detail."

Source: <https://twitter.com/TOLONews/status/1518993366385577987>