



## **DAILY TRACKER**

### **NUCLEAR ISSUES**

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1. The start of regular electricity production at Olkiluoto 3 in Finland has been postponed by two months due to necessary inspections and repairs to the cooling system of the unit's generator, operator Teollisuuden Voima Oyj (TVO) announced. Regular electricity production at the EPR unit had previously been expected to begin at the end of July.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/OL3-regular-electricity-production-now-due-in-Sept>

2. Norwegian shipbuilder Ulstein has launched the design concept for a replenishment, research and rescue vessel - referred to as Thor - that will feature a thorium molten salt reactor. It says the ship could be used as a mobile power/charging station for a new breed of battery-driven cruise ships.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Ulstein-touts-nuclear-concept-for-decarbonising-cr>

3. The task force report is the first in a series of reports due to be published as a result of International Atomic Energy Agency missions to Japan in the coming months and years to assess the water discharge against IAEA safety standards.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-publishes-first-report-on-Fukushima-water-dis>

4. Society - and the nuclear industry - are today facing a new reality: the reality of asking ourselves about energy security and energy independence. So said John-Paul Jones, head of commercial and market intelligence at Urenco, at World Nuclear Fuel Cycle 2022.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/New-realities-for-uranium-enrichment>

### **MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS**

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1. Powered By J-16 Fighters, China Says It 'Shadowed' US Naval Warship Transiting Through The Taiwan Strait. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern

Theater Command announced on Wednesday, a day after the USS Sampson sailed through Taiwan Strait that Chinese personnel tracked the US warship as it passed through the waters, calling the move a provocation that destroyed regional peace and stability, state media Global Times reported.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-says-it-shadowed-us-naval-warships-transiting-through-taiwan-strait/>

2. The first two serial production Gripen E fighters, called F-39 Gripen by the Brazilian Air Force (FAB), are now in the South American country of Brazil. The Gripens were formally inducted by the Brazilian Air Force (FAB) on April 22.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/saab-gripen-outclassed-rafale-super-hornet-to-clinch-deal/>

3. The ambiguity surrounding the F-35 sale to Thailand appears to be fading, with reports that the US Air Force will dispatch an inspection team to evaluate the Royal Thai Air Force's (RTAF) capability to operate and maintain a new generation of fighter jets.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-35s-for-chinas-key-military-ally-us-team-to-decide-thailand/>

4. The first batch of deadly Phoenix 'Ghost' drones for Ukraine will get in the region today, a Senior Defense Official told reporters on Friday. Earlier as EurAsian Times had reported, Washington had published details of the US' \$800M military aid package for Ukraine which included the Phoenix Ghost drone.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/americas-spooky-gift-to-ukraine-1st-batch-of-phoenix-ghost-drones/>

5. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has developed Artificial Intelligence that would help it in building a hypersonic missile in what could be a big breakthrough in America's hypersonic program.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/nasa-builds-new-ai-that-would-aid-the-development-of-hypersonic-missiles/>

6. President Joe Biden asked Congress for \$33 billion to support Ukraine - a dramatic escalation of US funding for the war with Russia - and the Ukrainian president pleaded with lawmakers to give the request a swift approval. The funding request includes over \$20 billion for weapons, ammunition and other military assistance, as well as \$8.5 billion in direct economic assistance to the Ukrainian government

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/biden-seeks-33-billion-war-chest-to-support-ukraine-zelenskiy-wants-quick-approval-474837>

7. The US gave a total of \$18.6 billion of equipment to the Afghan National Defense

and Security Forces (ANDSF) from 2005 to August 2021, according to the report. Of that total, equipment worth \$7.12 billion remained in Afghanistan after the US withdrawal was completed on August 30, 2021. It included aircraft, air-to-ground munitions, military vehicles, weapons, communications equipment and other materials, CNN said citing the DoD report.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-177782>

## NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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1. Two of Israel's top diplomatic correspondents (Ariel Kahana and Barak Ravid) reported this week that the Iran deal once seen as inevitable is now a longshot. Sources in Prime Minister Bennett's orbit think the chances of a US-Iran deal are slim to none.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-705391>

2. Saudi Arabia will likely look to develop its own nuclear capabilities should an Iran nuclear deal go through, experts told Fox News Digital. "If Iran went nuclear tomorrow, the next day the Saudis would probably buy a nuclear weapon from Pakistan or ratchet up their own nuclear program," said Jim Phillips, a senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at The Heritage Foundation. "They have a long way to go, but they reportedly financed the Pakistani program, and there might be some quid pro quo involved in that."

Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/world/saudi-arabia-bomb-iran-deal-experts>

3. NATO is ready to support Ukraine for years in the war against Russia, including helping Kyiv to advance from old Soviet-era weapons to modern Western military equipment, the alliance's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Thursday.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-705311>

4. "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/>

## UN REFORMS

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1. As per a report by an Afghanistan daily, the country's rulers, the Taliban, have now fired fifty qualified professors at Balkh University in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, and would be hiring people they deem fit.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/afghan-rulers-fire-50-qualified-university-professors-to-replace-them-with-clerics-taliban-members-474882>

2. In Afghanistan, twin explosions have killed at least nine people and wounded 13 others in Mazar-i-Sharif the capital of Balkh province.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/videos/blasts-rock-afghanistan-taliban-faces-security-challenge-from-islamic-state-475038>

3. Russia Ukraine war has triggered a global surge in food and fuel prices. It has driven up the cost of living across countries and now the International monetary fund report says that the economic spillover of the war may likely result in social unrest in Africa.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/videos/ukraine-russia-war-rising-food-prices-stoke-the-risk-of-unrest-in-africa-475037>

4. A huge bomb blast occurred just moments ago inside the Khalifa Sahib Mosque in Darul Aman, west of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital city. The blast is alleged to have occurred while a huge crowd was present inside the mosque.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/another-bloody-carnage-in-afghanistan-powerful-blast-hits-mosque-in-kabul-474967>

5. 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)

6. South Korean police in capital Seoul said on Friday (April 29) that two citizens of the



country have been arrested for allegedly stealing military secrets for a suspected North Korean agent. The duo includes a serving captain in South Korea's army. The North Korean agent is suspected to have made payments in cryptocurrency in exchange for military secrets.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/two-south-koreans-including-army-man-arrested-for-spying-for-north-korea-474838>

7. Global warming is a problem plaguing the earth with temperatures rising around the planet and this has caused major concerns for life on all terrains. The melting ice caps are already posing a huge threat to life on the planet, and it seems that the marine species are also not safe anymore.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/global-warming-can-cause-worst-extinction-of-marine-life-in-250-million-years-study-finds-474840>

8. In the biggest overhaul of its asylum system in decades, the United Kingdom has made the Nationality and Borders Act into law. As per the Government of UK website this law will “deter illegal entry into the UK, breaking the business model of people-smuggling networks, and speed up the removal of those with no right to be in the UK.”

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/human-rights-groups-concerned-as-uk-brings-about-biggest-overhaul-to-its-asylum-law-474772>

9. Thousands of elderly people in the Chinese city of Shanghai have been hit hard by a lockdown that has now dragged on for five weeks. Since the outbreak began in early March, more than 500,000 people have tested positive for the virus. Nearly 10,000 of those people have been aged over 80.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-61268090>

10. A powerful explosion killed more than 50 worshippers after Friday prayers at a Kabul Mosque, its leader said, the latest in a series of attacks on civilian targets in Afghanistan during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-705487>

11. As the regional fruit and vegetable season begins, the Central Bank of Pakistan has ordered its customs not to allow Afghan imports without an Electronic Import Form (EIF) form from April 30.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/business-177791>

12. Shahla Arifi, an Afghan female rights activist, said that the Afghan women and girls have been deprived of their rights. The US Secretary of State of State Antony Blinken said the Islamic Emirate fell back on its promises to allow girls beyond grade six have access to schools in Afghanistan.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177800>



13. The US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), released a report indicating that on-budget US reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan completely ceased with the fall of the previous government, but that Afghanistan continues to receive some reconstruction funds from the US through off-budget assistance and multilateral organizations.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177799>

14. The death toll from two blasts in Mazar-e-Sharif on Thursday evening has risen to 11, and the number of injured to 17. Mohammad Asif Waziri, spokesman for the Balkh Police Command, said that the first blast occurred in the 3rd PD and the second in the 9th PD of Mazar-e-Sharif. According to Waziri, both blasts were caused by explosives placed in minibuses.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177793>

15. More than 3,000 people died or went missing in the Mediterranean and Atlantic while trying to reach Europe last year — double the toll from 2020, the United Nations said Friday. A new report from the UN refugee agency demanded urgent action to combat surging deaths among refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants trying to reach Europe.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/over-3000-migrants-lost-at-sea-trying-to-reach-europe-in-2021-un-474906>