



DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. The return to service next month of unit 2 at the Koeberg nuclear power plant will help to reduce pressure on South Africa's constrained power system, state-owned utility Eskom says. The return to service of the unit, which has been offline for refuelling and maintenance, will support utility efforts to reduce loadshedding and meet high demand as the country moves into winter.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/End-of-Koeberg-outage-to-ease-South-African-grid-p>

2. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) CEO Jeff Lyash said this would be the next milestone for project to build a BWRX-300 small modular reactor at Clinch River near Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/TVA-eyes-late-2022-or-early-2023-for-SMR-licence-a>

3. The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) fusion project has achieved a major machine assembly milestone, with the first sub-section of the ITER plasma chamber being lifted out of tooling and lowered into the machine well.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Most-complex-lift-to-date-completed-at-ITER>

4. Oklo Inc has become the first developer to run tests at Argonne National Laboratory's new Thermal Hydraulic Experimental Test Article (THETA) capability. The tests will support the licensing of liquid metal fast reactor designs.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/First-tests-under-way-at-new-US-liquid-metal-facil>

5. The UK government has announced the launch of GBP120 million (USD146 million) in funding to support development of new nuclear energy projects, stimulate competition in the industry and unlock investment across the UK. The Future Nuclear Enabling Fund (FNEF) will help to realise the government's ambition to approve eight new reactors by 2030.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/UK-launches-funding-to-encourage-nuclear-new-build>

6. The Jordan Uranium Mining Company (JUMCO) has announced the production of 20 kg of yellowcake from 160 tonnes of uranium ore at a newly operational processing facility.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Jordan-announces-uranium-production>

7. There is renewed interest in nuclear power from a decarbonisation and energy security perspective, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) said while announcing progress in its 2021 Medium-Term Business Plan, which covers the period FY2021-FY2023. The company said it will continue supporting the restart of Japan's reactors while developing small modular reactors (SMRs) and advanced reactors.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Nuclear-power-remains-key-sector-for-MHI>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. The MQ-9B Reaper Drone is set for a new upgrade offering it a short take-off and landing (STOL) capability making it the first unmanned aerial system (UAS) in its class to be able to take off from big deck amphibious assault ships.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/mq-9-reaper-drone-get-f-35-like-capabilities/>

2. In an incident that has sparked serious concerns, a WZ-10 attack helicopter and two Ka-28 Helix anti-submarine warfare helicopters of the Chinese People's Liberation Air Force (PLAAF) on Tuesday set a dangerous precedent by not only crossing Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) but also flying across the so-called "median line," an unofficial boundary that runs down the middle of the Taiwan Strait.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinese-attack-helicopters-breach-the-high-risk-median-line/>

3. The J-20 stealth fighter jet, China's domestically developed fifth-gen aircraft, has begun training patrols in the East China Sea and the South China Sea, to safeguard China's airspace security and maritime interests, China's state-run media outlet,



Global Times reported.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinese-j-20-stealth-fighters-starts-conducting-combat-patrols/>

4. Japan's Sankei Shimbun newspaper reported that the country has received unofficial proposals to join the AUKUS military alliance, which was established last year by Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-uk-australia-reportedly-invited-japan-to-join-aukus-alliance/>

5. Military analysts say a vessel spotted in a Chinese shipyard in rare, recent satellite images could be a new or upgraded class of nuclear-powered attack submarine.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/satellite-images-raise-prospect-new-class-chinese-submarine-2022-05-10/>

6. Last week, Prime Minister of Thailand, Prayut Chan-o-cha warned that the planned submarine procurement deal with China may be shelved if Beijing is unable to fit the engines specified in the purchase agreement.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinas-plan-to-sell-neighbouring-thailand-german-wall/>

7. On April 6, four F-35 fighter jets from the Royal Netherlands Air Force landed at Graf Ignatievo Air Base near Plovdiv, Bulgaria to protect the skies alongside the Bulgarian Air Force for April and May.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-35-stealth-fighters-swing-into-action-as-nato-sends/>

8. Kim Jong-un is testing North Korea's weapons with renewed urgency, as South Korea prepares to inaugurate a new, hard-line president. After years of stalemate, following failed nuclear talks, tensions on the Korean peninsula are rising.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-61331859>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. The head of the UN nuclear watchdog has said that he was "extremely concerned" about Iran's lack of cooperation regarding its nuclear activity as EU envoy Enrique Mora is set to visit Tehran to save the stalled nuclear deal talks.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/10/un-nuclear-agency-concerned-over-irans-lack-of-cooperation>

2. The U.S. State Department said on Friday it appreciated the European Union's efforts to revive talks on restoring the 2015 Iran nuclear deal but said there was no agreement yet and no certainty that one might be reached.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-praises-eus-iran-nuclear-efforts-no-certainty-deal-2022-05-13/>

3. South Korea's new administration will seek to resume currently suspended construction of two nuclear reactors in the coastal county of Uljin in 2025, government and industry sources said.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/s-korea-seeks-to-resume-construction-of-2-nuclear-reactors-in-2025-report-122051200653_1.html

UN REFORMS

1. Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton has announced that a Chinese warship with spying capabilities has been hugging Australia's western coast in an "aggressive act." The ship was spotted sailing north around 250 nautical miles from Broome, Western Australia, on Friday morning and had been monitored along the coast for the previous week, according to the Minister.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/australia-accuses-china-of-military-aggression-as-pla-navy/>

2. Yasser Mohseni, the grandson of Ayatollah Asif Mohseni, the founder of the Council of Shiite Ulema of Afghanistan, confirms that Taliban forces disrupted today's meeting of the council to discuss current issues in the country.

Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/142321/taliban-forces-disrupted-a-meeting-of-council-of-shiite-ulema-in-kabul/>

3. The foreign ministers of the seven industrialized nations (G7) said in a joint statement that the Taliban were increasingly isolating Afghanistan by violating the rights of Afghan women and girls. The statement came after a meeting of foreign ministers of seven industrialized nations on Thursday.

Source: <https://twitter.com/Etilaatroz/status/1525109153366171648>

4. Human Rights Watch says indecision and overcrowding in the temporary shelters of evacuated Afghan refugees in Britain have led to domestic violence against migrant women.

Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/142289/afghan-women-in-purgatory-human-rights-watch-called-for-faster-accommodation-for-asylum-seekers-in-britain/>

5. This video shows Mohammad Qaseem, a member of NRF, in the Taliban's custody moments before he was shot dead by the group. His body was handed to the elders of the village later. An example of war crimes by the Taliban

Source: <https://twitter.com/NilofarAyoubi/status/1524810321386520579>

6. Taliban expels foreign journalists from Afghanistan. Isobel Yeung has written on her Twitter that Taliban asked her to leave the country immediately. They cited issues with our report on women's rights, & alleged security concerns.

Source: <https://twitter.com/TajudenSoroush/status/1525091936121626625>

7. Following the closing of girls' schools about six grade, a number of female students above sixth grade in Herat province have turned to sewing and other handicrafts instead of staying at home.

Source: <https://twitter.com/TOLONews/status/1525169932803223555>

8. Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan have been left to fend for themselves.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/pa/afghanistan-177990>

9. The United Nations Security Council's meeting on Afghanistan was held behind closed doors and the UK representative said the Islamic Emirate wants to "remove women and girls entirely from public life.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177998>

10. Security forces fired tear gas and stun grenades at protesters who rallied against Sudan's military rulers on Thursday, as diplomatic moves to broker a political solution to a post-coup crisis showed little sign of progress.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/sudanese-protests-resume-moves-political-deal-falter-2022-05-12/>

11. A female Nigerian student was beaten to death and set on fire by fellow students who accused her of posting "blasphemous" statements in a student Whatsapp group, two witnesses and police said.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/nigerian-student-beaten-burned-death-over-blasphemous-text-messages-2022-05-12/>

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12. Barbara Woodward, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the UN expressed deep concern over the imposed restrictions against women and girls in Afghanistan.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177998>