

DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Idaho National Laboratory (INL) has been identified as the preferred site for the construction and operation of the sodium-cooled fast neutron reactor in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) released by the US Department of Energy (DOE).

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Final-environmental-impact-statement-for-US-Versat>

2. EDF has strengthened operational safety at its Civaux nuclear power plant by addressing the findings of an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) review which took place in 2019, a follow-up mission has concluded.

Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-sees-improved-operational-safety-at-Civaux>

3. Nuclear energy is a controversial source of energy that is gaining prominence globally, including in Singapore as a potential solution to tackling climate change. Nuclear is considered a clean form of energy as the generation process does not release any greenhouse gases, unlike the traditional mode of energy generation from burning fossil fuels.

Source: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/environment/green-pulse-podcast-how-safe-and-green-is-nuclear-energy>

4. As mainstream environmental groups continue their anti-nuclear energy crusade, Netflix released Meltdown: Three Mile Island earlier this month about the “worst nuclear disaster on American soil.”

Source: <https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2022/05/our-grandparents-nuclear-mistakes-cant-define-our-energy-future-opinion.html>

5. Germany will oppose European Union plans to include nuclear energy as a sustainable investment in its "taxonomy" policy for labelling green investments, the government said on Monday.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/germany-reject-eu-green-investment-label-nuclear-power-2022-05-16/>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. Turkey's defense industry and military are set to get a massive boost as its main battle tank, 'Altay,' has finally been integrated with South Korean engines. The mass production of the tank is scheduled to begin within the next two years.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/turkey-unleashes-its-indigenous-altay-tanks-powered-by-korean-engines/>

2. The growing defense cooperation between Japan and the UK may spell trouble for the world's biggest defense firm – Lockheed Martin. Tokyo is reportedly considering switching from the US defense behemoth to BAE Systems as its development partner for the F-X aircraft.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/double-trouble-for-worlds-biggest-defense-firm-as-japan/>

3. The abandoned T-64BM appeared in a video that began circulating on social media on April 23. The 40-ton tank with its reactive armor and 125-millimeter main gun appear mostly to be intact.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/soviet-era-tank-spotted-in-donbas-as-ukraine-battles-russia/>

4. China has been refining its ship-killing skills from striking large, carrier-sized targets to smaller ships and naval bases, according to recent satellite images reviewed by US Naval Institute (USNI).

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/chinas-chilling-plan-unmasked-as-pla-holds-drills-to-bomb-us-military-base/>

5. NASA recently announced that a model of the X-59 aircraft had completed a round of testing in a wind tunnel in Japan, boosting the agency's plans to usher in a new era of commercial faster-than-sound air travel overland.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-tests-its-supersonic-aircraft-model-in-an-asian-wind-tunnel/>

6. The US Air Force wants evidence that Lockheed Martin will be able to produce Block 4 upgrades for the F-35A fighter jet before boosting the plane's purchase, Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall said on May 13.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/lockheed-in-a-soup-us-air-force-demands-evidence-of-capability/>



7. The Federal Security Council is currently deliberating on whether Ukraine will get a German air defense system! Specifically, it is about the IRIS-T SLM system with a range of 40 kilometers (height: 20 kilometers),” the Bild newspaper claimed.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/ukraine-challenge-russian-fighter-jets-attack-helicopters/>

8. China’s first home-built C919 aircraft flew its first pre-delivery test flight in Shanghai. This puts the company (COMAC) one inch closer to offering a viable alternative to Boeing’s 737 and Airbus’ A320 single-aisle commercial aircraft.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/mission-aviation-china-unveils-competitor-to-boeing-737/>

9. Ukraine has deployed many of its new US M-777 howitzers at the front lines and Washington has delivered all but one of the 90 artillery pieces they were due to send, the US embassy in Kyiv said on Sunday.

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-706750>

10. According to a report by Japan’s Sankei News, Tokyo is in talks with British aviation defense major BAE Systems to collaborate on the development of a next-generation fighter jet. The Japanese government hopes to deploy its next-generation F-X fighter jet by 2035.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/double-trouble-for-worlds-biggest-defense-firm-as-japan/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. The Islamic Republic and world powers have started to talk more seriously several times whenever the quarterly IAEA board of governors meeting takes place.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/iran-news/article-706767>

UN REFORMS

1. The Afghanistan Permanent Mission is working on an initiative to “convene Afghans from all walks of life inside and outside Afghanistan to find a practical solution for the Afghan crisis,” Chargé d’Affaires of the Afghanistan Permanent Mission to the

United Nations, Naseer Ahmad Faiq said.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178009>

2. The Foreign Ministers of 15 countries in a statement expressed their ‘deep’ concerns over restrictions on girls’ access to education in Afghanistan and called on the “Taliban to respect the right to education and adhere to their commitments to reopen schools for all female students.”

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178027>

3. Residents of Badakhshan expressed concern over the increase in the number of women and youth who attempt suicide. Homayoun Forootan, head of the Badakhshan Provincial Hospital, added that most of the patients are women. Two have died and others have been rescued.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178037>

4. The market for carpets from the northwestern province of Faryab province has dried up. Sellers of hand-woven carpets are dissatisfied with the decline in sales of hand-made rugs in the province.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-178005>

5. Authorities in Ethiopia's war-shattered Tigray region are forcing young people to join their army's fight against the central government by threatening and jailing relatives, according to captured fighters and residents.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/some-ethiopians-claim-forced-recruitment-by-tigrayan-forces-2022-05-16/>

6. Mali is pulling out of a multi-national military force in West Africa's Sahel region combatting an Islamist insurgency, the country's military junta said in a statement on Sunday.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/malis-military-junta-pulls-out-regional-g5-sahel-force-2022-05-15/>

7. Thousands of Tunisians protested on Sunday against President Kais Saied, demanding a return to the normal democratic order and rejecting his replacement of the independent electoral commission with one he named himself.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/thousands-tunisia-protest-against-president-demand-democratic-return-2022-05-15/>

8. Sri Lanka prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in an official statement on Monday that the nation currently has petrol stocks for just one day and he also pointed out that the economy is in a precarious situation with Sri Lanka looking to obtain USD 75 million in the next few days.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/next-couple-of-months-will-be-the-most-difficult-special-statement-from-sri-lanka-pm-479590>

9. Russia said on Monday that the West should not have any "illusions" that the Kremlin will simply accept the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Nordic expansion (NATO). This comes a day after Russia's neighbours Finland and Sweden announced that they will submit formal NATO membership bids.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/russias-warning-on-nato-nordic-expansion-wont-simply-put-up-with-479561>

10. Payton Gendron, the 18-year-old "racist" shooter who killed 10 people grocery stores in Buffalo, specifically targeted a neighbourhood where predominantly African American people live.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/buffalo-mass-shooting-racist-shooter-specifically-targeted-african-american-neighbourhood-479294>

11. It seems that Finland is taking no chances. After bidding for NATO membership in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, the European city is leaving no stone unturned, quite literally, to secure itself—even going to the extent of preparing itself for an unlikely but potential nuclear apocalypse. According to reports, the authorities in Finland have constructed an entire city underneath the capital Helsinki which has a playground, hockey rink, and swimming pool.

Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/catch-a-glimpse-of-underground-finland-city-made-to-avert-nuclear-apocalypse-479249>

12. Classical performing artist Shohret Tursun said he realized early on that his native Uyghur culture was on the brink of obliteration in Xinjiang, as he watched in horror as fellow musicians and other Uyghur friends were detained or disappeared by Chinese authorities starting in 2017.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/three-artists-05132022181204.html>

13. About 20 Uyghur, Tibetan and international human rights groups protested outside the United Nations compound in Geneva on Friday, calling on the U.N. human rights chief to release her report on abuses in Xinjiang and to consult internment camps survivors and other Chinese exiles ahead of her planned visit to China's western region.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/geneva-protest-05132022193600.html>

14. The Chinese government has issued a new directive that forbids Uyghurs in the Xinjiang region from discussing the network of internment camps or accepting calls from international phone numbers ahead of an expected visit by the United Nations



16 May

human rights chief, a police office in the region told RFA.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/authorities-notices-05112022184230.html>