



DAILY TRACKER

NUCLEAR ISSUES

1. Finland's Fennovoima Oy dropped a contract with a Russian energy company for the delivery of a nuclear power plant under construction in the Nordic country.

Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-05-02/finland-s-fennovoima-terminates-rosatom-nuclear-plant-contract-l2oe3k2j>

2. As Europe looks to move away from dependence on Russian energy, U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said nuclear power needs to play a larger role. Nuclear power is “absolutely crucial to weaning us off fossil fuels, including Russian oil and gas,” Johnson said during a visit to England’s Hartlepool nuclear power station on Monday.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/02/boris-johnson-uk-will-build-one-new-nuclear-plant-a-year.html>

3. South Korea is in talks to build a new generation of nuclear power stations in the UK, The Telegraph reported on Monday.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/south-korea-talks-build-new-generation-nuclear-power-stations-uk-the-telegraph-2022-05-02/>

4. Western officials have largely lost hope the Iran nuclear deal can be resurrected, sources familiar with the matter said, forcing them to weigh how to limit Iran's atomic program even as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has divided the big powers.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/iran-nuclear-deal-near-death-west-not-ready-pull-plug-2022-05-02/>

5. California Gov. Gavin Newsom says he may attempt to keep Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant operating beyond its planned 2025 retirement date to avoid power outages. (Los Angeles Times)

Source: <https://energynews.us/newsletter/newsom-may-extend-nuclear-plants-life/>

6. NuScale Power, LLC (“NuScale” or the “Company”), the industry-leading provider of proprietary and innovative advanced nuclear small modular reactor (“SMR”) technology, today announced that it completed its previously announced Business Combination with Spring Valley Acquisition Corp. (NASDAQ: SV, SVSVW) (“Spring Valley”), a publicly traded special purpose acquisition company. The

combined company will operate as NuScale Power Corporation and its shares of stock and warrants will start trading on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) May 3, 2022, under the ticker symbols “SMR” and “SMR WS” respectively.

Source:

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220502005796/en/CORRECTING-and-REPLACING-NuScale-Power-Completes-Merger-with-Spring-Valley-Acquisition-Corp.-to-Create-World%E2%80%99s-First-and-Only-Publicly-Traded-Provider-of-Transformational-Small-Modular-Nuclear-Reactor-Technology>

7. North Korea’s supreme leader Kim Jong Un has warned that his country could “preemptively” use nuclear weapons if threatened, as he called on the military to bolster up their strength in every way to annihilate the enemy, multiple reports have said, citing local media.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/kim-jong-un-s-latest-warning-on-nuclear-weapons-what-is-known-so-far-101651365800972.html>

8. Iran has pledged to continue the talks on reviving the 2015 nuclear deal until its "national interests are completely and comprehensively protected", official media reported. The remarks were made by Ali Bahadori-Jahromi, spokesman of the Iranian government, in response to talk that the US is close to admitting the failure of the Vienna nuclear talks, reports Xinhua news agency.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/iran-govt-vows-to-continue-nuclear-talks-until-interests-protected-122050200266_1.html

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. The US Air Force let out a shocker earlier this month as it decided on cutting down the number of F-15EX Eagle II aircraft that it intended to buy in the long term — from 144 to 80. However, there is a twist in the narrative. The F-15EX Eagle II could now become the first aircraft that would fire the United States’ hypersonic missile.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/1st-fighter-jet-to-host-hypersonic-missiles-us-air-force/>

2. The US Air Force Safety Center disclosed how the Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System (AGCAS) saved an F-22 Raptor and its pilot in 2020. The software had previously saved the Raptor and its pilots in two other incidents, according to reports.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-22-disaster-averted-usaf-credits-agcas-for->

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. The nuclear negotiations are among Iran's top priorities, Bahadori-Jahromi noted. Iran will continue efforts within the framework of the international diplomatic mechanisms until it protects its economic interests and nuclear rights, the spokesman added.

Source: https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/iran-govt-vows-to-continue-nuclear-talks-until-interests-protected-122050200266_1.html

2. “Kim expressed ‘firm will’ to continue developing his nuclear-armed military so that it could “preemptively and thoroughly contain and frustrate all dangerous attempts and threatening moves, including ever-escalating nuclear threats from hostile forces, if necessary,” the North’s official Korean Central News Agency said Saturday, the report said.

Source: <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-705595>

3. European officials are preparing to make a fresh push to salvage a nuclear deal with Iran, offering to send a top European Union negotiator to Tehran in an effort to break a stalemate in talks, according to Western diplomats.

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/europe-to-make-fresh-push-to-revive-iran-nuclear-deal-by-offering-to-send-top-negotiator-back-to-tehran-11651419295>

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Source: <https://www.israelhayom.com/2022/05/03/iran-nuclear-talks-moribund-but-west-not-ready-to-pull-plug/>

5. Threats by North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un that his nuclear arsenal could be used in a pre-emptive strike against his enemies, made as he paraded the country’s latest military hardware through the streets of capital Pyongyang, have set alarm bells ringing.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/world/could-north-korea-pre-emptively-use-nuclear-weapons-7898258/>

UN REFORMS

1. China has enlisted some fresh faces in its pushback against charges it is committing genocide against the Uyghurs in Xinjiang: young foreign social media influencers who produce short videos showing happy minorities in the far-western region.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/foreign-propaganda-05012022132531.html>

2. Chinese officials in Xinjiang are warning Uyghurs not to divulge “state secrets” during a visit by United Nations human rights chief Michelle Bachelet this month, officials in the western region said. A Chinese government video instructing Uyghurs on 10 things not to do has been shared widely on Douyin, a Chinese version of the TikTok short video app, in Xinjiang, the sources said.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/uyghur/state-secrets-05022022173634.html>

3. China has once again announced a unilateral fishing moratorium in the South China Sea, to vigorous protests by Vietnam but the Philippines has so far not reacted. The three-and-half-month ban began on Sunday and covers the waters north of 12 degrees north latitude in the South China Sea which Vietnam and the Philippines also call their “traditional fishing grounds.” Hanoi spoke up against the fishing ban, calling it “a violation of Vietnam’s sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction.”

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/southchinasea-fishing-ban-05022022152642.html>

4. Despite asking for public input ahead of a key party congress later this year, Chinese authorities appear to be stepping up its clampdown on public dissent amid a growing cult of personality around ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leader Xi Jinping.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/dissent-crackdown-05022022143742.html>

5. On World Press Freedom Day, the Afghan media community expressed concerns over the lack of access to information and the lack of a Commission of Media Violation (CMV). General concerns over the uncertain fate of the media in Afghanistan were also raised.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-177851>

6. Female students above grade six say the closing of their schools is causing them mental health trouble. The students said they are counting the seconds until school will be reopened.

Source: <https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-177853>

7. Afghan girls have been denied education in most parts of Afghanistan since the takeover of the Islamic Emirate in August 2021. Officials at the education department in Balkh said that province schools lack about 1,500 professional teachers, and also textbooks.
Source: <https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-177845>
8. The Washington Post reported that Afghanistan's "fastest-growing drug industry operates from desert outposts in plain view." The report said that the meth industry is "growing at breakneck speed, stoking fears among Western experts and officials that, under the Taliban, Afghanistan could become a major supplier as demand rises globally."
Source: <https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-177849>
9. The US special envoy for Afghanistan's women, girls and human rights, Rina Amiri, said that at an Iftar dinner ambassadors from Muslim-majority countries "agreed that the Muslim world must champion the rights of Afghan women and girls."
Source: <https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan-177841>
10. Da Afghanistan Bank (Central Bank of Afghanistan) says that more than \$ 760 million has been delivered to Afghanistan so far from the international community.
Source: <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-177823>
11. Coinciding with World Press Freedom Day, the Afghanistan Journalists' Center has strongly expressed concern about the increasing number of arrests of journalists and media workers, as well as the unprecedented drop in the number of media outlets in the country.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/141777/world-press-freedom-dayy-unprecedented-increase-in-journalists-arrests-and-media-collapse-in-afghanistan/>
12. Motta Nodson, the UN Under-Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, has said that journalists who remain inside the country and still work with commitment and dedication live in fear and intimidation. He said that women journalists carry the heaviest burden.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/141749/un-says-women-journalists-in-afghanistan-carry-heaviest-burden/>
13. Reina Amiri, the US special envoy for women in Afghanistan, said in a statement that she had met with a number of ambassadors from Islamic countries and agreed that the Islamic world should defend the rights of Afghan women and girls.
Source: <https://www.etilaatroz.com/ps/2022/05/02/reina-amiri-the-islamic-world-should-defend-the-rights-of-afghan-women-and-girls/>



14. In a letter to the United Nations, a number of civil society leaders, human rights and media activists, as well as university professors, have strongly expressed concern about the escalation of violence against Hazara Shiites in Afghanistan and called for its protection.

Source: <https://twitter.com/Etilatroz/status/1520847270039724034>

15. The Financial Times reported, citing people familiar with the discussion that Chinese regulators held an emergency meeting with domestic and foreign banks to discuss how they could protect China's overseas assets from U.S.-led sanctions similar to those imposed on Russia after its invasion of Ukraine.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-discusses-protecting-assets-us-sanctions-with-banks-ft-2022-05-01/>